

The Greenbelt Arts Center presents:



Merrily We Roll Along

January 11-20, 2024

Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8pm

Sunday January 14 at 2pm

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by George Furth

Directed by Roy Hammond • Musical Direction by Joe Biddle

Choreography by Rikki "Howie" Lacewell • Produced by Malca Giblin

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

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CAST *(In order of 1st appearance)*

Franklin Shepard.....	Todd Zachwieja
Tyler/Waiter.....	Joey Rolandelli
Jerome.....	Matthew Gray
Bunker, Cameraman, Party Guest.....	Alan Barnett
Scotty, Neighbor.....	Natasha Scott
Dory, Carey Goodfellow, Homeless Person, Pianist, Party Guest.....	Laura Leftwich
Mary Flynn.....	Pamela Northrup
RU, Photographer, Musician, Neighbor.....	Sterling Kee
K.T. Summers.....	Elizabeth Darby
Meg, 1st Girl, Evelyn, Party Guest.....	Sophie Ellison
Gussie Carnegie.....	Liz Mulligan
Corey Hamlin, Porter, Minister, Neighbor.....	Paul Ballard
Happy Stance, Party Guest.....	Alexandra Johnson
Charley Kringas.....	Daniel Fleming
Joe Josephson.....	Jim Adams
Mrs. Spencer, Party Guest.....	Penni Barnett
Beth Spencer.....	Joani Calles
Mr. Spencer, Neighbor.....	Scott D. Farquhar

CREW

Director.....	Roy Hammond
Producer.....	Malca Giblin
Music Director/Conductor.....	Joe Biddle
Choreographer.....	Rikki "Howie" Lacewell
Production Stage Manager.....	Sally Dodson

SL Stage Manager.....	Lindsey Lichtman
Set/Projections Designer.....	Roy Hammond
Costume Designer.....	Megan Scott
Assistants to the Costume Designer.....	Linda Swann, Gayle Negri
Lighting Designer.....	Charlie Danforth
Sound Designer/Mixing.....	Brad J. Ranno
Orchestra Bandstand Designer.....	Dennis Crooks
Hair/Make-Up Designer.....	Malca Giblin
Show Logo.....	Sherrionne Brown
Audition Helper.....	Janise Whelan
Light Board Operator.....	Steve Cox, Den Giblin
Sound Mixer/Board Operator.....	Wynne Kleinberg, Jim Bonomo
Set Construction.....	Eric Redelius, Dennis Crooks, Jeff Myers, Roy Hammond, Renee Gore, Paul Rolandelli, the Cast
Set Painting.....	Ira L. Wales
Set Decoration/Dressing.....	Central Avenue Props
Properties.....	Central Avenue Props
Rehearsal Pianists.....	Linda Christensen, Marci Shegogue, Paige Rammelkamp

ORCHESTRA

Conductor.....	Joe Biddle
Piano	Linda Christensen
Bass	Jeff Eckert
Drums/Percussion.....	Billy Georg
Reed 1.....	Mari Hill
Reed 2.....	Andrew Nixon
Reed 3.....	Dave Booth
Reed 4.....	Stephanie Taylor

Trumpet 1.....Allyson Wesley
Trumpet 2.....Alexander Edwards
Trombone.....Jon and Erica Bright,
David Lewis (Jan 20)

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Front of House Manager.....Carol Shaw
Gallery Manager.....Linda Thompson
Website Team LeadBob Kleinberg
Webmaster.....Kris Northrup
Social Media.....Diana Torres, Maggie
Megosh
General Manager.....Sian MacAdam
GAC Board Liaison.....Wes Dennis

Special Thanks from the Director to:

- Mr. Stephen Sondheim (for his graciousness in replying to someone like me)
- Christopher J. Hartmann (for getting me in touch with Mr. Sondheim)
- Mr. Daniel Unitas (for all of his great NYC theatre connections)
- Sherrionne Brown (for helping on the Picasso and various other little artistry projects)
- Ms. Becky Petersen (for the special Los Angeles props)
- Stephen and Alan Duda and Nico Coman for helping with the original load-in
- Kris Northrup and Randy Barth for the show photos
- Mrs. Lynn Owings for the soft goods
- Rockville Musical Theatre and Rockville Little Theatre for the loan of wigs

Musical Selections

Act One

Overture.....	Orchestra
<u>Prologue - 1981</u>	
Merrily We Roll Along.....	Company
<u>Scene One – Bel Air, Ca. - 1976</u>	
That Frank.....	Company
<u>Scene Two - NBC Studios - 1973</u>	
Old Friends – Like It Was.....	Mary, Charley
Franklin Shepard, Inc.....	Charley
<u>Scene Three – Frank’s Apartment/NYC - 1968</u>	
Old Friends.....	Mary, Frank, Charley
Growing Up – Part 1.....	Frank
Growing Up – Part 2.....	Gussie
<u>Scene Four – Courthouse/Cruise Ship Dock/NYC - 1967</u>	
Not A Day Goes By.....	Beth
Now You Know.....	Company

(15-MINUTE INTERMISSION)

Act Two

Entre’ Acte.....	Orchestra
<u>Scene One – Alvin Theatre - 1964</u>	
Act Two Opening.....	Gussie
It’s A Hit!.....	Joe, Frank, Beth, Mary, Charley, Bum
<u>Scene Two – Gussie and Joe’s Sutton Place Townhouse - 1962</u>	
The Blob (Part 1).....	The Blob
The Blob (Part 2).....	Gussie, The Blob

Act Two (continued)

Growing Up (Reprise).....	Gussie
The Blob (Part 3).....	The Blob
Good Thing Going.....	Charley
Good Thing Going (Reprise).....	Charley, Frank
The Blob (Part 4).....	Company

Scene Three – The Downtown Club - 1960

Bobby, Jackie and Jack.....	Frank, Charley, Beth, Pianist
Not A Day Goes By (Reprise).....	Frank, Beth, Mary

Scene Four - New York City – 1957-1959

Opening Doors.....	Frank, Charley, Mary, Joe, Beth, 1 st Girl, Gussie, Musician
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Scene Five – A Rooftop on 110th Street/NYC - 1957

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

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Jim Adams (Joe Josephson) is delighted to make his post-COVID return to the boards with *Merrily*. During the past three years, Jim scratched his theater itch by designing and running sound or performing as a foley artist for a variety of shows both live and online. Onstage, Jim has been a performer since the 1970s, when he made his debut as Tiny Tim in a community theater production of *Christmas Carol* in Pittsburgh. More recent past roles have included Sir Joshua in *Quadrille*, Panch in *25th Annual PCSB*, and Brian in *Avenue Q* (all with GAC); Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray* (Rockville Musical Theatre); Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* (Kensington Arts Theater); Andre (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*) and Todd (*Unnecessary Farce*) (both Prince George's Little Theatre). Love to Laura, Pamela, Kris, and the rest of the continuum.

Paul Ballard (Corey Hamlin/Minister) is grateful for the opportunity to join this wonderful cast and crew in his debut with GAC. Paul has performed in many shows over the years in the Baltimore area, most recently as Emile de Beque in *South Pacific*. Favorite roles include George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, and Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*. Paul thanks his wonderful wife, Jan Danek, for her enduring love and support of his many theatrical endeavors.

Alan Barnett (Bunker/Cameraman/ensemble) first appeared on stage as Tevye in a school production of *Fiddler on the Roof*; the original production was still running on Broadway at the time! While in college he discovered choral singing and subsequently joined The Washington Chorus, which during his tenure performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore, the Meyerhoff, and Carnegie Hall and won two classical Grammy awards. He started doing community theater about 8 years ago; his favorite roles include Sancho/Manservant in *Man of La Mancha*, Dan Tilney in *Loves and Hours*, and Mordechai in *A Shayna Maidel*. This production of *Merrily* is his first Sondheim musical and his first appearance with GAC.

Penni Barnett (Mrs. Spencer/Ensemble) is a huge Sondheim fan, and delighted to be performing in *Merrily*. A choral singer as well as a musical theater performer, Penni most recently sang Rachmaninoff's *The Bells* with the Choral Arts Society and National Symphony Orchestra. Some favorite theatre roles include Mrs. Brill in *Mary Poppins*, Linda in *Loves and Hours*, and Juror 7 in *12 Incompetent Jurors*. As President of Bowie Community Theatre (BCT), Penni and husband Alan have co-produced BCT's last 5 shows. She is passionate about the power of theater to build ties and strengthen communities, and is delighted you're here. Enjoy the show!

Joe Biddle (Music Director) has music directed around 30 shows in the Baltimore-DC region. Recent credits include *Seussical*, *Snoopy The Musical*, *Into The Woods* (Holy Family Catholic Church), and *HMS Pinafore* (2nd Star Productions). *Pinafore* received the WATCH award for outstanding music direction and the Ruby Griffith outstanding musical. Previous credits with 2nd Star include *Hello Dolly* (WATCH nominations for Best Musical, Outstanding Music Direction, among others, and Ruby Griffith Best All-Around Production), *Music Man*, *Children of Eden* (WATCH nomination for best musical), *Camelot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Pippin*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. At Greenbelt he has music directed Cole Porter's *You Never Know*, *The Biograph Girl*, *Cabaret*, and *Urinetown*. No stranger to the stage, Joe has appeared as The Baker in *Into The Woods*, Sir Andrew in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and the Prince in *Cinderella*. An IT Director during the day, Joe also enjoys boating on the Chesapeake Bay with his wife Nora, (his princess bride) and family and friends. They live in Shady Side with their dog and 4 cats.

Joani Calles (Beth) is so happy to be joining the cast in her first show with GAC! Favorite roles include Janet in *Rocky Horror*, Sonia in *Godspell*, Amber in Rob Rokicki's workshop of *20 to Life*, Hannah in *NEWSIES*, Mae in Lippa's *Wild Party*, and Adela in *House of Bernarda Alba*. Thank you to Roy for bringing me into this wonderful cast for such a momentous show! Love to my sweet husband and family for being so encouraging every step of the way!

Charles W Danforth, III (Lighting Designer) Charlie has been designing lights in the Baltimore/Washington area for over 30 years. His favorites include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *West Side Story*, *Evita*, and *Fiddler on the Roof* to name a few. He is happy to be making his debut here at Greenbelt Arts Center and working again with director Roy. Charlie lives by the saying, "If all the world is a stage, I want better lighting."

Elizabeth Darby (K.T. Summers) was last seen in *Footloose* with the Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre. She has worked with many theaters in the DC, Baltimore, and Annapolis areas including Single Carrot Theatre, Best Medicine Rep, Quotidian Theatre Company, and the National Edgar Allen Poe Theatre. Elizabeth studied theater at Connecticut College, National Theater Institute, and Circle in the Square summer program. She is also a dance and songwriter; check out more at elizabethdarby.net!

Sally Dodson (Stage Manager) is happy to be back at GAC. Most recently, she was co-stage manager for *A Little Night Music* for MAD (Music and Drama Club) at Goddard. She spent her summer as 2nd Stars' assistant stage manager for *Matilda: the Musical* at the Bowie Playhouse. She started 2023 here at GAC as stage manager for *The Mountaintop*, followed by running the lights for *The Children's Hour* and the sound for *The Patchwork Girl of Oz*.

Sophie Ellison (Meg/First Girl/Evelyn) This is Sophie's first, and hopefully not last, show at GAC. She just moved back to Maryland after 3 years in Germany where she was in shows such as *Jerry's Girls* and *Xanadu Jr*. She's excited to get more musicals under her belt and hopes everyone enjoys the performance!

Scott Farquhar (Mr. Spencer/Company) has been a freelance performer in the Baltimore/Washington area for about 30 years. He has worked as a music director, composer/arranger, musician, sound designer, actor, and voice actor. Recent projects in 2023 include appearing as Mr. Sullen in The Rude Mechanicals production of *The Beaux' Stratagem*, and filming as an extra for the pilot episode of the TV mini series *The Sessions*. Favorite stage roles include Oscar Madison in *The*

Odd Couple, and Cosmé McMoon in *Souvenir: A Fantasia on the Life of Florence Foster Jenkins*.

Daniel Fleming (Charley Kringas) a tenor, completed his Bachelor's of Music from Shenandoah Conservatory and his Master's of Music from Northwestern University. He is very excited to be performing with GAC for the first time! He recently performed as Don Florito in *Luisa Fernanda* and as a Solo Animal in Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* at the Florentina Opera, and as Sir Marmaduke in Victorian Lyric Opera Company's *The Sorcerer*. Daniel has performed several other roles including: Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, and Pat in *Dog Days*. Daniel is also a teacher at the International School of Music.

Malca Giblin (Producer, Hair/Makeup Design) has produced a variety of plays and musicals at GAC, including *Doubt*, *Disgraced*, *Winnie the Pooh*, and *The Children's Hour*. She has worked with other community theatres in the DMV, such as The British Players, Kensington Arts Theater, Silver Spring Stage, Rockville Musical Theatre, and Rockville Little Theatre, usually sourcing props and set dressing or doing hair and makeup design. She has waited for four years to see this production come to life, and she is grateful to have weathered the pandemic in order to bring this show to you!

Matthew Gray (Jerome) could be previously spotted in the ensemble of *Footloose*, and as Mr. Feldzeig in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, both at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre. This is Matt's second show at Greenbelt Arts Center; his first show here also doubled as his first leading role in a musical as he played Melvin/Toxie in *The Toxic Avenger*. He is extremely excited for his return to the Greenbelt stage. You can also see him in the ensemble of *Urinetown* next month (February 9th-March 2nd) at the Bowie Playhouse.

Roy Hammond (Director) is very happy to be directing his last show here at GAC. It's only fitting, since upon returning from Los Angeles back to the mid-Atlantic region, GAC was the first theatre to offer him a directing job in 2003 – *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin. Other shows he has directed at GAC include Ira Levin's

Dr. Cook's Garden, Cole Porter's *You Never Know*, and 2006's *The Biograph Girl*. While in Los Angeles, his 1996 production of *The Boyfriend* was voted one of the top ten shows in Los Angeles for that year, and in 1997 he won the Best Director award for Ira Levin's *Veronica's Room* (Los Angeles' equivalence to NYC's Tony Awards). He has directed over 75 plays in his career and acted in over 100 plays, films, rock videos and TV shows. Mr. Hammond is a proud member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers and SAG-AFTRA.

Dr. Alexandra Johnson (Happy Stance) takes the stage as Happy Stance the Makeup Artist in Greenbelt Arts Center's production of *Merrily We Roll Along*. She was last seen in *The Color Purple* at St. Marks Players in Washington, DC (Dir. Rikki Howie-Lacewell). She is also currently in the ensemble of *Urinetown* at 2nd Star Productions in Bowie, MD (Dir. Davis Wootton-Klebanoff). She received her doctorate degree in Chemistry from Johns Hopkins University and is working at the Department of Energy to promote an equitable and fair Clean Energy Transition in the country. In her free time, you can find her cooking, playing video games, or shopping at Sephora. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has!

Sterling Kee (RU/Photographer/Musician) is a Bowie native and a recent graduate of Amherst College in Theatre (and Dance). Recent roles include "The Traveler" in *Myths and Hymns*, Jamie in *The Last Five Years*, and Philip Lombard in *And Then There Were None*. Next month, he'll be playing Bobby in 2nd Star Productions' *Urinetown*. He hopes you enjoy his community theatre debut like he has!

Laura Leftwich (Dory/Newscaster/Bum/Pianist) serves as a music educator for Alexandria City Public Schools. She is excited to be returning to the stage after a long hiatus! Most recently, she portrayed Sally in Nativity Players' *Lightning Thief*. Laura is deeply moved by Sondheim's unwavering dedication to this show and feels genuinely humbled to be a part of this production. Here's to us and to our wonderful audience for supporting our show! Cheers!

Lindsey Lichtman (Assistant Stage Manager) has volunteered backstage for *Drowsy Chaperone* and *A Little Night Music* with NASA Goddard's Music and

Drama Club and is excited to participate with a second community theatre here at GAC.

Liz Mulligan (Gussie Carnegie) could not be more thrilled to be making her debut with Greenbelt Arts Center as Gussie! Originally from Chicago, Liz entered the local theater scene about 2 years ago as the understudy for both Edwin Drood and Princess Puffer in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* with The British Players. Since then, Liz has performed with Colonial Players of Annapolis (*Putting It Together*), Howard County Summer Theater (*Hello, Dolly*), and, most recently, with The Maryland Theater Collective (*Ragtime* and *A Holiday Cabaret*). When not on stage, you might find Liz making "Music Together" with families in Howard County, cantoring at her local church, or volunteering at the elementary school. Liz is a proud graduate of Northwestern University's Music Theater program, mother to the two best kids (and dog) in Maryland, and lover of all things Sondheim. Many thanks to Roy and Joe for the gift of this opportunity, and to her husband, Marty, for patiently and enthusiastically supporting her return to the stage.

Pamela Northrup (Mary Flynn) has been performing at GAC for more than ten years, including five years serving on the Board of Directors. She has been active in theatres around the DC area, with favorite recent roles including Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense* (Salem Players), Mother Miriam Ruth in *Agnes of God* (Baltimore Theatre Collective), Tracey in *Sweat* (2nd Star), Myrna in *Quadrille* (GAC), and Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* (Silhouette Stages). Roy, Rikki, and Joe, it has been a pleasure to take this journey with you. Todd and Dan — here's to us! All my love to my beloved Kale Pajamas, and as always, Zoe — you're still my favorite production.

Brad J. Ranno (Sound Effects and Recorded Music) has a BA in theatre from The University of Maryland and a master's degree in arts administration from Goucher College. He has done theatrical design work around the Baltimore/Washington area including work for: Centerstage, Stevenson University Theatre, Everyman Theatre, Studio Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre, Roundhouse Theatre, Olney Theatre, The Washington National Opera, Baltimore Theatre Project, and CCBC Performing Arts. Previous sound design credits include *Little*

Shop of Horrors, Cloud 9, Amadeus, The Jungle, Kid Simple, and Angels in America. His design of sound for *Equus* at Spotlighters Theatre won for best community theatre sound design in the Maryland Theatre Guide in 2013.

Joey Rolandelli (Tyler/Waiter) is thrilled to be back at the Greenbelt Arts Center for the first time since the Pandemic. Previously, Joey has been seen at GAC in *Zombie Prom, Spelling Bee, Seussical, Forbidden Planet, and Avenue Q* as well as in various productions around the area. In his everyday life, Joey is the Director of the OPAL Center with the Baltimore County Department of Aging. Joey would like to thank the GAC community for welcoming him back as well as his family and friends for their support.

Megan Scott (Costume Designer) is thrilled to return to Greenbelt Arts Center for this production. Since leaving her position as a student costuming assistant in college (credits for *The Drowsy Chaperone, Mother Courage, and more*), she has generally considered herself "mostly retired," although she should probably rethink that status after costuming *Quadrille (2020), Arcadia (2023), and now Merrily* for GAC. She hopes you find the stories brought to life by this cast as beautiful and resonant as she does.

Natasha Scott (Scotty) is originally from Beltsville, MD and is excited to do a Sondheim show so close to her hometown. She got her start in community theatre in 2022 when she had an ensemble role in *Mystery of Edwin Drood* (British Players). Most recently she was seen as The Acrobat in 2nd Star's production of *Matilda*. She has done other shows locally with RCP, Ovations, and Taste for Murder productions.

Todd Zachwieja (Franklin Shepard) is proud to be making his GAC debut in *Merrily*. Though he only just moved to the area this past summer, Todd first came to Maryland in 2008 to attend Towson University, and he is thrilled to be back onstage after a lengthy hiatus in his home state of WV. Todd would like to express his gratitude to Roy and Joe for offering him his first Sondheim role, to the entire cast of *Merrily* for going on this journey with him, and to the community of Greenbelt for so quickly making him a part of this incredible town.

*The Greenbelt Arts Center is supported
in part by grants or contributions from:*

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GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

For more information email info@greenbeltartscenter.org

Or call 301-441-8770

All events subject to change.



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Sunday January 14 at 2pm
(audience must mask for Sunday matinee)
Tickets \$14-\$27

For tickets call (301) 441-8770
or visit greenbeltartscenter.org

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