

Manatee Players and
Producing Artistic Director Rick Kerby
present



MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

Music & Lyrics by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by
GEORGE FURTH

Merrily We Roll Along

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials also supplied by MTI.
<https://www.mtishows.com>

Directed and Choreographed by
Rick Kerby

Musical Direction by
Rebecca Dikranian

Set Design by
In House

Projections Design by
Jay Poppe

Costumes Designed by
Caren Brady

Lighting Designed by
Nick Jones

Production Stage Manager
Kristin Ribble

October 30 - November 10, 2024
Stone Hall at Manatee Performing Arts Center

Theater Information

Each audience member must occupy a seat and have a ticket. Although there are no age restrictions, parents should use discretion regarding appropriateness of some offerings. Information on shows, including recommended ages, is available by calling our Box Office at (941) 748-5875.

LATECOMERS

Tickets are valid only if presented for admission before the start of the date and time of the show listed. Patrons arriving late are not guaranteed admission, but may be seated on an “as available” basis at the sole discretion of management.

SMOKING/VAPING

Smoking or use of e-cigarettes is strictly prohibited within the facility.

ELECTRONIC & RECORDING DEVICES

Due to copyright restrictions, audio and video recording is strictly prohibited during performances. Please turn off all electronic devices.

EMERGENCY EXITS

Please familiarize yourself with nearest exit sign.

ACCESSIBILITY

Manatee Performing Arts Center strives to make its performances and facilities accessible to everyone and adheres to all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity to qualified individuals with disabilities.

BOOSTER SEATS

Booster seats are available by request for those patrons who need them. Please see a team member at the information desk in the lobby.

NOISE REDUCTION EAR PROTECTION

We have both adult and child-sized hearing protection for those with sound sensitivity. Stop by the information desk to secure a set to better enjoy the live entertainment.

BOX OFFICE HOURS OF INFORMATION

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and 60 minutes prior to any show. Tickets are available by phone 941-748-5875 or online at ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com

STONE HALL



BRADENTON KIWANIS THEATER



Director Notes



Merrily We Roll Along is a unique theatrical experience! Stephen Sondheim and Hal Prince collaborated to create a story that unfolds in reverse. The team aimed to challenge audience perceptions of storytelling by starting with the characters' present failures and tracking back to their hopeful beginnings. This backward plot

structure invites the audience to witness the characters' journeys from failure to hope, revealing how their relationships and dreams evolve over time.

The decision to present the plot in reverse was radical when the musical debuted in 1981. Audiences were left confused, and it became a rare Sondheim flop closing after only 16 performances. Much like *Merrily's* theme of the transformational power of time, audiences in 2022 were ready for a new updated Broadway revival. The show won critical acclaim with 4 Tony awards, including Best Revival.

Our story revolves around the central characters of Frank – an ambitious composer, Charley – Frank's writer collaborator, and Mary – a faithful friend and fellow writer. This trio develops a close, complex friendship, and how that friendship changes and evolves becomes an essential theme of the show. As these characters move backward, we peel away layers of regret and disillusionment. Along the way, we discover the innocence and ambitions that once defined their dreams. Time can shape choices and change priorities.

As we "roll" through this musical, let us embrace the beauty of beginnings hidden within endings. *Merrily We Roll Along* is not just about where we end up, but the journey and choices that lead us there.

Creative Team

Rick Kerby

(Director/Choreographer) – Prior to his move to Bradenton, Rick was the Entertainment Director for the USO of Metropolitan New York and the organizer of the Miss USO Contest. His USO troupe was featured on the Today Show, Good Morning America, Fox News, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and on The Miss America Pageant. The same USO troupe performed as part of the USO Celebrity Tours in the Middle East, Europe, and the Baltic. Other directorial credits include numerous shows at Surfflight Theatre in New Jersey, Theatre by the Sea in Rhode Island, The Arundel Playhouse in Maine, Wolford House Dinner Theatre in Virginia, New London Barn Playhouse in New Hampshire, Stage Door Canteen Theatre at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, the Westbank and Duplex Theaters in New York City, and on many cruise ships. He has served on the faculties of Wagner College on Staten Island and Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in New York City. Rick is the past President of the Florida Theatre Conference, Past President of the Florida Association of Community Theaters, and is the past President of the board for the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT). Rick was honored as a recipient of the Fellows Award from AACT. Rick most recently directed MPAC's productions of *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Oklahoma*, *Something Rotten*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Company*, *Gypsy*, *How to Succeed*, *Titanic*, *Chaplin*, *Mamma Mia*, *Pippin*, *I Do, I Do*, *Winter Wonderettes*, *Matilda*, *West Side Story*, *Barnum*, *Mary Poppins*, *Cabaret*, *Newsies*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Producers*, *Boynton Beach Club*, *Assassins*, *42nd Street*, *Chess*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Secret Garden*, and *Into the Woods*.

Rebecca Dikranian

(Music Director) – Rebecca has played piano in the Sarasota community since 2009. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Masters of Education in Mathematics Education from The Ohio State University, as well as a Florida teaching certification in K12 Music. Rebecca has music directed numerous community theatre shows in Venice, Sarasota, Bradenton, and her hometown of Sidney, OH. Favorites include the *The Fantasticks*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Billy Eliot*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, and *The Wiz*. She also plays for the Sarasota Riverview High School choirs and Bayside Community Church in Sarasota. Although piano is Rebecca's trained instrument, her guilty pleasure is playing the accordion. Rebecca would like to thank Rick and Kristin for this opportunity, the cast for being so easy to work with, and her family for watching 5-month old Jacob during rehearsals! Psalm 100 😊

Jay Poppe

(Projection Designer) – Jay has provided scenic projections for the Manatee Performing Arts Center productions of *Titanic*, *Sunset Blvd*, *Oklahoma*, *Tarzan*, *Mary Poppins*, *Newsies*, *Chaplin*, and many more. The Sarasota Players and the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe have also used him for scenic projection and graphical design. Jay is a member of and secretary for Dramature, MPAC's senior theatre troupe. Jay also performs in productions. Most recently he was in Manatee Performing Arts Center's *The Fantasticks*. He has also been seen in many productions including *The Producers*, *Sound of Music*, and *A Christmas Carol*, where he played 6 different characters. Jay always looks forward to the next projection challenge.

Creative Team

Nick Jones

(Lighting Designer) – Nick is excited to be returning to Manatee Performing Arts Center once again after recently designing *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Nunsense*, *Winter Wonderettes*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Doubt*, and *Goat Song Revel*. Having designed in Sarasota and New York, credits span numerous companies and projects such as Asolo Rep, Dog Days Theatre Company, and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Additionally, he serves as a Lighting Assistant on the New Year's Eve Times Square Celebration. For a full list of works, visit his website at standbylx.net.

Caren Brady

(Costume Designer) – Caren Brady is celebrating 36 years as a Fairy Godmother for all things costume. A graduate of Bluffton College, Caren started her career at Stagecraft Theatrical in Cincinnati Ohio and eventually opened her dream business, Cincinnati Costume Company. This shop costumed productions throughout Ohio and the nation. After losing Cincinnati Costume Company in a fire in 2007, Caren joined Cincinnati Landmark Productions as their Costume Shop Manager, Costume Designer, and Props Mistress and served there for over 12 years. Caren is pleased to be on staff here at Manatee Performing Arts Center. She is thrilled to be working with this cast and production team. Much love to family and friends far and near who always support the crazy costume lady! “Kisses to Leon – Mommy will be home soon!”

Kristin Ribble

(Production Stage Manager) – Kristin has been a part of the Manatee Players since she was twelve years old in a variety of capacities and has been the Production Manager for sixteen years. Kristin's most recent stage management credits include *Anything Goes*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Oklahoma*, *Gypsy*, *Titanic*, *Chaplin*, *Mamma Mia*, *Matilda*, *Mary Poppins*, *Cabaret*, *Newsies*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *A Little Night Music*, and *The Producers*. Other favorite stage management credits include *Assassins*, *42nd Street*, *Chess*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Secret Garden*, *Into the Woods*, *Tarzan*, *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon*, *My One and Only*, *Shrek*, *Whorehouse*, *Anything Goes*, *Evita*, *The Boynton Beach Club*, and the award winning productions of *Sweeney Todd* and *Sunday in the Park with George*. She also was co-stage manager for *Something Rotten*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Company*, *How to Succeed*, *Pippin*, *I Do, I Do*, *Nunsense*, *Winter Wonderettes*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *West Side Story*, and *Barnum*. Kristin has also co-directed/choreographed MPAC's productions of *The Will Rogers Follies* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. She has enjoyed being a part of the crew working sound for several productions. Kristin graduated with Honors from the University of Florida with a degree in psychology and a minor in sociology. She worked for several years with at-risk youth in Manatee County. “Thank you to the many crew members who make the magic happen!”

Songs

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

Overture.....Orchestra
Merrily We Roll Along.....Company

BEL AIR, 1976

That Frank.....Frank, Mary, Company
First Transition.....Ensemble

NBC STUDIOS NYC, 1973

Old Friends- Like it Was.....Mary, Charley
Franklin Shephard, Inc.....Charley
Second Transition.....Ensemble

CENTRAL PARK WEST, 1968

Old Friends.....Frank, Charley, Mary
Growing Up.....Frank, Gussie
Third Transition.....Ensemble

MANHATTAN COURTHOUSE, 1967

Not a Day Goes By.....Beth
Now You Know.....Mary, Charley, Frank, Joe,
Jerome, Tyler, Scotty, Company

15 minute intermission

ACT TWO

ALVIN THEATER NYC, 1964

Entr'acte.....Orchestra
Gussie's Opening Number.....Gussie, Backup Dancers
It's a Hit.....Joe, Frank, Charley, Mary, Beth
Fourth Transition.....Ensemble

GUSSIE & JOE'S BROWNSTOWN, 1962

The Blob- Part I.....Gussie, Ensemble
Growing Up (Reprise).....Gussie
Good Thing Going.....Charley
The Blob- Part II.....Frank, Charley, Company
Fifth Transition.....Ensemble

DOWNTOWN CLUB NYC, 1960

Bobby and Jackie and Jack.....Charley, Beth, Frank
Not a Day Goes By (Reprise).....Beth, Mary, Frank
Sixth Transition.....Tyler, Dory

NEW YORK CITY, 1959-1957

Opening Doors.....Frank, Charley, Mary, Joe, Beth, Company
Seventh Transition.....Frank Jr., Beth, Mrs. Shepard

NYC ROOFTOP, 1957

Our Time.....Frank, Charley, Mary, Company

Cast

Franklin Shepard.....	Cory Woomert
Charley Kringas.....	Christos Nicholoudis
Mary Flynn.....	Jennifer Baker
Beth Shepard.....	Michelle Anaya
Gussie Carnegie.....	Melanie Bierweiler
Joe Josephson.....	Chris Caswell
Meg Kincaid	Ella Thompson
Frank Jr.....	Christopher Ehnes
Jerome, Frank’s attorney.....	D.J. Schuett
Tyler, an inventor.....	Todd Colbert
Scotty, Frank’s agent.....	Meg Newsome
K.T., a reporter.....	Caitlein Jammo
Ru, a screenwriter.....	Michael Peacock
Mr. Shepard, Beth’s father.....	Joseph Smith
Mrs. Shepard, Beth’s mother.....	Meg Newsome
Dory, a friend.....	Micaela Ramirez-Walsh
Bunker, a friend.....	Brendan Kroposky
Terry, a friend.....	Joseph Smith
Evelyn, Charley’s wife.....	Micaela Rameriz-Walsh
T.V. Newswoman.....	Sarah Van Keuren
T.V. Newsman.....	Brendan Kroposky
The Reverend.....	Michael Peacock
The Photographer.....	Brendan Kroposky
Makeup Artist.....	Todd Colbert
Variety Pianist.....	Micaela Ramirez-Walsh
Bad Auditioner.....	Caitlein Jammo
Ensemble.....	Todd Colbert, Caitlein Jammo Brendan Kroposky, Meg Newsome Michael Peacock, Micaela Ramirez-Walsh D.J. Schuett, Joseph Smith Ella Thompson, Sarah Van Keuren
Backup Dancers.....	Todd Colbert, Caitlein Jammo Brendan Kroposky, Micaela Ramirez-Walsh Ella Thompson, Sarah Van Keuren

Crew

Production Manager.....	Kristin Ribble
Assistant Technical Director.....	Larry Crouse
Master Electrician.....	Tom Sparks, Thomas Anderson
Stage Manager / Light Board.....	Kristin Ribble
Assistant Stage Manager / Sound Board.....	Olivia Hilliard
Running Crew.....	Kate Ehnes, Brittney Klepper Janet Poelsma, Eduardo Zoppe
Follow Spots.....	Marilyn Andreini, Nancy Maust, Diane Rabbu
Dressers.....	Gayle Foster, Andrea Keddel
Swing Crew.....	Neal Addison, Janet Glendening Marianne Hernandez, Suzanne Mattes, David Springer
Rehearsal Assistant / Sound Mix.....	Neal Addison
Vocal Captain.....	D.J. Schuett
Kennedy Props / Specialty Props.....	Nancy Maust
Banner Sewing.....	Lorraine Mitter
Additional Music.....	Rebecca Dikranian
Music Editing.....	Dan Yonko
Props.....	Rick Kerby
Wigs.....	Caren Brady
Set Construction.....	Thomas Anderson, Ray Barhorst Sharon Barhorst, Phil Croome, Larry Crouse, Mike Harris Jack Hawkins, Steve Leggett, Ron Lennon, Ralph Nurmella Peter Ruscoe, James Thielen, Jim Uberti, Steve Weitekamp
Set Painting.....	Thomas Anderson, Ray Barhorst Sharon Barhorst, Phil Croome, Larry Crouse, Mike Harris Jack Hawkins, Steve Leggett, Ron Lennon, Ralph Nurmella Peter Ruscoe, James Thielen, Jim Uberti, Steve Weitekamp
Costume Construction.....	Caren Brady, Barbara Duncan Kristen Garruto, Gail Hargaden, Arda Letson Ansley McDonald, Debbie McKee, Christine Olson Vincenzo Russo, Lorrie Schultz, Cheryl Voltolina, Wayne Waletich
Special Thanks.....	Cindy Addison, Ann Colonna, Kristofer Geddie Jillian Price, Isabella Onken, Dan Yonko

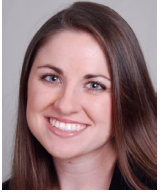
****The video and/or audio recording of this performance
by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited. ****

Cast



Michelle Anaya

(*Beth Shepard*) – Favorite previous roles include *Kiss Me Kate* (Kate), *Grey Gardens* (Edie), *Pirates of Penzance* (Mabel), *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake), *Carousel* (Julie), and *Assassins* (Sara Jane Moore). Michelle sends love to those affected by recent events and is grateful for those helping others.



Jennifer Baker

(*Mary Flynn*) – Jennifer is delighted to return to MPAC to work with this amazing creative team! Recent credits include: *Ruthless* (Judy/Ginger), *Company* (Amy), *The Last Five Years* (Cathy), and *Title of Show* (Heidi). She dedicates this performance to all of her friends! Love to Joel, Braden, and Liam for their support and love.



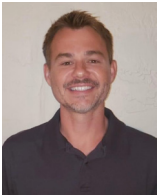
Melanie Bierweiler

(*Gussie Carnegie*) – Born in New York and raised in Florida, she has performed in the Tampa and Manatee communities for 25 years. A Vocal Performance graduate from USF, she's starred in musicals, plays, and regional tours. Favorite roles include *Chicago* (Velma) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle). IG: @SingerDoll



Chris Caswell

(*Joe Josephson / Ensemble*) – 47 years on area stages. Favorites: *Sweeney Todd* (Sweeney) (Handy Award), *Frost Nixon* (Nixon) (Handy Award Nomination), and *Next to Normal* (Dan). Recent: *Parade* (Old Soldier/Roan), *Addams Family* (Mal), *Side By Side By Sondheim*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *I Do I Do* (Michael), *Kiss Me Kate* (Frederick), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus).



Todd Colbert

(*Tyler / Makeup Artist / Ensemble*) – Todd's previous MPAC roles include Bill Calhoun in *Kiss me Kate* and Robert Martin in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Todd began performing at Ocala Civic Theatre in Florida in 1994. His previous roles include Benjy Stone in *My Favorite Year*, Toby in *Sweeney Todd*, and Skimbleshanks in *Cats*. Todd lives in St. Pete and loves to run.



Christopher Ehnes

(*Frank Jr.*) – Chris was born in Sarasota, Fl. He has attended summer camps at the Manatee Performing Arts Center and has appeared as King Louie in *The Jungle Book Kids* and Winnie in *Winnie the Pooh Kids*. This is Chris' first appearance with the Manatee Players.

Cast



Caitlein Jayne Jammo

(*K.T. / Auditionee / Ensemble*) – Caitlein is [insert synonym for “excited”] to be back with MPAC! She was seen in *Parade* (Mrs. Phagan), *Kiss Me Kate* (Hattie), *Rocky Horror*, and *Oklahoma!* She has also been nearby in *The Addams Family* (Morticia) and *Gypsy* (Louise), and most importantly *SpongeBob* (Lead Sardine). Pinky!



Brendan Kroposky

(*Bunker / Newscaster / Photographer / Ensemble*) – Brendan is excited to be in his sixth production at MPAC. Most recently in *Anything Goes* (Minister/Quartet), *Kiss Me Kate* (Ralph) and *Oklahoma!* (Fred/ Jud US). Previous roles: Man 1 in *Songs* and Tom Snout in *Something Rotten*. He thanks his friends and family for supporting his theatric endeavors.



Meg Newsome

(*Mrs. Spencer / Scotty / Studio Director / Ensemble*) – Meg is thrilled for any opportunity to do another Sondheim show! A retired teacher/librarian, she always tries to find time for theatre. Favorite roles here include *Music Man* (Mrs. Paroo), *Ragtime* (Mother), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Yente), *Forum* (Domina), and *Sunday in the Park* (Mother). “Thanks, Rick, Kristin, cast!”



Christos Nicholoudis

(*Charley Kringas*) – Christos is a local attorney. He moved to Bradenton at 8 years old to attend IMG academy. Graduated from Cornell and Stetson Law. His 5th show at MPAC. Credits: *Cinderella* (Prince), *Titanic* (Farrell), *Next to Normal* (Gabe), and *Kiss Me Kate* (Hortensio). He dedicates his performance to KP. “Be Bold, Be Strong, Be Charismatic. Be Dramatic.”



Michael Peacock

(*Ru / Reverend / Ensemble*) – Michael is excited to be on stage at the Manatee Performing Arts Center having most recently played the role of Paul in MPAC’s production of *Company*. Michael has been in performances across the Tampa Bay Area most notably as Tateh in *Ragtime*, Terry in *Sideshow*, and Patrick in MPAC’s *Mame*.



Micaela Ramirez-Walsh

(*Dory / Evelyn / Pianist / Ensemble*) – Micaela is ecstatic to be a part of MPAC’s production of *Merrily...* after previously being in *Parade*. She spent this past summer studying with The Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music for Musical Theater. Professional credits include Head Choreographer for Amateur Broadway VTP, and Owner of Tea Parties in Wonderland.

Cast



D.J. Schuett

(Jerome / Ensemble) – This is DJ's second show at MPAC. You may remember him from *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Aldolpho). He was recently in EOT's *Sweeney Todd* (Pirelli) and mad Theatre's *Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney). DJ would like to thank his amazing friends, family, and bulldogs for all their support!



Joseph Smith

(Mr. Spencer / Terry / Ensemble) – Joseph is proud to be back at the Manatee Players and thanks Rick Kerby and Kristin Ribble for this opportunity. He grew up on a farm in Illinois, and lived and worked in Germany since 1974 as a translator and editor. He presently divides his time between Germany and Florida.



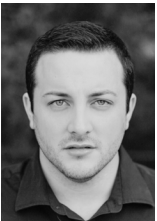
Ella Thompson

(Meg / Ensemble) – Ella is ecstatic to be joining MPAC for another show! Previous seen in *Oklahoma!* (Ensemble) and *Kiss Me Kate* (Ensemble). Ella is excited to join another cast for an amazing production. "I'd like to thank the Plunge girls, Allee, and my parents for supporting my passion."



Sarah Van Keuren

(Newscaster / Ensemble) – Sarah is thrilled to be back on the MPAC stage. Her favorite credits include *Music Man* (Ethel), *Legally Blonde* (Chutney), and *Children of Eden* (Snake). She wants to thank her family and friends for their love and support as well as her incredibly talented castmates. Enjoy the show!



Cory Woomert

(Franklin Shepard) – Cory has been in many local productions and is thrilled to be back at MPAC. Favorites include: *Kiss Me Kate* (Fred), *Company* (Bobby), *Shrek* (Shrek), *Starcatcher* (Black Stache), *Hunchback* (Frollo), *Titanic* (Mr. Andrews), *Assassins* (Czolgosz), *Little Shop* (Orin), and *Bridges* (Bud). "Thank you to Darah, Judah, and Asher!"



Denotes Manatee Performing Arts Center Debut

MANATEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Administration

Chief Cheerleader/CEO.....	Janene Amick CAP, CFRE
Producing Artistic Director.....	Rick Kerby
Comptroller.....	Jeff Evans
Program Manager	Jillian Price
Community Engagement Director.....	Ann Colonna
Fundraising Associate.....	Isabella Onken
House Manager.....	John Illar
Assistant to the Chief Cheerleader (volunteer).....	Mary Smith
Development Associate (volunteer).....	Cheryl Unruh
Box Office Volunteers.....	Randall Rentfro (Thursday) Gail Rhode (Wednesday) Noreen Roberts (Tuesday)
Special Event Associate (volunteer).....	Pam Smith
DraMature Secretary (volunteer)	Jay A. Poppe
Marketing Committee.....	Jim Wolfe, Chair Sharon Barhorst, Robert Ritch, Anthony Vento
Webmaster (volunteer)	Randy Ford

Production

Production Manager	Kristin Ribble
Resident Costume Designer.....	Caren Brady
Assistant Technical Director.....	Larry Crouse
Associate	Thomas Anderson
Master Electrician (volunteer)	Tom Sparks
Tool Timers.....	Scene Shop Volunteers Phil Croome, Mike Harris, Steve Leggett, Ralph Nurmela, Jim Uberti, Steve Whitekamp
Fabulous Fabricators	Costume Shop Volunteers McKenzie Bishop, Barbara Duncan, Tina Fisher, Kristen Garruto, Gail Hargarden Arda Letson, Ansley McDonald, Debbie McKee, Christine Olson, Regina Piety Vincenzo Russo, Lorrie Schultz, Millie Sica, Albert Sultana, Theresa Sultana Cheryl Voltolina, Wayne Waletich
Wig Master (volunteer).....	Fred Werling
Lobby Pianist (volunteer)	Don Donahue
Production Photographer (volunteer).....	Diane Broda