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the mitre players

present

Merrily we Roll Along

*Music & lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim*

*Monday 24th to
Friday 28th
August 1998*

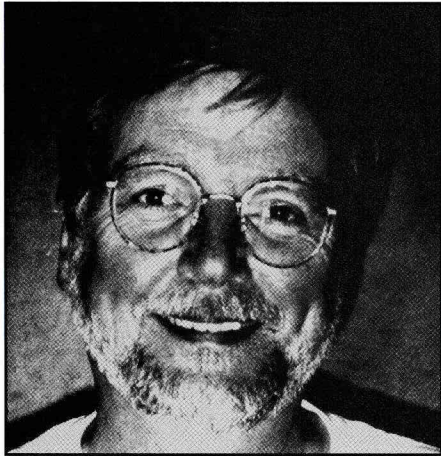
*Shaftesbury
Theatre
Dawlish*



Director
John Harries-Rees

Musical Director
Mark Helyar

Chairman's Letter



Good evening and welcome to 'Merrily We Roll Along' our fourth production of this our 25th anniversary year. As it is our silver jubilee we are demonstrating (not least to ourselves) our continuing vigour by putting on a record breaking six productions.

For those of you new to the Mitres we were founded in 1973 by a group of enthusiastic school leavers from Trinity School, Croydon. A thriving part of the old boys association - The Old Mid-Whitgiftians - (ask any member of the cast why that's what it is called) we continue to be involved with the school, with an annual Christmas show taking advantage of the fantastic facilities at Shirley Park.

This year we are making the relationship even closer by putting on a joint venture with a revival of "Turnabout", a home grown musical involving both Mitres and

boys from the school. For those of you living in Croydon you will be able to enjoy another great Mitre Evening, for those of you in Dawlish, I hope tonight will show you just what you'll be missing on 3, 4 and 5 December.

Before that however, we will be demonstrating yet another side to the Society with "The Cherry Orchard" (a Chekopian comedy!) at the end of October, again at the school, only this time in the Mitre Theatre.

Do have a wonderful evening and if anyone from Dawlish is in Croydon, please come and see us if you can. Likewise if you are in Croydon and find yourself in Dawlish come and see this again.

Warwick Jones
Chairman



the mitre players
present

Merrily we Roll Along

**Music & lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim**

Book by George Furth

Based on the play by

George Kaufman and Moss Hart

**Monday 24th to
Friday 28th
August 1998 at 7.30pm**

**Shaftesbury
Theatre
Dawlish**

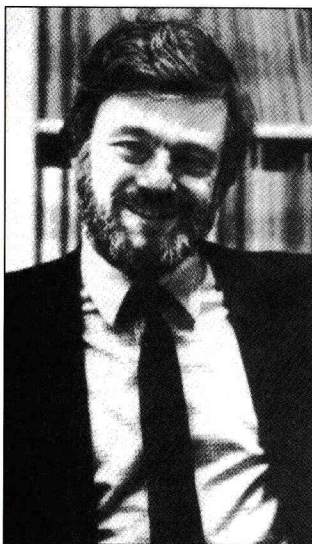
*This amateur production given by
permission of Josef Weinberger
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The Shaftesbury Theatre auditorium has been fitted with an Inductive Loop System. members of the audience with Hearing Aids should set them to the 'T' position to benefit from this facility.

Members of the audience are reminded that the use of Photographic, Recording or Video equipment is not permitted in the auditorium.

In the interest of safety and comfort, please note that smoking is not permitted in the auditorium. Thank you for your co-operation.

Stephen Sondheim, the greatest contemporary writer of musical comedy.



pushes forward the American musical form with wit, style and panache.

Merrily We Roll Along, based on a 50 year old Kaufman and Hart play, tells of the disintegration of one man's life and integrity, a reflection, perhaps, of the disillusionment and loss of ideals occurring in America between the naive 1950's

and the decadent 1980's. The difference between this and other stories which carry similar messages is that it employs the device of telling the story in reverse chronology to illustrate how the characters become what, at the beginning of the show, they have become.

The Sondheim Society

As someone who is attending the production of "**Merrily We Roll Along**", you may want to further your interest in the extraordinary talents of the composer, Stephen Sondheim and the diverse body of the work he has created. The Stephen Sondheim Society, which was founded in 1993 and counts Mr Sondheim himself amongst its hundreds of members in the UK and around the world, produces regular news updates and information, arranges trips to Sondheim shows (including as far afield as the States to see his latest work there), and organises an annual study/day workshop for those keen to extend their knowledge of Sondheim's work professionally or socially.

For further details of membership, please write to:

The Stephen Sondheim Society
265 Wollaton Vale, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2PX
Email: ssondheim@lineone.net

Although often denied box office success, Stephen Sondheim is without doubt the greatest contemporary writer of musical comedy. His major achievement has been to change the nature of the musical; he has become not merely a songwriter but a dramatist as well, interweaving his songs deep into the fabric of his shows. Each of his works is completely independent of its predecessors. Today Stephen Sondheim alone

C H R O N O L O G Y

1976

- Vietnam and the U.S.A. begin their first talks since the end of the Vietnam War
- Jimmy Carter's home church in Georgia ends colour ban
- Reclusive tycoon Howard Hughes and China's Chairman Mao die

1973

- Vietnam Peace Treaty signed
- President Nixon implicated in Watergate scandal
- L.B. Johnson and Pablo Picasso die

1968

- Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy shot
- Richard Nixon becomes U.S. President
- First performance of controversial musical 'Hair'

1967

- Revolutionary hero Che Guevara shot dead in Bolivia
- World's first heart transplant performed by Dr. Christian Barnard
- Anglo-French Concorde unveiled

1964

- U.S. steps up action against Vietnam
- Beatlemania sweeps the world

- Cassius Clay (Muhammed Ali) wins World Heavyweight boxing crown

1963

- J.F.K. shot dead in Dallas

1962

- Marilyn Monroe found dead
- Martin Luther King tells 200,000 people in Washington "I have a dream"
- Nelson Mandela jailed in South Africa

1960

- Hitchcock's "Psycho" released
- South African police kill 56 in Sharpeville massacre
- J.F. Kennedy becomes youngest president of the U.S.A.

1959

- Buddy Holly dies in car crash
- Mini launched
- Fidel Castro seizes power in Cuba

1957

- Sputnik 1 launched into space
- Bill Haley and his Comets receive a rapturous reception at first British concert
- Rome treaty signed to create European "Common Market"



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The Directors of
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 wish everybody an
 enjoyable visit to

Merrily we Roll Along

J.B. SHAKESPEARE LIMITED
 Funeral Directors
 George Street, Croydon, Surrey

Mitre Players, The First Twenty Five Years



1998 is the 25th Anniversary of the reformed Mitre Players and to commemorate this we have produced a selection of memorabilia, a CD entitled 'It's only the Mitre Players', with original music from our Christmas shows, a commemorative mug and a book - 'The First 25 Years' - a potted history of the Mitre Players.

In April we performed 'Where's Charley' a musical based on 'Charley's Aunt' which was our very first production performed in April 1973. One of our founder members, Colin Warnock, played Fancourt Babberley in the original production and directed 'Where's Charley' in April and tonight you see him as Charley Kringas in this our 103rd production.

This is our twelfth touring show to the West Country, five years at Falmouth Arts Centre, three tours to the Minack Open Air Theatre at Porthcurno and this is our fourth show at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish.

'Merrily We Roll Along' was to be our first touring show in 1987 but at the last minute the rights to perform it were withdrawn so we performed 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' with only a three week rehearsal period. Some eleven years later we are delighted to be finally performing Merrily with the same Director and Musical Director as in 1987 and even some of the original cast and crew.

1987	Two Gentlemen of Verona	Falmouth Arts Centre
1988	Guys and Dolls	Falmouth Arts Centre
1989	Chicago	Falmouth Arts Centre
1990	Godspell	Falmouth Arts Centre
1991	The Roar of the Greasepaint...	Falmouth Arts Centre
1992	The Wizard of Oz	Minack Theatre, Porthcurno
1993	Cabaret	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1994	Man of La Mancha	Minack Theatre, Porthcurno
1995	Little Shop of Horrors	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1996	The Mikado Revamped	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish
1997	Quasimodo	Minack Theatre, Porthcurno
1998	Merrily We Roll Along	Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish

Merrily we roll along

*Music & lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth*

The cast

Franklin Shepard	Phil Evans
Charley Kringas	Colin Warnock
Mary Flynn	Helen Harries-Rees
Tyler	Paul Barclay
Scotty	Dave Price
Terry/Mr. Shepard	Paul Beard
Ru	Paul Cohen
Jerome	Peter Bramwell
K.T.	Barry Buckley
Meg Kincaid	Kelly Beard
Gussie Carnegie	Lorraine Titchener
Joe Josephson	Paul Smith
Frank Jnr.	Megan Harries-Rees
Beth	Clare Garnett
Mrs Spencer	Ann Bowden
Partyguests, Photographers, T.V. Crews, etc.	Julia Beard Ian Brown, Louise Canfield Yvonne Farquharson, Mary Holton Kate Lyon-Williams, Margaret Stockwell

The band

Keyboards/Musical Director	Mark Helyar
Keyboards	James Beal
Drums	Ian Sands
Bass	Elliot Whiting
Reeds 1	Hannah Widger
Trumpet	Pat Price

The crew

Director	John Harries-Rees
Musical Director	Mark Helyar
Designer	Jill Wilson
Stage Manager	Alan Collins
Set Construction	Alan Bishop, Alan Collins Dave Richards, Charles Thomas Tony Lyon-Williams, Geoff Saw
Scenic Artist	Jill Wilson
Assisted by	Martin Garnett Mary Holton, Tina Lyon-Williams
Props	Sue Carter
Assisted by	Carol Harrington
Lighting Designer	Alan Bishop
Sound	Colin Marshall James McLeod
Lighting & Technical Crew	Adam Tibbalds, Lesley Bates Andy Thompson, Julian Parsons, Marcus Ascott
Costumes	Sheila Garnett Anna Warnock
Programme & Poster	James Miller
Prompter	Gillian Bartle
Box Office & Front Of House	Paul Beard John Bartle, Peter Stockwell, Enid Ghent
Tour Manager	Colin Marshall
Production Manager	Phil Evans
Publicity	Jill Wilson Lesley Bates, Liz Kallend

The Mitre Players would like to thank **Trinity School, Firebrand Productions. Rupert Sharp at Joseph Weinbergers. Grace Mathews and everyone at the Shaftesbury Theatre.**

Synopsis of scenes and musical numbers

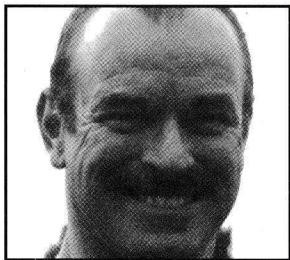
Act 1

Prologue	Overture Merrily We Roll Along	Company
1976 Scene One Frank's Bel Air Home	That Frank	Mary & Ensemble
	Transition One	Company
1973 Scene Two NBC Studio, New York	Old Friends -Like it was	Mary
	Franklin Shephard Inc!	Charley
	Transition Two	Company
1968 Scene Three Frank's New York Apartment off Central Park	Old Friends	Mary, Charley, Frank
	Growing Up - Part One	Frank
	Growing Up - Part Two	Gussie
	Transition Three	Company
1967 Scene Four Outside Manhattan Courthouse	Not A Day Goes By	Beth
	Now You Know	Company

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts 1 and 2 when drinks and coffee will be available from the MaySam Room. Interval drinks may be ordered from the bar before the performance. Ice Creams will be on sale in the auditorium during the interval.

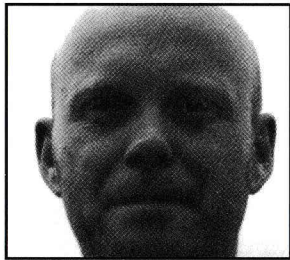
Act 2

1964 Scene One Alvin Theatre, Broadway	Act 2 - Opening	Gussie
	It's A Hit	Jo, Frank, Mary, Beth, Charley
	Transition Four	Company
1962 Scene Two Joe & Gussie's Apartment New York	The Blob - Part One	Ensemble
	The Blob - Part Two	Gussie & Ensemble
	Growing Up	Gussie
	The Blob - Part Three	Ensemble
	Good Thing Going	Charley
	The Blob - Part Four	Ensemble
	Transition Five	Company
1960 Scene Three The Downtown Club New York	Bobby & Jackie & Jack	Charley, Frank, Beth
	Not A Day Goes By	Beth, Mary, Frank
	Transition Six	Tyler, Meg
1957-1959 Scene Four New York City	Opening Doors	Mary, Charley, Beth, Frank, Joe, Girl Auditioning,
	Transition Seven	Beth, Frank Jr., Mrs Spencer
1957 Scene Five Rooftop on 110th Street, New York	Our Time	Frank, Charley, Mary & Ensemble



John Harries-Rees. Director

John maintains that he is "not a Mitre Player" (he is merely married to one), but this is the seventh show he has directed for them, not to mention having performed once and "follow spotted" on several occasions, including Mitres' last visit to Dawlish with **"The Mikado"**. Trained at Drama College, John teaches Drama and Theatre and freelance directs in the South East, where he runs his own theatre company. A lover of Musical theatre, his real passion is for straight drama, so any show by Stephen Sondheim is right up his street, combining both elements. John plays cricket and chess in his spare time.



Mark Helyar. Musical Director

Mark is currently artistic director of West 28th Street,

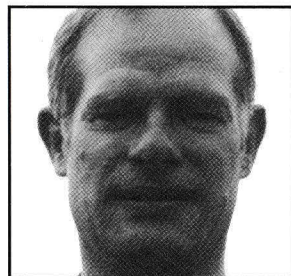
but has been released for the summer to return to the Mitres as one of the original members of its touring production team! Throughout his working life he has pursued a diverse and varied career as a director, musical director, teacher and pianist in the UK and abroad. Directing credits and tours include **"Educating Rita"**; **"The Taming of the Shrew"**; **"Romeo and Juliet"**; **"Macbeth"**; **"Great Expectations"**; **"Hard Times"**; **"A Grand Night for Singing"** and **"The Fantasticks"**. Musical directing credits in London and New York include **"Starting Here, Starting Now"**; **"As Time Goes By"**; **"Buddy Can You Spare a Song?"** and **"From Broadway To Piccadilly"**. Married to a beautiful wife with four delightful children and a country estate in Berkshire he is not, but he waits patiently...



Phil Evans. Franklin Shepard

Phil is well suited to be cast in **"Merrily"**, as he is also backwards. Proof if proof be needed, can be found in his previous Mitre castings - the title role in **"The Elephant**

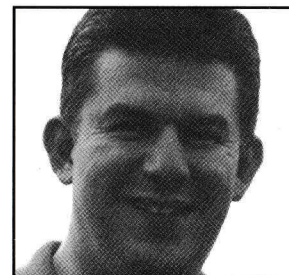
Man", the cripple Smike in **"Nicholas Nickleby"** and the lobotomised Ruckley in **"One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest"**. Let out for weekends, he enjoys walking and drawing with crayons. He works for Sky T.V. in his spare time.



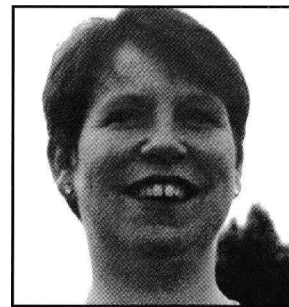
Colin Warnock. Charley Kringas

Colin attended Trinity School, Croydon and is a founder member of The Mitre Players. He has been involved in most aspects of production, on or off stage, since 1973. He is a professional musician and runs a keyboard/drums duo, **"Two In A Bar"** - available for all functions. For 14 years he has worked at the prestigious Laine Theatre Arts College for the Performing Arts, helping to prepare tomorrow's musical theatre performers for the West End. Colin has taken the part in our previous shows in Dawlish, as Emcee in **"Cabaret"**, Musical Director of **"Little Shop Of Horrors"** and the title role and Musical Director in the **"Mikado"**. He has been happily married for 11 years, which is not bad out of 18 and has one son and two cats.

Paul Smith. Joe Josephson



This is Paul's fourth appearance at the Shaftesbury Theatre - seen last as Koko in **"The Mikado"** - this is counted as one of his favourite venues. Well known for his infectious laugh, one of the highlights of Paul's theatrical career was when he gave his **"Bottom"** at Shakespeare's Globe. Not quite a veteran of the Mitre Players - only joining in 1984 - he was recently thrilled to play someone younger than himself - an undergraduate in **"Where's Charley!"** When he has time, he is Training Manager for Marie Curie Cancer Care.



Helen Harries-Rees. Mary Flynn

A member of the Mitre Players for the past 14 years, Helen

has been involved in over 30 shows, playing a multitude of different roles, including Katisha in **"The Mikado"** two years ago in Dawlish and also directing two of Mitres' three shows at the Minack Theatre, Cornwall amongst others. A mother of ten year old Megan and nine month old David, she works full time at the B.B.C. and is looking forward to directing **"Guys and Dolls"** at the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon in the Autumn. In her spare time ...what spare time??!!



Clare Garnett. Beth Shepard

Clare is delighted to return to Dawlish having previously been seen here as Yum Yum in the Mitre's **"Mikado Revamped..."**. She spent the last year at the Academy Drama School in London, where her roles included Mary in **"Low Level Panic"**, Julie in **"Miss Julie"** and Childie in **"The Killing of Sister George"** - they taught her to smile but not to write programme notes!



Lorraine Titchener. Gussie Carnegie

This is Lorraine's first principal part with the Mitre Players. She generally frequents the line up of CODA, which is Croydon Operatic. However Lorraine generally find herself playing young simpletons. This is her first go at a "real nasty piece of work". The closest she has ever come to it would be "Lady Jaqueline" in **"Me and My Girl"**. Lorraine, a Mitre Tour Virgin would like to stress that this character is pushing her acting ability to the extreme, as in real life, she is such a sweet natured girl!!



the mitre players

and Trinity School present

TURNABOUT

A Christmas Musical
by Martin Tyrrell and Colin Warnock
at Trinity School

Directed by Eric Jones

Thursday 3rd December to
Saturday 5th December 1998



the mitre players

present

The Cherry Orchard

by Anton Chekhov

Directed by Paul Smith

at The Mitre Theatre,
Trinity School

Thursday 29th
October to Saturday
31st October 1998



A new Season Approaches

We are delighted to be able to announce another season of productions from Dawlish Repertory Company. Once again there is something for every taste from the fun of pantomime, to the tension of thrillers, and light hearted comedy, and making an appearance for the first time in many years at the Shaftesbury, we are to present a work from the master of literature, William Shakespeare.

October 6th - 10th 1998

Will You Still Love Me In The Morning?

A comedy by Brian Clemens & Denis Spooner - Directed by Liz Wedlake

January 1st - 9th 1999

Aladdin

A Pantomime for all the Family - Directed by David Last

February 22nd - 27th 1999

Edge of Darkness

A thriller by Brian Clements - Directed by Roy Allison

April 5th - 11th 1999

The Odd Couple (Female version)

A Comedy by Neil Simon - Directed by Stanley Mathews

June 14th - 19th 1999

As You Like It

By William Shakespeare - Directed by Maggie Campbell

August 2nd - 14th 1999

The Business Of Murder

A Thriller by Richard Harris - Directed by Grace Mathews

Local & live entertainment all year round!