

ALTRINCHAM GARRICK PLAYHOUSE - AUDITION INFORMATION:

A powerful, moving, thrilling and compelling musical fable about friendship, compromise and the high price of success

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG



Music and Lyrics by

Stephen Sondheim

Book by

George Furth

Based on the original play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick
Originally Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince. Originally produced on Broadway by
Lord Grade, Martin Starger, Robert Fryer and Harold Prince in association with Ruth Mitchell and Howard Haines



**Monday 17 –
Saturday 22 June 2024**



**Evenings 7:30pm
Matinée, Saturday 22 at 2:30pm**

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

**Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International. All authorised performance
materials are also supplied by M/TI - www.mtishows.co.uk

Thank you for expressing your interest in auditioning for “**MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG**”. This Musical will be the final production of the 23/24 Season at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

The Audition Date for this production is
The Rehearsal Start Date for this production is
The Production Dates for this production are

Sunday 17th March
Sunday 5th May
Monday 17th -
Saturday 22nd June

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7.30pm - 10pm, and every Sunday from 2pm - 5.30pm.

We do ask that all those auditioning are able to make every rehearsal. We do, of course, understand that sometimes you may have other commitments and special occasions during the rehearsal process, and we therefore ask that you inform us of any dates you are not available in advance (at the audition) and we will try and make this work. If you have a date that you're unable to rehearse within ten days of the opening night (22nd June) we may have to ask you to withdraw from the production.

You may not be called to every rehearsal, and the Director will produce a rehearsal schedule as far in advance as possible, but we do still ask that those successful in being cast in the production remain flexible, as rehearsal schedules can often change during the process.

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

Monday 17th - Saturday 22nd June 2024
(7 Performances including at 2.30pm Matinee on 22nd June)
Altrincham Garrick Playhouse

“It's our time, breathe it in... Worlds to change and worlds to win”

Spanning three decades in the entertainment business and told in reverse order, ***Merrily We Roll Along*** charts the turbulent relationship between composer Franklin Shepard and his two lifelong friends — writer Mary and lyricist & playwright Charley.

A powerful, moving, thrilling and compelling fable about friendship, compromise and the high price of success.

An inventive, cult-classic ahead of its time, ***Merrily We Roll Along*** features some of Stephen Sondheim's most celebrated, personal and beautiful songs including “Good Thing Going”, “Not A Day Goes By” and “Our Time”.

This unmissable Musical Comedy is a spirited and cautionary tale for anyone who has ever pursued a dream.

Originally opening on Broadway in 1981, and having countless revivals and revisions along the way, ***Merrily We Roll Along*** found great success in 2013 when London's Menier Chocolate Factory produced the production, which subsequently transferred to the Harold Pinter Theatre to critical acclaim - the most five- star reviews in West End history - and winning the Olivier Award for Best Musical. It has most recently returned to Broadway, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

Creative Team

Director: Joseph Meighan
Musical Director: Mark Goggins
Choreographer: Louise Pettitt

Characters

Franklin Shepard

A successful and sometimes seemingly vapid film producer, also an innocent optimist when he was younger; he's not a bad guy; talented but misled, tragic and tormented.

Piano player preferred, but not essential.

Gender: Male 30-45
Vocal range: Baritone/ Tenor (A2 – Bb4)

Charley Kringas

Frank's best friend; sometimes stubborn, always intense; he ranges from a successful lyricist and Frank's long-time friend to a bright-eyed optimist creating his own opportunities in NYC.

Gender: Male 30 - 45
Vocal range: Baritone/ Tenor (Bb2 – Ab4)

Mary Flynn

Frank and Charley's friend; very intelligent; sardonic and always witty; her optimism gets clouded over by missed opportunities.

Gender: Female 30-45
Vocal range: Mezzo (G3 – Gb5)

Gussie Carnegie

The flamboyant, self-invented actress. Her character begins at the end of her relationship with Frank, but throughout the show we see her grow more and more helplessly in love with him. Greedy and seductive.

Gender: Female 25 - 40
Vocal range: Big Theatre Belt (G3 – C5)

Joe Josephson

Big-talking Broadway producer and husband to Gussie. He later becomes pathetic and poor.

Gender: Male 40-55
Vocal range: Baritone (A2 – F#4)

Beth Spencer

A naive and insecure middle-American who is the mother of Frank's son. She arcs from a down-trodden housewife at her wits end to a hopeless romantic at the beginning of her engagement to the man of her dreams.

Gender: Female 30-40

Vocal range: Soprano (A3 – G5)

Frank Jr.

Son of Beth and Frank. Innocent, energetic and eager to please. Should sing well.

Gender: Male 8-12

Meg Kincaid

Starry-eyed starlet who is naive and ambitious. At the start of the show, she is Frank's newest fling. Must be comfortable appearing on stage in swimwear.

Gender: Female 20 to 25

Vocal range: Gb5 - D4

The Ensemble

The Ensemble consists of strong singer/actors. Must be able to deliver various comedic cameos throughout the show.

Ensemble roles include TERRY, TV NEWSMAN, MR. SPENCER, SCOTTY, MINISTER, JEROME, BUNKER, YOUNG SCREENWRITER, CLUB PIANIST, NBC PAGE, PHOTOGRAPHER, TYLER, DORY, TV NEWSWOMAN, RU, JUDGE, MRS. SPENCER, BARTENDER, MAKE-UP ARTIST, K.T., GIRL AUDITIONING, MEG, EVELYN and more...

THE ENSEMBLE for this show is a VITAL and BUSY Ensemble - there are MANY parts for strong actors and singers.

There may be some dance elements involved, depending how we create the Broadway sequence.

What to Prepare

At the audition, we will need to hear everybody sing, and with an American accent. You do not need to bring any MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG sheet music, as we will be playing from the Musical's Score. Please prepare these songs with the acting and character at the forefront, as well as musically. We want to see you acting through song. So much of this production's story is told through the music, so please treat your song like an acting piece as well as a vocal performance.

In addition to this, we will also want to see you acting with the MERRILY WE ROLL

ALONG script. Audition pieces, taken from the script, will be available from 1.00pm on the audition day and you will have time to look over the script before seeing the panel.

Below are the songs we would like you to prepare in advance (we may not hear all of the number but please do prepare it fully):

Franklin Shepard

7a) Growing Up – Part 1

17b) Our Time – Part 3

Bars 23–42 (“It’s our time, breathe it in...” to “...This is where we began being what we can.”)

Charley Kringas

13) Good Thing Going

6) Franklin Shepard, Inc

Bars 64–92 (“Still the telephone blinks...” to “...next you’re Franklin Shepard...”)

Mary Flynn

5) Old Friends - Like It Was

17b) Our Time – Part 3

Bars 23–42 (“It’s our time, breathe it in...” to “...This is where we began being what we can.”)

Gussie Carnegie

Sondheim song that shows off your vocal range and a good character arc
(Please bring sheet music)

Joe Josephson

Sondheim song that shows off your vocal range and a good character arc
(Please bring sheet music)

Beth Spencer

8) Not A Day Goes By

Frank Jr.

Short Musical Theatre children’s song
(Please bring sheet music)

The Ensemble

Sondheim song that shows off your vocal range and a good character arc
(Please bring sheet music)

The Audition Day

Auditionees will need to sign in and complete a contact sheet in the Theatre Bar at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse from 1pm on Sunday 17th March. We will then see each auditionee in the Annexe in front of the audition panel from about 1.30pm.

We will try to see all Children auditioning for FRANK. JR first.

There will be Garrick personnel to show you around and help you through the process. Please be aware that these audition evenings often include quite a bit of waiting around and can be long, but we will try to move as quickly as we can.

The audition panel will consist of the Director, Musical Director and members of the Altrincham Garrick's Artistic and Casting Team (ACT).

We are a diverse theatre and we welcome auditionees of all ages (above the age of 18) and all genders, ethnicities, sexualities, disabilities and races, to enrich the work of the production.

What Next?

If you've read all the information in this pack, and wish to audition, then please email casting@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk stating "**MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG**" in the subject heading and detailing your name and contact number. By emailing, you will have registered for an audition on Sunday 17th March.

We'd like to wish you the very best of luck, and we look forward to welcoming you, or seeing you again! Thank you for taking the time and interest to prepare for this audition and Break-A-Leg!

Best wishes,

Joseph Meighan (Artistic Director/ Artistic and Casting Team)

Carole Carr (Artistic and Casting Team)

Mike Shaw (Artistic and Casting Team)

Val Watkinson (Artistic and Casting Team)

Fiona Primrose (Artistic and Casting Team)

Gemma Sales (Artistic and Casting Team)