

youth action theatre

present
by arrangement with
josef weinberger ltd.
on behalf of
music theatre international
of new york.

merrily we roll along:
music and lyrics by *stephen
sondheim*. book by *george
furth*. based on an original
play by *george kaufman* and
moss hart.

berlin



hampton court

merrily we

act one

☆1979

Somewhere in America. Graduation day at the Lake Forest Academy at which the principle guest is Mr Franklin Shepard (Old Frank) distinguished composer and film producer, who 25 years earlier, with his friend, Charley Kringas graduated from the same college. As he delivers his address to the class, a student steps from the ranks, representing his younger self (Young Frank) and asks the question 'How did you get there from here, Mr Shepard?' and the scene breaks into :-

☆1978

A cocktail party to celebrate the launch of Frank's latest film. Meg, his latest protege and starlet, is present. But, behind the trite congratulations, everybody except Frank & Meg feel the film is a disaster. Present also is Mary, close friend from the start of his career, now bitter, a film critic and alcoholic, who is getting steadily drunker. Gussie, Frank's present wife, arrives late and causes a scene.

☆1975

In a restaurant. Mary sits waiting for her friend Charley Kringas, who she has invited for dinner, knowing that Frank is to be interviewed there. Two years earlier, Frank & Charley who used to work so closely together, rowed and have not met since. This is Mary's attempt to bring them together.

☆1973

A TV studio in which the talk show host interviews Franklin Shepard and Charley Kringas in his 'Composer/Lyricist' series. The break up of the partnership occurs.

☆1968

Frank brings Charley and Mary to see his new apartment and to break the news to them that he has accepted the post of president of a recording co. and that music will take second place. As he confesses, Gussie lets herself in with her own key, followed by her husband, the producer Joe Josephson. Gussie and Joe have 'adopted' the talented young Franklin Shepard

☆1966

Reporters, TV crews and bystanders wait outside a court house where Beth, Frank's first wife is seeking a divorce. The parties come out and as they go their separate ways, the company brings the first Act to a close.

act two

☆1964

Outside The Alvin Theatre where the first Franklin Shepard / Charley Kringas musical has its opening night. Beth, very pregnant is rushed out of the theatre by Mary, Joe, Frank and Charley, as her labour pains have started. Beth persuades Frank to remain to see if his show is a success while she is rushed to hospital. We hear by the applause that it is a hit, and Frank goes off to the party with Gussie to celebrate.

☆1962

Gussie and Joe Josephson throw a party to present their talented new protégé Franklin Shepard, to all their influential friends.

roll along:

★1960

A poorly attended night club at which Frank, Charley and Beth perform. Watching them is the successful producer Joe Josephson. Also in the audience are Beth's parents, for this is the evening of her wedding to Frank.

★1959-57

A series of vignettes showing the three, Frank, Charley and Mary setting out on their careers.

★1957

Early in the morning on a roof overlooking New York. Frank sits. He has just returned from the army. He is joined by his friend Charley - they have just met up again. They are interrupted by a stranger, the young Mary. The company joins them as the scene grows to :-

★1955

The Graduation ceremony at The Lake Forest Academy.

★ main characters

GUSSIE	Marion Champion
JOE JOSEPHSON	Gary Coulson
BETH	Bronwen Davies
CHARLEY	Joseph Early
MEG	Julia Early
OLD FRANK	Christopher Ivey
FRANK	Duncan Jones
MARY	Rebecca Wheatley

★ transition singers

David Blackburn	David Moore
Catherine Early	Shuba Patel
Chrissie Gray	Graham Weymouth

the company

Joel Aryeety	Fiona McMahon
Patrick Coy	Whimsy Meara
Bill Cunningham	Sonya Nicholson
Sonny Djego	Daniel Rowland
Martin Freeman	Anneke Sando
Emma Higginson	Zoe Scott
Malcolm McAlister	Louisa Tagg

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MUSICAL DIRECTOR
CO-DIRECTOR
CO-DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Peter Roberts
Andrew Wale
Elanor Baker
Eric Yardley

DESIGN
COSTUME
MAKE-UP
LIGHTING

Andrew Wale
Irene Palko
Andrew Wale/Irene Palko
Jean Gladstone-Goodwin
Linda Fitzpatrick/Martin Willets

SOUND
SPECIAL EFFECTS
STAGE MANAGER
ASST. STAGE MANAGER
PROPS

Richard Eliot
William Eliot
Fiona Andrews
David Lewsey
Kathleen Garman
Stephen Bentley

STAGE HAND

Barrie Funnel/Sarah Hunt

ORCHESTRA

Peter Roberts
Stephen Nicholson
Andrew McLaren
Clive Stott

VAN DRIVER
PERSONNEL/PROMPT
PROGRAMME

Clive Stott
Carol Pain
Nick Ronald
David Roberts

t h a n k y o u !

