

# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES FROM THE MITRE PLAYERS

THE MITRE PLAYERS  
PRESENT

**24 Hour Musical**

Come join us as we attempt succeed to put on a whole musical in just **24 hours!**

**15<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**THE CLUBHOUSE THEATRE**

15<sup>TH</sup> - 7:30PM | 16<sup>TH</sup> - 7:30PM  
SHOW REVEAL | PERFORMANCE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[WWW.MITREPLAYERS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.MITREPLAYERS.ORG.UK)

THE MITRE PLAYERS  
PRESENT

*An Evening of Play Readings*

**5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**  
**THE CLUBHOUSE THEATRE**



THE MITRE PLAYERS

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County  
**SPELLING BEE**

MUSIC AND LYRICS by  
**WILLIAM FINN**

BOOK by  
**RACHEL SHANKIN**

**10<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**  
**THE CLUBHOUSE THEATRE**  
[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/MITREPLAYERS](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/MITREPLAYERS)



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THE MITRE PLAYERS

MEL BROOKS **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**

MUSIC by  
**MEL BROOKS**

BOOK by  
**MEL BROOKS AND THOMAS MEEHAN**

**12<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> August 2024**  
**The Minack Theatre, Cornwall**  
Tickets available from [www.minack.com](http://www.minack.com)

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# MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG



**26<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**  
**THE MITRE THEATRE, TRINITY SCHOOL**

# THE MITRE PLAYERS

The TSSSC, Lime Meadow Avenue  
Sanderstead CR2 9AS

President **Alasdair Kennedy**

Past Presidents **Mark Bishop**  
**Chris Tarrant**  
**Robin Wilson**

Vice-Presidents **Julia Ascott**  
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**Alan Bishop**  
**Ian Brown**  
**Alan Collins**  
**Julia Gibbs**  
**Di Jones**  
**Warwick Jones**  
**Peter Stockwell**  
**Andy Thompson**  
**Martin Tyrrell**  
**Anna Warnock**  
**Colin Warnock**

Chairman **Ziggi Szafranski**

Treasurer **Alan Bishop**

Secretary **Jo Morrison**

Committee Members **Rachael Adams**  
**Megan Brown**  
**Louise Gauntlett**  
**Jon Lee**  
**Jerri-Lee McManus**  
**Katy Reid**

Patrons **Chrissy Bright**  
**Berry Butler**  
**Mark Fleming**  
**Anna Frost**  
**Gill Frost**  
**Martin Godber**  
**Helen Cox**  
**Carol Inge**  
**David Lane**  
**Carole Lane**  
**Colin Marshall**  
**Clare Martin Reed**  
**Ian McLeod**  
**Alison Naish**  
**Andrew Naish**  
**Andrew Rapps**  
**Trevor Rowlan**  
**Paul Smith**  
**Chester Stern**  
**Nicola Swan**

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society for former pupils of Trinity School, Croydon (The Trinity Club). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting three or four productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design, build and paint our own sets, find and make our own props, make many of our own costumes and use "in house" musicians whenever possible.

We would welcome any new members, so if you have any aspirations to act, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to remain out of the spotlight, building scenery, lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing 'Front of House' or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the TSSSC Clubhouse in Sanderstead. The bar facilities at the clubhouse lend a social and convivial atmosphere to our rehearsals and all members are encouraged to use the facilities at Sanderstead as often as possible.

We are a pretty sociable bunch and members can always be found in the bar on the first Thursday of every month, so why not pop in and say hi?

If you would like to hear more about us or make a comment about the production you've seen today, please visit our website or use the QR code to sign up online

[www.mitreplayers.org.uk](http://www.mitreplayers.org.uk)



## MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

BOOK BY  
GEORGE FURTH

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

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

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## A NOTE ABOUT THE SHOW

Based on George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's 1934 play of the same name, *Merrily We Roll Along* follows the successful career of Broadway composer-turned-Hollywood producer Franklin Shepard backward in time. Throughout the course of the show, during which time regresses from 1976 to 1957, we learn how Frank accomplished this - with the help of his best friends Charley (who writes the books and lyrics) and Mary (who is a writer in her own right and is always around for support and guidance).

The trio of friends are inspired to become big players in American musical theatre and book writing and to "change the world" after witnessing the Russian Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, orbiting the earth on a cold October night. However, over time, Franklin learns what the cost of fame and fortune is, losing and alienating his beloved friends and family along the way and giving up his original dreams for ones with more financial and fewer emotional benefits. Those who began the journey with him do not end up at the end of it with him, and though Franklin has fame, fortune, and success, he ultimately realizes that he has left himself with nothing of any value.

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly I'd like to say hello and welcome to our summer spectacular! Usually, the summer months see the Mitre Players heading off on tour, but this year, as part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we have decided to present a musical a little closer to home! Over the last 50 years we have taken our summer shows to Falmouth, Dawlish, the Isle of Wight and, of course, the Minack Theatre in Cornwall, so it's nice to only have to drive down here to the school with our vans laden with set, props and other assorted bits and bobs!

This has certainly been a busy 7 months for the Mitres, with something every month for our members and friends to enjoy. Beginning our celebrations with a fabulous New Year's Eve party, we've presented a hugely successful performance of *Isla* at the Southern Counties Drama Festival, a wonderful gallop down memory lane in our *Revue* and a farcical frolic in *Bedroom Farce*, whilst celebrating with each other at our glamorous Anniversary Ball, annual BBQ and our monthly socials (phew!) The Committee seem to have spent most of the last seven months at the Clubhouse and I would like to give them all my thanks for making my debut as Chairman so smooth. And, of course, I couldn't go further without thanking Uncle Colin, whose time as Chairman saw us through the wilderness years of Covid and beyond - you've left me some rather large shoes to fill!

So who are we? If you've missed the



blurb on the previous page (don't worry, you've got time to go back and read it later!), the Mitre Players started life in 1973 as the dramatic section of the past pupils' association of Trinity School, Croydon. Nowadays, it is not necessary to have studied at Trinity to be a member, although we retain strong links with the School and are fortunate to use their magnificent facilities in addition to our home at the Clubhouse in Sanderstead.

Ever since our beginnings we have been a family society and, whilst not every member of the cast is related to someone else involved in the show, there are several family units involved in this production, both on and offstage. How marvellous!

We welcome back the talented production team of 2021's *Our House*: Kevin Gauntlett, Colin Warnock and Kim McEvoy, and our grateful thanks must also go to all who have helped get this show onto the stage including Alan Collins and all the backstage team, the wardrobe team, our fabulous band (5 of whom are Trinity alumni!) and the Front of House team.

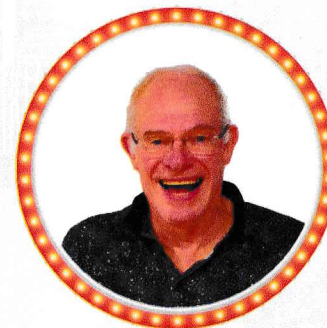
We love it, we love it all!

*Ziggi*

## KEVIN GAUNTLETT DIRECTOR

Kevin has been involved with the Mitre Players for many years, dating back to his first appearance in 1990 as Buttons in *Cindy-Ella*. Since then he has been seen in a variety of guises, ranging from a hideous hunchback to a very attractive dame as well as directing a few musicals along the way.

"What next?" We hear you cry? Future plans include directing a production of *School of Rock* for WWOS at the Churchill Theatre, a return to East Grinstead for his yearly Panto Fix directing and playing Nurse in *Snow White*, and then it's back to directing for the Mitres and their next Minack Tour - *Young Frankenstein*.



## COLIN WARNOCK MUSICAL DIRECTOR

25 years ago, Colin played the part of Charley Kringas in the Mitres' previous production of *Merrily We Roll Along*. He has no idea how he managed to learn all those words - maybe he didn't!

A founder member of the Mitre Players in 1973, Colin has performed on-stage, as Musical Director, or in the band for countless productions over the past 50 years. Several times he has said "never again" but here he is once more! Being now retired from the day job, he is loving music and drama being once again purely a hobby - so much less pressure! He has also enjoyed sharing rehearsals with so many younger Mitres whose time it is to step up. Colin is still married to the wardrobe mistress. Their only son Ben is 32 now and lives in Australia. Their cats, Drum and Bass, are 11. Just thought you'd like to know that.

## KIM MCEVOY CHOREOGRAPHER

Kim has been involved with the Mitre Players for several years now and was delighted to be asked to choreograph *Merrily* - and as we get to show week she thinks she's just about worked out what's going on!

This is the fourth show that Kim has choreographed for the Mitre Players and she has very much enjoyed working with this very talented cast!





**SAM WEBBER**  
**FRANKLIN SHEPARD**

Before starting this show, the only thing Sam knew made sense backwards was 'Esio Trot'. For an English teacher it took him longer than it should have done to work that one out, so you can best believe he had absolutely no clue what was going on for at least the first three weeks of rehearsals!

Sam is returning for his third Mitre Players show after appearing as Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* last year on the tour to the Isle of Wight, and a plethora of parts in the *Golden Revue*. Sam has thoroughly enjoyed working with the Mitres again who never fail to make a show a brilliant experience.

He hopes you enjoy the show and can follow the plot as best you can. Good luck!



**TOM LILLEY**  
**CHARLEY KRINGAS**

Tom is excited to be taking on the role of Charley, described in the script as a "stubborn, geeky man with average looks". Naturally, being the complete opposite of this, acting Charley has come quite hard to Tom.

Tom is no stranger to the Mitre Players, having previously played Pippin (*Pippin*), both Emmo and Lewis in *Our House* (not at the same time!) and recently starred in the *Golden Revue*.

Tom has enjoyed the challenge of taking on the role as the Sondheim music in this show has tested a lot of his patience but hopes to do it justice - having a talented cast around has definitely helped!

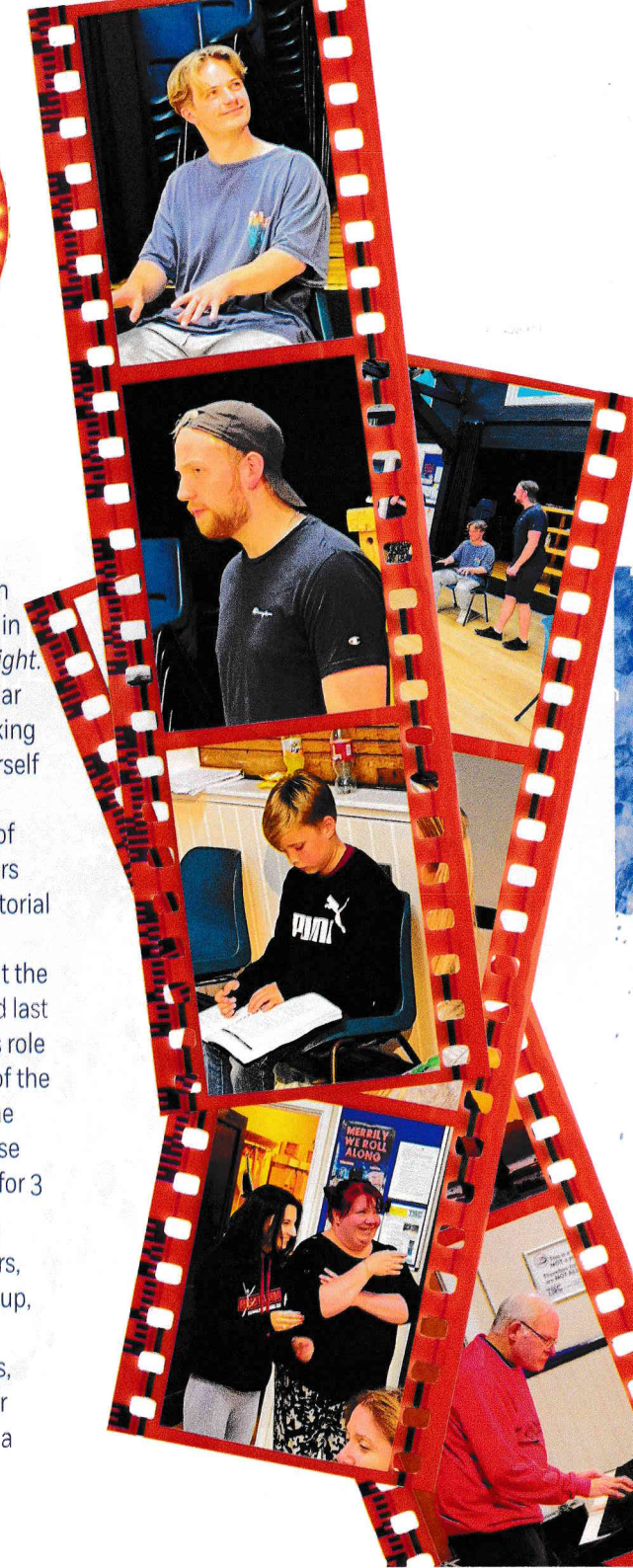
He hopes you enjoy the show and will hear you humming along! Mutter mutter mutter...



**JO MORRISON**  
**MARY FLYNN**

This year marks Jo's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Mitre Players, having first appeared in the Dawlish Tour for *Slice of Saturday Night*. She only joined for that show in particular but the Mitres have a funny way of hooking you in and now, a decade later, finds herself as Secretary on the committee! Jo has become more accustomed to the roles of the production team over the past 7 years though and is normally found in a directorial or choreographer's role, she was even supposed to choreograph this show! But the role of 'Mary' lit a spark and she decided last minute to audition in order to place this role alongside her other favourites of *Lady of the Lake* (*Spamalot*), *Nancy* (*Oliver!*) and the one most people comment on - the horse in *Wind in the Willows* (she was only on for 3 minutes!).

When not involved with the Mitre Players, Jo is just as busy with Glow Theatre Group, directing 8- to 18-year-olds in full scale productions and Festival Theatre pieces, and has this summer finally finished her degree in Birth and Parenting studies - a new career she is stepping into.



## THE CREW

Stage Manager Alan Collins  
 Deputy Stage Manager Derek Lee  
 Production Manager Liz Dolman  
 Set Design Alan Collins  
 Kevin Gauntlett  
 Construction Team Carolyn Backway  
 Alan Bishop  
 Paul Bowles  
 Jon Lee  
 Val Lee  
 Andy Thompson  
 Denver Watkins  
 Vicky Watkins  
 Jill Wilson  
 Anna Warnock  
 Costumes Assisted by Rachael Adams  
 Liz Dolman  
 Di Jones  
 James McLeod  
 Sound Design Alan Bishop  
 Lighting Design Lesley Bates  
 Julian Parsons  
 Props Louise Gauntlett  
 Kevin Gauntlett  
 Projection Design Ziggi Szafranski  
 Louise Gauntlett  
 Child Protection Officer Louise Gauntlett  
 Chaperones Kim McEvoy  
 Liz O'Brien  
 Jo Thorpe  
 Front of House Manager Julia Gibbs  
 Members of the Mitre Players  
 Liz Dolman  
 Box Office  
 Anna Warnock  
 Photography Charles Marriot  
 Assisted by Rebecca Rapps  
 Publicity Rachael Adams  
 Mike Lilley  
 Megan Brown  
 Social Media Assisted by Kate Gauntlett  
 Ziggi Szafranski  
 Programme and Artwork

# MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

Music and Lyrics by  
 STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by  
 GEORGE FURTH

SCENE ONE  
 1976 Bel Air California

SCENE TWO

1973 NBC Studio New York City

SCENE THREE

1968 Frank's Apartment New York City

SCENE FOUR

1967 Manhattan Courthouse New York City

INTERVAL

SCENE ONE

1964 Alvin Theater New York City

SCENE TWO

1962 Gussie and Joe's Brownstone New York City

SCENE THREE

1960 The Downtown Club New York City

SCENE FOUR

1957 - 1959 New York City

SCENE FIVE

1967 A Rooftop on 110<sup>th</sup> Street New York City

The Mitre Players would like to thank:

Ian Walsh, Nick Trend and Priscilla's Catering for their patience and co-operation during our rehearsals; Jenny Lake, Peter Freny, Gordon Ferguson and all the porters for their help and assistance during our stay at Trinity School  
 We respectfully remind you that the taking of photographs and the use of audio and video recording equipment is strictly forbidden. Please remember to switch off all mobile phones. The whole of Trinity School and the grounds is a NO SMOKING AND NO VAPING area. If you wish to smoke or vape you must go off-site.  
 There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts One and Two.  
 Refreshments will be available in the Mitre Foyer



## THE CAST

Franklin Shepard Sam Webber  
 Charley Kringas Tom Lilley  
 Mary Flyn Jo Morrison  
 Tyler David Harries-Rees  
 Terry Andy Moore  
 Scotty Karen Rapps  
 Dory Kate Singlerand  
 Ru Dominic Semwanga  
 Jerome Mike Lilley  
 K.T. Katy Reid  
 Meg Kincaid Tabitha Crocker  
 Gussie Carmegie Megan Brown  
 Make-Up Artist Krystyna Emery  
 Joe Josephson Ziggi Szafranski  
 Frank Jr. Barnaby Brown  
 Judge Kevin Gauntlett  
 Beth Kate Gauntlett  
 Mr. Spencer Andy Moore  
 Mrs. Spencer Louise Gauntlett  
 Pianist (1970s) Robert Critchett  
 Pianist (1960s) Keith Robertshaw  
 Dancers Tabitha Crocker  
 Krystyna Emery  
 Laura Grant  
 Fiona Lilley

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director Kevin Gauntlett  
 Musical Director Colin Warnock  
 Choreographer Kim McEvoy

## THE BAND

Keys 1 Colin Warnock  
 Keys 2 Andy Rapps  
 Trumpet 1 Pat Price  
 Trumpet 2 Eloise Demay  
 Bass Simon Kennard  
 Percussion Craig Backway  
 Trombone Paul Buckley



**ZIGGI SZAFRAŃSKI**  
**JOE JOSEPHSON**

Ziggi is delighted to be returning to the Mitre Theatre with this production of *Merrily We Roll Along*.

Ziggi is no stranger to the stage, having appeared in nearly 150 productions during the last thirty years, most

recently as *Shrek* for the Epsom Players, Charlemagne (*Pippin*) for the Mitre

Players, Bill in MMT's *Me and My Girl* and, in his most glamorous role to date - Maria Von Trapp for the Mitre Players' *Sound of Coarse Music!*

Appearing alongside his much (much!) older wife, Megan, has been thrilling, although there are some who think Gussie is just Joe's beard - what do you think?

Alongside his onstage antics, Ziggi is Director of Safeguarding, Head of Sixth Form and Head of Drama at the Purcell School for Young Musicians, and for some reason the Mitre membership recently elected him as Chairman...what were they thinking?!



**MEGAN BROWN**  
**GUSSIE CARNEGIE**

Megan has been an active, some may say overactive, member of the Mitre Players since birth, having performed in her first production at the age of 5

months. Since then, she has played many roles, including the title role in *Catherine Howard*, Constance (*The Clockmaker's Daughter*), Sally (*Me and My Girl*), Sandra (*Big Fish*), the heavily pregnant Mrs Heddehog (*The Wind in the Willows*), and most recently as the

sexy (yet scarily psychotic) Leading Player in *Pippin*. Megan has even managed to appear onstage without actually being in the cast, reprising her

role as the now-headless Catherine Howard in the *Golden Revue!*

In her spare time, Megan raises 3 crazy children, works in a school, and teaches drama to the next generation. One of her children is even joining her on stage tonight - why not see if you can spot him? It won't be easy!



**KATE GAUNTLETT**  
**BETH SHEPARD**

This marks Kate's eighth show with the

Mitre Players over the span of five years. Exactly a year after meeting and playing

opposite the leading man in *Little Shop of Horrors*, it seems she is stuck with him

and has somehow managed to wind up never getting a break, being a couple

both on and off stage!

Sondheim has been an interesting challenge; 'Opening Doors' to several

nights of endless line and song learning, back rehearsing with 'Old Friends', selling tickets to every 'Bobby and Jackie

and Jack' and the whole cast hoping that 'it's a Hit'. The Mitre Players never

fail to make the whole process one big comedy show, featuring comedians such

as head chef Kevin Gauntlett, and father and son duo Mike and Tom Lilley, even if some people can't read the room (am I right Louise?).

Kate hopes you enjoy this production. Lovely show!



# TIMELINE OF WORLD EVENTS

- Vietnam and the USA 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

1976

1973

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

- Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy are shot
- Richard Nixon becomes US President
- First Performance of controversial musical *Hair*

1968

1967

- Revolutionary hero Che Guevara shot dead in Bolivia
- World's first heart transplant performed in South Africa
- Anglo-French Concorde unveiled

- USA steps up action against Vietnam
- Beatlemania sweeps the world
- Cassius Clay wins World Heavyweight Boxing crown

1964

1963

- JFK shot dead in Dallas, Texas
- Alcatraz Penitentiary closes due to high cost of repairs
- Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in space

- Marilyn Monroe found dead in her home in Los Angeles
- Martin Luther King tells 200,000 people "I have a dream"
- Nelson Mandela is imprisoned in South Africa

1962

1960

- Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* is released
- South African police kill 56 in Sharpeville massacre
- John F. Kennedy becomes youngest president of the USA

- Buddy Holly dies in a car crash
- Mini launched for the first time
- Fidel Castro seizes power in Cuba

1959

1957

- Sputnik 1 launched and became the first artificial satellite
- Bill Haley and his Comets perform their first British concert
- Rome treaty signed to create European Common Market



## STEPHEN SONDHEIM MUSIC AND LYRICS

Stephen Joshua Sondheim was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1930 in New York City, and died on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at the age of 91.

Sondheim's parents worked in the fashion industry: his father was a dress manufacturer and his mother was a designer. Sondheim showed early musical aptitude, playing piano at a young age, but his parents were not

always supportive of his ability. Sondheim's parents divorced when he was 10 and he moved with his mother to Bucks County near Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Sondheim soon developed a close relationship with Oscar Hammerstein II, the renowned Broadway lyricist and producer best known for his shows with Richard Rodgers. Sondheim and Hammerstein's son, Jamie, were acquainted, and Hammerstein became Sondheim's surrogate father for all intents and purposes, providing him the musical and creative encouragement that would lead to his later success.

Sondheim made his first significant mark on Broadway as the lyricist for *West Side Story* (1957). He was initially reluctant to join Leonard Bernstein (composer), Jerome Robbins (director/choreographer) and Arthur Laurents (playwright) as lyricist, since he wanted to be a Broadway composer. However, Hammerstein convinced him that the experience of working with three legends of the Broadway stage to create a contemporary *Romeo and Juliet* would be invaluable – and it was. Next, Sondheim grudgingly agreed to a second lyric-writing assignment on *Gypsy* with composer Jule Styne, writing lyrics for Ethel Merman's iconic stage-mother character Rose. The show was a hit and received eight Tony Award nominations.

In 1962, Sondheim finally achieved his goal of writing both music and lyrics for a show with *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, an hilarious, bawdy and more-or-less timeless farce based on comedies by the Roman playwright Plautus. The show ran for 964 performances and won the Tony for Best Musical. Sondheim won his first Tony for Best Original Score in 1965 with *Do I Hear A Waltz?*, going on to win this award again in 1971, 1972, 1973, 1979, 1988 and 1994, before being honoured with the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award. Sondheim's other awards include a Pulitzer Prize (1985), eight Grammy Awards, fifteen Drama Desk Awards, five Olivier Awards and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom.

### THE SONDHEIM SOCIETY

The Stephen Sondheim Society, founded in 1993 to promote the public knowledge and appreciation of the works of Stephen Sondheim, produces a magazine, arranges trips to Sondheim shows and organises workshops, masterclasses and study days as well as hosting social events and a unique archive of material. If you are interested in finding out more or joining, please visit [www.sondheimsociety.com](http://www.sondheimsociety.com)



# MERRILY THROUGH THE YEARS...

1931

## ORIGINAL PLAY

The story of a young playwright who loses as much as he gains as his career advances, Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's *Merrily We Roll Along* was "superbly staged...superbly acted" and ran for 155 Performances

2019 -  
2039

## MOTION PICTURE VERSION

Starting in 2019, Richard Linklater plans to film Ben Platt, Beanie Feldstein and Paul Mescal as Charley, Mary and Frank over the course of 20 years to allow a natural de-aging effect when cut in reverse.

1998

## MITRE PLAYERS

First production of *Merrily We Roll Along* by the Mitre Players. Performed as part of their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, it starred Colin Warnock as Charley and Megan Brown as Frank Jr.

2013

## MENIER CHOCOLATE FACTORY

This directorial debut of Maria Friedman was lauded by Sondheim as "the best [he'd] seen" and was a critical and commercial success. It transferred to the Harold Pinter Theatre, receiving more five-star reviews than any other musical in West End history.

1981

## ORIGINAL BROADWAY PRODUCTION

Directed by Harold Prince, this production faced harsh judgement, describing the libretto as "empty" compared to the score. It was so confusing that the cast had to wear nametags and only managed 16 performances!

1985

## LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

Directed by James Lapine, this production made it to 24 performances! Still considered "lumbering", Sylvie Drake of the LA Times clearly saw something in it when she wrote "one must hope that the work can and will continue"

2000

## DONMAR WAREHOUSE

Directed by Michael Grandage and featuring Daniel Evans, Samantha Spiro and Julian Ovenden, this production received the Olivier Award for Best Musical that year, as well as performance awards for both Evans (Charley) and Spiro (Mary)