

Merrily We Roll Along

Director's Note

Merrily We Roll Along has at its center a story of love, connection and friendship between three friends, Franklin Shepard, Charley Kringas and Mary Flynn. Their 20-year relationship is defined by each individual's romantic and life choices. Frank, a gifted composer, Charley, a skillful lyricist, and Mary, an aspiring writer, form a bond; their friendship bends and eventually breaks over the years.

The characters begin their own trajectory as their 40-year-old selves in 1976 were Frank has left the theatre for the much more lucrative film world. When we first see Frank, his friendship with Mary and Charley has deteriorated or dissolved. Spanning backward in time, the play utilizes this non-linear structure to focus on the outcomes of rash choices and the impermanence of life. Choices about relationships, romance, monetary needs, and family ties are made as Frank, Charley and Mary constantly re-evaluate the nature of success and happiness. Their love and connections they share as friends are continually tested as the three friends spend two decades defining their relationships and goals. By the end of the play, we find them in their early 20s as idealistic young adults open to all possibilities.

All the relationships have Frank Shepard, a musical composer turned movie producer, at the center and Frank is obsessed by the need for his own success. He is also bombarded by the needs and wants of his family, friends and business acquaintances to be a part of his life. Tension is created by the choices Frank makes about his career and how to manage his personal relationships. As his older self, we see a successful man who has climbed to the top, but destroyed many of his personal relationships along the way. Frank says that he has said "yes" many times when he should have said "no."

We are allowed to witness the result of the characters' actions prior to seeing the event in which the actions take place. We are able to move from the complex relationships at the beginning of the play to the simple relationships and catharsis at the end of the play. The joy of friendship is evident in this work and how we need to tend to those around us. We need friends who can tell us the truth. We root for each of these characters even though each makes mistakes and exhibits bad behavior. Life does not always give us clear-cut choices and fulfillment in our lives can be difficult to define and achieve, but the message is that as human beings, we are doing the best we can. We can relate by our need to make sense of our own career and relationships choices; we don't always realize in the moment how our actions and words will affect our relationships in the future. What does it take to make us happy and fulfilled? We are still facing these dilemmas in how do we make true art, a living wage, have positive relationships and ultimately, find fulfillment.

Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim used the melodies of the piece like modular furniture, so he was able to track the thematic motifs across the decades for each character. He pulls from the big band sounds from the 1950-1970s which are reflected in the dance styles. Sondheim writes specific vocal lines which follow each character's path. Versatile singers are required to play a 40-year-old voice to a 20-year-old voice. Likewise, the George Furth book

mirrors the original nonlinear play of the same title by George Kaufmann and Moss Hart. The dialogue, like the music, elicits a strong core of emotions. The musical that opened on Broadway November 16, 1981 is opening tonight on that same date thirty-six years later.

Elizabeth Daily

Director

Cast

Franklin Shepard	GAVIN MORGAN
Mary Flynn	REBECCA MANSFIELD
Charley Kringas	MATTHEW SCALA
Gussie Carnegie	SARAH KELLY
Joe Josephson	NICHOLAS COCHRAN
Beth Spencer Shepard	ISABELLA FEE
Frank Jr.	NIKO FURBISH
Mr. Spencer	ASHER CLARK
Mrs. Spencer	CALYSTA JACOBS
Ensemble, Crowd and Guests	
Tyler/TV Newsman/Waiter	JACOB TILTON
Ru/Photographer/Featured Dancer/Reverend	JEROME TORRES
K.T./1st Auditionee	SHARLEIGH THOMSON
Jerome	ROBERT HERSTEDT
Dory/TV Newswoman	ROSE CHAFFEE
Meg/2nd Auditionee	PAIGE MACDONALD
Bunker	CLAYSTA JACOBS
Scotty	MARGARET MCGOVERN
Terry/Judge	RYAN BUECHE
Waitress/Makeup Artist/Photographer/Evelyn	ETHAN FIFIELD
Waiter/Stage Manager/Featured Dancer	ASHER CLARK
Downtown Club Pianist	JORDAN OSTROWSKI

Time and Place

ACT ONE

Scene One: 1976, Frank's Bel Air Home, California (Frank, Mary 40 years old)

Scene Two: 1973, NBC Studio, New York City (Frank, Mary, Charley 37 years old)

Scene Three: 1968, Frank's Central Park West apartment, New York City (Frank, Mary and Charley 31 years old)

Scene Four: 1967, Manhattan Courthouse, New York City (Frank, Mary, Charley 30 years old)

ACT TWO

Scene One: 1964, New York City's Alvin Theatre, stage door (Frank, Mary, Charley 27 years old)

Scene Two: 1962, Gussie and Joe's Brownstone, Sutton Place, New York City (Frank, Mary, Charley 25 years old)

Scene Three: 1960, The Downtown Club, New York City (Frank, Mary, Charley 23 years old)

Scene Four: 1957-1959, New York City (Frank, Mary, Charley 20-22 years old)

Scene Five: 1957, Rooftop on 110th Street, New York City (Frank, Mary, Charley 20 years old)

Musical Numbers

ACT ONE

- **Overture** – Orchestra
 - **“Merrily We Roll Along”** – Company
 - **“That Frank”** – Company
 - **First Transition** – Company
 - **“Old Friends / Like It Was”**– Mary, Charley
 - **“Franklin Shepard, Inc.”** – Charley
 - **Second Transition** – Company
 - **“Old Friends”** – Frank, Charley, Mary
 - **“Growing Up (Part One)”** – Frank
 - **“Growing Up (Part Two)”** – Gussie
 - **Third Transition** – Company
 - **“Not a Day Goes By”** – Frank, Beth
 - **“Now You Know”** – Mary, Frank, Charley, Scotty, Jerome, Tyler, Joe, K.T. and Company
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Act Two

- **Entr' acte** – Orchestra
 - **Act Two Opening** – Gussie
 - **“It's a Hit!”** – Frank, Charley, Mary, Joe, Beth
 - **Fourth Transition** – Company
 - **“The Blob”** – Gussie, Guests
 - **“Growing Up” (reprise)** – Gussie
 - **“Good Thing Going”** – Charley, Frank
 - **“The Blob” (conclusion)** – Company
 - **Fifth Transition** – Company
 - **“Bobbie and Jackie and Jack”** – Frank, Charley, Beth
 - **“Not a Day Goes By” (reprise)** – Frank, Beth, Mary
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- **Sixth Transition** – Company
- **“Opening Doors”** – Charley, Frank, Mary, Joe, 1st Auditionee, 2nd Auditionee, Beth
- **Seventh Transition** – Company

- **“Our Time”** – Frank, Charley, Mary, Company

Artistic/Production Team

Producer	PAUL MROCZKA
Director	ELIZABETH DAILY
Music Director	ANDREW MORRISSEY
Choreographer	AMANDA WHITWORTH
Set Designer	MATT KIZER
Lighting Designer	NATHANIEL VINSON
Costume Designer	DANEE R. GRILLO
Sound Engineer	TYLER MCCARTHY
Makeup Designer	CLAY HARBERT
Stage Manager	JOHN FINDLAY
Assistant Stage Manager	CASSANDRA CUTTING
Properties Master	CAMERON BRAND
Deck manager	SAMUEL CLIFTON
Asst. To The Sound Engineer/Mic Tech	NICKE MORRIS
Media Operator	DEANNA WEED
Light Board Operator	LIZZIE LOOMIS
Followspot Operaors	NATHANIEL REICH RYAN DEPAOLO
Running Crew	SCOTT FOISY
Wardrobe	SPENCER BERNARD-KRIEGL AMANDA LATTANZI
Publicity	REBECCA BEAULIEU
Program	SHARLEIGH THOMSON

Company Biographies

ASHER CLARK (Mr. Spencer/Stage Manager/Featured Dancer) is a Sophomore at Plymouth State. Originally from the lakes region area, this is Asher's first Plymouth State Show outside of the University Chorale (*Ragtime in Concert.*) He has spent his post-High School years, working, going to school, and participating in community theatre in the area. Past productions include *The Addams Family* (Lucas Beineke) and *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To the Forum*(Hero). He is very excited to work with the amazing cast of Plymouth State University's Music, Theatre, and Dance students. Having a blast and enjoying the challenge, he hopes that everyone enjoys seeing the show as much as he has enjoyed being a part of it.

NICHOLAS COCHRAN (Joe Josephson) is a junior Theatre Arts major with options in Acting and Tech & Design, with a focus in Costume Design. He has performed in several Plymouth State University productions including *A Man Of No Importance* and *Oedipus The King*. He also designed makeup and hair for the Winnepesaukee Playhouse production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* this past summer. He hopes that you will enjoy the show and will want to live in New York and rekindle old friendships after experiencing this show!

ELIZABETH DAILY (Director) is Professor of Acting and Voice/Diction at Plymouth State University. Ms. Daily holds a B.A. in Speech and Dramatic Art and a M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling/Deafness from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She received her M.F.A. in Acting from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, where she taught acting and drama appreciation. She worked with Sonia Moore of the American Center for Stanislavsky Theater Art, a visiting artist at UNCG. Ms. Daily has studied voice/speech with Louis Colaianni (Linklater), Arthur Lessac and Catherine Fitzmaurice. She has acted professionally in New England including *The Barnstormers*, Winnepesaukee Playhouse, Papermill Theatre and the New Hampshire Theatre Project and also in North Carolina and West Virginia. Her professional work also includes directing, voice/speech coaching and video/voice-over for commercial and educational purposes. She has taught sign language at PSU and developed an actor training pedagogy utilizing sign language. Her most recent acting credits have been Miss Phallon in *Chicks* and Martha in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Her directing credits include various musicals, readings and plays: *Oedipus the King*, *The Birthday Party*, *Dracula*, *Love Loss and What I Wore*, *Anatomy of Gray*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Still Life with Iris*, *Raised in Captivity*, *Reckless*, *Urinetown*, *Anything Goes*, *The Art of Dining*, *The Diviners*, *Noises Off*, *The Secret Garden*, *Quilters*, *Godspell*, *Hero by Proxy*, and *A New Brain*. Ms. Daily is currently studying at the Boston Conservatory at Berkeley to become a teacher of the Alexander Technique. Ms. Daily is a member of Alexander Technique International (ATI), Voice and Speech Trainers Association (VASTA), the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) and the New England Theatre Conference.

ISABELLA FEE (Beth Spencer Shepard) is a senior double majoring in Theatre Arts with an option in Music Theatre Performance, and Music Contract, with a focus in Vocal Pedagogy. Recent credits include *Ragtime* (Mother), *Parade* (Lucille Frank), *Carrie* (Helen) and *The Wedding Singer* (Angie). This past summer she performed in *She Loves Me* at Hackmatack

Playhouse in Berwick, Maine. She would like to thank Beth, Amanda, and Andrew for the opportunity to be a part of such a beautiful production, and her family and friends for their unwavering love and support.

JOHN FINDLAY (Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre Arts major with an option in Theatre Design/Tech with a focus in Lighting Design and an option in Acting. He is thrilled to be back stage managing for PSU. He returns from his 10th professional summer stock season, most recently working with Broadway professionals at The Cape Playhouse. Past Credits: PSU: *Oedipus: A Touring Collaboration* (Stage Manager), *We Think Its Funny* (Lighting Design), *Stage Kiss* (Lighting Design). He thanks his friends for their continued support and his mother for all the years she sat through rehearsals so he could get a ride home afterward!

NIKO FURBISH (Frank Jr.) is in the third grade. Both on and off stage Niko Furbish's big heart and personality shine through. He made his stage debut in the ETC production of *Shrek* in 2016 (Little Shrek.) He loves to sing, act, hip-hop dance, and play soccer in his spare time. He would like to thank God, his family, Beth Daily, and the cast and crew of *Merrily We Roll Along* for all their support and guidance during this memorable experience.

ROBERT HERSTEDT (Jerome Kincaid, Ensemble) is a Junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance. Recent credits include *Cowboys!* (Blabby Gaze), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart), *Carrie* (Ensemble), and *A Man of No Importance* (Father Kenny). He is also involved in Skyrise Children's Theatre, where he works on carpentry, lighting, and sound. He would like to thank his family for supporting him as he follows his passion.

CALYSTA JACOBS (Mrs.Spencer/Bunker/ Ensemble) is a Junior at Plymouth State. She is a double major in Theatre Arts with an option in Music Theatre Performance and Music Contract with an option in Vocal Performance. This will be her second show at Plymouth State; her first being *Stage Kiss* (Laurie/Millicent). Cali is thrilled to be performing in her first college musical and to be surrounded by a wonderful cast and crew full of inspirational pals! Cali would like to thank her wonderful mother for always giving her support and for keeping her on track.

SARAH KELLY (Gussie Carnegie) is a Senior Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance. She is overjoyed to be a part of the *Merrily* team. Past PSU productions include, *A Man Of No Importance* (Una Crowe), *Carrie* (Chris), *Oedipus The King* (Priestess), and *Ragtime* (Sarah). Sarah won "Best Actress In Musical" from Broadway World Boston last year for her performance in *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods) at the Company Theatre, where she also made waves in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Ariel). She wants to thank her incredible loved ones for the constant support. Sarah thanks Beth and everyone involved in this special production.

MATT KIZER (Scenic Designer) has been the resident designer for Plymouth State since 1996. He has presented workshops on projections for performance nationally and internationally, including the National Opera Association in New York, and The Cyprus Theatre Organization in Nicosia. His work has been presented at the Kennedy Center in D.C., and with A-Fortiorni dance company in Germany. He designed for two years with Operafestival Di Roma in Italy with

the Orchestra Sinfonica dell' International Chamber Ensemble at Sant' Ivo alla Sapienza in central Rome. He has a B.A. from Purdue University, and an M.F.A. from The Ohio State University.

PAIGE MACDONALD (Meg/2nd Auditionee/US Beth) is a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance. This is her fourth MTD production. Past performances include *Beauty and the Beast* (Chip), *Carrie: the Musical* (Ensemble), and *Fiddler on the Roof*(Olga). Paige is delighted to be a part of the talented and hardworking company of *Merrily We Roll Along*. Thank you to Beth, Amanda, and Andrew for sharing their inspiring gifts in order to create this beautiful show. Thank you to the friends and family that bring energy, encouragement, and endless love.

REBECCA MANSFIELD (Mary Flynn) is a Senior Theatre Arts major with an option in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. She is thrilled to be playing one of her dream roles, alongside her old friends. Past shows include *Ragtime* (Evelyn Nesbit), *Carrie* (Frieda/Dance Captain), *A Man of No Importance* (Mrs. Curtin), and *Parade* (Mary Phagan). Becca has had the opportunity to have choreography featured in five Contemporary Dance Ensemble performances as well as choreographing *The Trial: An American Drama* on the mainstage at PSU. She thanks her friends, loved ones, directors, cast, crew, and parents for their never ending support.

GAVIN MORGAN (Franklin Shepard) is a senior double majoring in Music Contract and Theatre Arts with a focus in Music Theatre Performance. He is thrilled to be playing the role of Frank in Plymouth State University's production of *Merrily We Roll Along!* Past productions include: *Ragtime* (Younger Brother), *A Man of No Importance* (Robbie Fay), and *The Wedding Singer* (Glenn). Gavin would like to thank his friends and family for their continuous support!

ANDREW MORRISSEY (Music Director, Conductor, Piano 1) is a PSU alum, class of '09. He went on to earn his MM in Stage Music Composition from Catholic University of America in 2012. He has been working as a pianist and music director for community, educational and regional theatres for the past decade in NH, DC, MD and VA. His musical *Lost In Wonderland* just had its DC premiere June 2016. He most recent work here was for *Carrie* and *Cowboys!* as Rehearsal Pianist/Conductor/Keyboard 1. Thank you to all who have made him feel at home again in the PSU community!

SOPHIA SHAY (Waitress/Makeup Artist/Photographer/Evelyn) is a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance at Plymouth State University. Previous Plymouth State credits include: *The Trial* (Leni Lieber Rapport), *Carrie The Musical*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Abraham), *Cowboys! The Musical*, and *Ragtime: In Concert* (Sob Sister). Sophia would like to thank her family, peers and the MTD faculty for their overwhelming love and support.

MATTHEW SCALA (Charley Kringas) is a senior Music Contract major, with options in Vocal Performance and Music Direction. Previous credits include: *Ragtime: A Concert Production*(Willie Conklin), *Working* (Rex Winship/Utkarsh Trujillo), *Parade: A Concert Production* (Newt Lee), *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble), and *Edges* (Man 2). He was also Assistant Music Director for *Carrie: The Musical* and *Cowboys!*, and Music Director for *Stage*

Kiss. This past summer, Matthew performed in *She Loves Me* at The Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick, Maine. He would like to thank Elizabeth Daily, Amanda Whitworth, Andrew Morrissey, and his family and friends for giving him the the confidence to perform in this beautiful show.

JACOB TILTON (Tyler/TV Newsmen/Waiter) is a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance. He is excited to be in his second production this semester. Past performances include *The Trial* (Various Roles) and *Cowboys!* (Alfred). Jacob has spent most of his high school years performing in various shows in the Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. He would like to thank his friends and family for the support that they have given him throughout his career, now and in the future.

JEROME TORRES (Ru/Photographer) is a second year Theatre Arts major with an option in Music Theatre Performance, who is thrilled to be taking part in this production of *Merrily We Roll Along*. Recently, Jerome was seen in PSU's production of *The Trial*, as well as last year's production of *Oedipus The King*. Over the summer, he performed in *Mary Poppins*(Ensemble, US Burt) at Prescott Park. When he's not at school, Jerome trains and coaches at his family's gymnastics facility. He would like to thank his family and friends for their never ending support throughout his college journey.

SHARLEIGH THOMSON (K.T./US Gussie) is a Junior Theatre Arts major with options in Music Theatre Performance and Dramatic Writing. Past performances include *9 to 5 the Musical* (Margaret), *Peter Pan* (Wendy), *The Addams Family* (US Grandma), *A Man of No Importance* (Mrs. Grace), *Ragtime* (Emma Goldman), and *Oedipus The King* (Tiresias). This summer she was the production stage manager for Interlakes Summer Theatre (*South Pacific*, *CATS*, *Gypsy*). Her one act play, *When The Tide Comes In*, was a Top Three Finalist for Prescott Park's 30-in-30 last fall. Sharleigh is thrilled to be back on stage with this beautiful show and company. Special thanks to Beth, Andrew, and Amanda for their guidance.

AMANDA WHITWORTH (Choreographer) is a teaching artist residing in central New Hampshire with a passion for interdisciplinary collaboration and networking. She continues to work as a performer of dance and physical theatre with choreographers and organizations both nationally and internationally. Ms. Whitworth is committed to diversifying her work in the arts and partners with organizations, institutions and educators to advocate and promote dance. Currently, she directs the dance program at Plymouth State University as well as creates works of interdisciplinary art and theatre through her project-based company Tributary Dance. Whitworth is pleased to work with a collaborative group of educators and artists to reestablish the New Hampshire Dance Alliance which inspires dance advocacy, education and networking in Northern New England. Additionally, Ms. Whitworth has joined forces with professional artists, arts agencies and institutions to promote dance across the country.

Photography By:

[Kaleb Hart Photography](#)

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Up Next:

PSU Choirs: *A Joyful Noise*

December 3 at 1:00pm

Begin the holiday season with the PSU Choirs, guest orchestra, and Dan Perkins. Featuring excerpts from Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace," and seasonal favorites.

Contemporary Dance Ensemble

December 8 & 9 at 7:00pm

PSU's dance performance group showcases original works by faculty and students in various dance genres along with special guests and community partners.

Silver Center Staff

Director	Stuart Crowell
Events/Business Coordinator	Sureya Ennabe
House Manager	Susanne Hastings
Assistant House Managers	Deb Esposito, Tracy Dickson, Claire McIver
Technical Director	Bob Bruemmer
Assistant Technical Director	Heather Manfredi
Box Office Manager	Trudy Pelletier
Box Office Staff	Katherine Bullen, Jordan Ditore, Taylor Fournier, Serena Gorham, Luke Nicolo, and Kara Pedro
Ushers	Sam Boyle, Caitlyn Button, Sean Dezurik, Larysa Marienko, Katie Servant, Nicole Tartagni, Sharleigh Thomson
Master Carpenters	Kellyjo Boland
Master Electrician	John Findlay

Audio Leads

Sarah Daley and Jacob Kallander

Production Staff

Becca Beaulieu, Kelly Boland, Cameron Brand, Alex
Flammia, Tyler McCarthy, Clay Harbert, and Nathaniel
Vinson

Theatre Costume Staff

Costume Shop Manager/Resident Designer

Daneé R. Grillo

Costume Technicians

Rose Chaffee, Rowan Cummings, Nick
Cochran, Jeanmarie Lapointe, Sydney Moquin