



June, 2020

Dear MAD family,

The MAD Board is truly saddened by the events of the last several weeks and mourns the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, and the long list of other Black and People of Color whose lives have ended as a result of systemic racism and injustice. We stand with those that speak out against the continued discrimination and violence being perpetrated against Black lives and communities of color. We stand with the Black community. Silence is complicity. If one of us can't breathe, none of us can breathe.

We like to think that we as a community have made a commitment in our hearts and minds to tolerance and anti-racism. We know that we have not done enough. We know that we have stayed silent for far too long. We want to do better. We will do better. We are sorry it has taken so long to speak out and to act and we apologize for that.

When MAD formed 50 years ago, it was formed from an overwhelmingly white workforce that was struggling to improve its hiring practices after the Civil Rights movement. In the decades since then, MAD has not succeeded in significantly increasing the diversity of its membership or its leadership.

As white people, we recognize our normal is not normal for many people living with injustice, white supremacy, and rampant institutional racism. The time is now to make lasting changes in the way we stage productions and interact as a community. As a first step, we will be hosting a series of community dialogue events (socially distanced, of course) to gather feedback from the MAD membership on diversity and discrimination and how MAD can improve inclusion and hear the voices of everyone. The first of these events will be held in July, specific date and time to be released in the July MADogram and on our website madtheater.org.

If you would like to share your feelings, thoughts, or resources with us, please email us at madboard@googlegroups.com. We will continue to learn, listen, and make changes as individuals and as an organization.

#BlackLivesMatter
The MAD Executive Council

MAD 2020 Fall Show announcement

While we are dealing with the Covid-19 situation, MAD is looking at options for the fall. For our 50th Anniversary season, and if we are able to do a show, the Board has selected:

Merrily We Roll Along

With music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by George Furth, *Merrily We Roll Along* turns the traditional musical on its head in this fable about friendship, compromise and the importance of staying true to one's ideals. The story begins in the "present day" and moves backwards, following three friends through the milestones of their lives. The show ends in hope, seeing the friends at the start of their careers and enthusiastic about the future. Some well-known songs from the brilliant Sondheim score are *Old Friends*, *Not A Day Goes By*, *Our Time*, and *Opening Doors*.

- Artistic Director: Kim Weaver
- Orchestra Director: Susan Breon

- Production liaison to GSFC: Michael Silber
- Technical Director: Sean Morton

Director's Note: We take all safety concerns seriously and we are following scientific and public health reports on group activities and what is and is not safe. All of our physical and virtual conditions are fluid and we are sensitive to worries about social distancing. Please be aware that we will stay fluid, up to and including cancellation of the show if required. We are looking at all options. These include: streaming performances, having a fully recorded orchestra, virtual rehearsals, one-on-one rehearsals, outdoor rehearsals, and contact tracing. If and when GSFC drops back to stage II, we will examine in-person possibilities but will discuss all plans with cast and crew before moving forward. Above all, we want everyone involved in this production to feel safe and comfortable.

Auditions are planned for mid-August. More details to come.

MAD Goddard Security Badge Update

MAD Members who hold NASA Goddard security badges will not be able to access the center to obtain renewed badges during Goddard's current Stage 4 status. Linda Pattison and Scott Ritz will continue to keep your badges current in the NASA security system for as long as possible. We will keep you all updated if anything changes via the MAD member listserv. Thank you for your patience. Please let us know if you have any questions: Linda (linda.c.pattison@nasa.gov) and Scott (scott.a.ritz@nasa.gov).

MAD Board Meeting

The next MAD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th, at 5:30 PM. All club members are welcome to join. We plan to hold our Board meetings in 2020 regularly on the second Thursday of the month.

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