



July, 2020

## MAD Fall Show: “Merrily We Roll Along” Auditions

Auditions will be held via Zoom on August 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21

These are individual auditions with the Audition Committee. We ask each auditionee to sign up for a 20-minute slot between 5:30 pm and 9:30 pm on one of these evenings.

[www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dacac2fa3f8cf8-madauditions](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dacac2fa3f8cf8-madauditions)

This link will go “live” on July 22. Contact Ben Rollins ([bdrollins786@gmail.com](mailto:bdrollins786@gmail.com)) or Michael Silber ([silberm34@gmail.com](mailto:silberm34@gmail.com)) if you have issues with the sign up or any technical issues.

Contact Kim Weaver ([kweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kweaver@gmail.com)) with questions about the audition process.

We will hold **audition workshops** the week of **August 10** to teach the selected songs and for Zoom technology checks. These are Tues. (8/11) and Thurs. (8/13) tentative.

Auditions will consist of a few questions, reading from the script and singing; both vocal range checks and songs from the show. Songs will have piano tracks pre-recorded and made available to each auditionee. Unlike our regular in-person auditions, we ask that you please consider ahead of time what song(s) you would like to audition so that we can make sure you receive a pre-recorded track. There is no specific dance audition for the show.

Audition materials will be posted on madtheater.org in the members-only area.

If you can't make the audition dates, please discuss arranging a video submission. We are only offering this option for cases where someone absolutely cannot do a Zoom audition.

Callbacks will also be via Zoom, likely August 24 or 25.

## By-Laws Advisors for Audition Committee

The Executive Council is looking for two people to be by-laws advisors for the upcoming auditions of “Merrily We Roll Along.” By-laws advisors are tasked with ensuring the audition process follows the MAD by-laws and standing rules, such as eligibility of auditionees. The by-laws can be found in the Member Services Archive section of [madtheater.org](http://madtheater.org) for your review. Due to the pandemic, auditions will be held virtually over the course of five evenings the week of August 17th. As such, we will not require advisors to be present for each night; rather, the advisors can trade off of each evening. Please contact Michael Silber at [silberm34@gmail.com](mailto:silberm34@gmail.com) by July 31 if you would like to become a by-laws advisor. Also, don't hesitate to reach out to Michael with any questions you may have. Thank you!

## MAD's Oral History Project – Do You Have A Story?

Imagine if you will, a MAD dinner party where you are telling a hilarious or sentimental anecdote about your early days in MAD. Sound fun? We're a bit sad that there are no dinner parties right now, but we still want to hear your stories. To celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the MAD Board is working on an Oral History Project. If you would like to participate, please contact Laura Fisher ([lahlah@gmail.com](mailto:lahlah@gmail.com)) or Kim Weaver ([kweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kweaver@gmail.com)). You will be sent some pre-selected questions, and you can add anything else you would like to have recorded in MAD's archives for posterity. How do you want future MAD members to remember you?

## **MAD Board Meeting**

The next MAD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13th, at 5:30 PM via Zoom. All club members are welcome to join. We plan to hold our Board meetings in 2020 regularly on the second Thursday of the month.

## **MAD About Town**

**David Solomon** appears for 1 second in an Amazon Prime Video series, which has a title thoroughly appropriate to MAD and to him: "Thespian." Filmed last summer, he is a bad example of doing 3 things that nobody should ever do now, until this Covid-19 pandemic is completely over: he is in a bar, unmasked, within 6 feet of other people. If you want to play "Where's Dave?" and look for him, he's in episode 3 of season 2 of "Thespian," at 8:06 (8 minutes and 6 seconds) in. This year, Dave also did some improvisational writing, which can be streamed on screen, again for a few seconds, two different times, in the YouTube series entitled "Stars In The House." In the May 25th (2020) episode, (on YouTube, search for "Stars In The House 5/25 2 PM"), Dave's profile picture, and the live chat comment that he wrote during the live streaming of the show, appear for 2 or 3 seconds, after a beautiful song, at 21:09 (21 minutes and 9 seconds) into the hour long show. Once again, in the June 5th afternoon episode ("Stars In The House 6/5 2 PM"), Dave's profile head shot and his live chat comment are shown on screen, for about 5 seconds, starting at 3:46 (3 minutes and 46 seconds) into the show. Dave hopes that, while we all spend more time at home during the current pandemic crisis, you can watch and enjoy any of the hundreds of episodes of this YouTube show, and, if you can afford it, join him in making a donation to any of the worthy causes that "Stars In The House" helps to support -- the Actors Fund, helping artists in need all over America, both on stage and off, and the Southern Poverty Law Center Legal Defense Fund. Black lives matter.

**Editor:** Cathy Barth, [cbarth412@gmail.com](mailto:cbarth412@gmail.com), 301-233-7215



[Like us on Facebook](#) (gsfcmad) or



[Twitter](#) (@goddardmad)

**Goddard's Music and Drama Club**   
Invites you to **AUDITION** for our 2020 Fall Musical:

# **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

**Auditions held via Zoom the week of August 17**

Directed by **Kim Weaver**

Vocal Direction by **Kathy Fontaine** and **Lisa Sedares**

Produced by **Ben Rollins** & **Jack Scheer** with audition assistance from **Michael Silber**

Orchestra Direction by **Susan Breon**

This semi-autobiographical musical examines the roller coaster that is friendship and the high price of success against the backdrop of the space age, the civil rights era, and all of the change that ensued.

MAD is proud to welcome participants of all races, ethnicities, and gender identities. We do not tolerate discrimination. All roles are open to anyone of any race or ethnicity. Our performance contract stipulates that we may not make changes of gender for characters in the play.

Visit **MADTHEATER.ORG** for audition info & materials

 **GSFCMAD**

 **@GoddardMAD**

Callbacks as needed the following week. Interested GSFC or NASA HQ civil servants (active or retired), badged contractors, spouses & dependent children, & MAD Non-Voting members are encouraged to audition. Guests from the local community are also welcome to audition.

For more information, contact Ben Rollins ([bdrollins786@gmail.com](mailto:bdrollins786@gmail.com)) or Kim Weaver ([kweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kweaver@gmail.com))

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](http://www.MTIShows.com)



Rehearsals begin in late August. Performances are in October – November.  
The performance venue location vs. online streaming options are still TBD.

Auditions will consist of singing and readings from the script. All characters in the show will sing.

### **Character Descriptions for Merrily We Roll Along:**

**Franklin Shepard** (Male, plays ages ~45 to ~25) His character ranges (backward in time) from an influential songwriter and film producer to an innocent, bright-eyed optimist in NYC. He is extremely talented but misled, tragic, and tormented.

**Mary Flynn** (Female, plays ages ~45 to ~25) We first see her as a middle-aged and lonely theatre critic. Her character ranges (backward in time) to the youthful, 20-something living in NYC with best friend Frank. She is sardonic, bitter, and witty.

**Charley Kringas** (Male, plays ages ~45 to ~25) A stubborn, intense man who can't help but hold a grudge. His character ranges (backward in time) from a successful lyricist and Frank's long-time friend to a bright-eyed optimist creating his own opportunities in NYC.

**Joe Josephson** (Male, plays between ages 60s to 30s) We first see him as pathetic and poor. His character changes (backward in time) to a big-talking Broadway producer and husband to Gussie.

**Gussie Carnegie** (Female, plays ages ~50 to ~30) A flamboyant, self-invented actress. Her character begins at the end of her relationship with Frank, but throughout the show we see her grow (backward in time) more and more helplessly in love with him. She is greedy and seductive.

**Beth Spencer** (Female, plays ages ~45 to ~25) A naive and insecure middle-American who is the mother of Frank's son. We see her character change (backward in time) from a down-trodden housewife at her wits end to a hopeless romantic at the beginning just before she is engaged to the man of her dreams.

**K.T.** (any gender, any age) Reporter and TV interviewer who is partial to Frank and his company.

**Franklin Shepard, Jr.**, (plays age ~9 to ~16) is the only child of composer Franklin Shepard.

**Meg Kincaid** (Female, 20s) A starry-eyed starlet who is naive and ambitious. At the start of the show, she is Frank's newest fling.

**Mr. Spencer** (Male, ~50s) is Beth's father and Frank Jr.'s maternal grandfather.

**Mrs. Spencer** (Female, ~50s) is Beth's mother and Frank Jr.'s maternal grandmother.

**Tyler, Ru, Scotty, Jerome, Terry, Dory, Bunker** (can play ages that range from 60s to 20s) loyal friends and members of Frank's production company, Franklin Shepard Inc.

**TV Newsperson, Pianist, Make-Up Artist, Stage Manager, Judge, Party Guests**