



October, 2020

Update on “Merrily We Roll Along”

The cast and orchestra are still hard at work rehearsing the Fall Show. Due to the pandemic and the current closing of public venues in Prince George’s County, including the GSFC Recreation Center, we have postponed our opening to November 13 with performance dates of Nov. 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. We are looking at options that include seeking the virtual performance rights that could allow streaming and finding a location where we could have a small audience gathered safely with the actors projected into the performance space. If it turns out that we are able to perform the show, we will immediately announce ticket sales.

MAD’s 50th Anniversary Zoom Bash – October 17th

Our attendance list has grown to over 65 for Saturday’s Zoom Party to celebrate MAD’s 50th Anniversary! The event is being split into an afternoon (3:30-5:00 pm EDT) and evening (7:00-8:30 pm EDT) session and we’ll have some fun events to facilitate sharing stories and memories. The sign up is here: <https://forms.gle/8FosSBSkjHAjLm1H9>. You will receive a Zoom link by 11 am EDT on Saturday. If you have signed up and do not receive this link by that time, please contact Kim at kweaver@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

MAD Holiday Chorus

From Producer Kathy Nieman – Unfortunately MAD will not be able to produce a Holiday Chorus Concert this year due to the pandemic. We hope that we will be able to continue in 2021!

MAD Board Meeting

The next MAD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 12th, at 5:30 PM. All club members are welcome to join. For information on how to join virtually, please email madboard@googlegroups.com. We plan to hold our Board meetings in 2020 regularly on the second Thursday of the month.

MAD About Town

Jim Pasquale appeared in the role of Mr. DeFranco in a Zoom recreation of the old time radio show, “Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar – The Thelma Ipsen Matter,” on October 9th with the Metropolitan Washington Old Time Radio Club (MWOTRC).

Voice Actors Needed

NASA and USDA are looking for actors to voice the animated scenes in a joint ethics training. As an audition, Federal NASA or USDA employees are invited to submit an MP3 voice recording by October 30th of them speaking one of the highlighted parts in the script below. Recordings should be sent to sharon.p.goza@nasa.gov. This opportunity is unpaid, but employees can ask their supervisors about conducting this work on official time since it is a NASA project.

Voice acting audition script.

Thanks for volunteering to be a voice actor for the new Ethics training. In order to see if/where your voice fits, it'd be great if you could do the following.

1. Read through the script, there are two pages, one for female voices and one for male voices.
2. Record yourself acting the part highlighted.
 - a. Tip: Just reading doesn't work, this is acting on a stage without a stage, so we need to hear the inflection in your voice along with emotion. Think the latest Disney cartoon.
 - b. Tip 2: Since we're in an odd work situation and probably don't have access to a sound booth, you can make a tent with a blanket over your monitor and chair to dampen out your surroundings. Also, closets with a lot of clothes make great places to record.
3. Send the recording in .mp3 format. You can send it to me directly if you wish: Sharon.p.goza@nasa.gov
4. We have many parts, but please don't be offended if you don't get chosen. I've had several people that are wonderful on stage not be able to voice act because there's no audience or other person to act with. It's much harder to imagine you're conversing and act than to really converse and act.

Sincerely,
Sharon Goza

Men's parts. Please record the highlighted portion.

Taylor uses mouse, pulls up Outlook calendar and clicks on online meeting link. Screen changes to talking heads of team members from both NASA and USDA. John, Sophia, Kumar, and Beatrice USDA, Ellie, Jessica, Ryan, Mike and Nathan (PM) NASA. Backgrounds of team members are various things, offices, fake picture backgrounds, etc. Jessica has a political poster in the background in her office. People wave as they pop in and say hi. Everyone is waiting on Nathan, the PM from NASA.

SOPHIA

New poster, Jessica?

JESSICA (*turning to look at it*)

Yes, my nephew designed a campaign poster for one of the candidates for governor and he gave me a signed copy. What do you think?

SOPHIA

About the poster, or the candidate?

(*Nathan pops on interrupting the conversation*)

NATHAN

I'm glad you all could make it today. We have a real problem at the lunar outpost. There've been a couple of system reboots over the last several weeks and we thought we had isolated them to a faulty solar panel, but yesterday afternoon the entire greenhouse shut down. We were able to restart the system, but we now suspect there's something else causing the issue. The next supply mission is set to launch in fifteen weeks, which means we have twelve weeks to diagnose the problem, get the spare parts, and ship them to Kennedy Space Center for processing. Without the food from the lunar greenhouse, the crew will have to come home a lot sooner than expected.

JOHN

Have you gotten any diagnostic reports?

NATHAN

They're being transmitted from the lunar outpost as we speak. We should have them ready for you sometime after lunch.

(*John nods*)

TAYLOR

As your supervisors, Nathan and I will be coordinating the effort. We're hoping that by doing some comparisons of the USDA ground units and the space unit, we can do some testing and knock this out pretty quickly. Sophia, you'll be working with Jessica. Maybe there's some exception we're missing in the software logs.

(*Jessica virtual "high fives" and Sophia nods*)

NATHAN

Ellie, can you look over the structural design? There may be something in the sprinklers or the planting containers that's contaminating the soil. That's where your expertise in soil, conservation and natural resources will help, Kumar.

KUMAR

You got it, boss.

(*Ellie nods*)

NATHAN

Ryan, I know you're new to the team. You'll be working with John. His family has been in farming for decades and he's one of the best power engineers.

(*Ryan smiles and thumbs up, John smiles too*)

TAYLOR

That leaves Beatrice and Mike. Right now we're not suspecting the harvesting and planting robots, but see what you find.

(*Beatrice and Mike react/smile*)

NATHAN

I would suggest you reacquaint yourselves with the systems and each other. I'll send the data out as soon as possible. Let us know as soon as you think you've found something. Talk to you later.

(*Lots of nods and waves. People drop off one by one*)

(end of animation)

Women's parts: Please record the highlighted section

Scene: *Coffee shop sitting across from Sophia. She has a folder on the table*

SOPHIA

Thanks for coming, Taylor. I know it's odd for me to want to talk outside of work, but I didn't feel comfortable discussing this with you in the office. Do you remember when my brother died last year?

TAYLOR

Yes, I remember you mentioning that.

SOPHIA

My sister-in-laws been struggling to make ends meet since then. She's got a steady job, but she really can't afford to pay for day care for the kids, especially during the summer. So, Clint and I want to help her cover that. She's up for a promotion in a couple of months, so I think if we can help her out for a while, she'll be fine.

TAYLOR

That's really nice of you to do, Sophia. I'm sure your sister-in-law will appreciate it.

SOPHIA

I do too, but for now I need to find out if you'd mind if I took on another job outside the agency. I was talking to a friend of mine about the situation and they told me that their company was looking for a part time consultant on a new software project with the U.S. Department of Labor. I told them I really didn't want to leave my current job, and they told me that I could work on the weekends if I wanted the job. The pay would really help me out and it'd only be for a few months. I really value your advice. Just so you know, I love working for the USDA and don't intend on leaving, I could just use the extra income for a few months. *(Slides over the folder to Taylor)* Would you look this over and let me know what you think?

TAYLOR

I'd be happy to.

SOPHIA

Thanks, Taylor.