



**To:** merrily-cast@sunnyvaleplayers.org

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**From:** "Daniel Rich" <drich@employees.org>

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**Date:** Sat, 6 Nov 2004 13:01:24 -0800

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**Subject:** [Merrily-cast] Fwd: A Review of MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

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Begin forwarded message:

> From: Howard Miller <[howbearca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:howbearca@sbcglobal.net)>

> Date: November 5, 2004 3:08:13 PM PST

> To: Theatre Bums <[batb@artsopolis.com](mailto:batb@artsopolis.com)>

> Subject: A Review of MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

>

> Last night I had the opportunity to see Sunnyvale Community Player's  
> production of MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG. I had never seen this show but I  
> knew most of the music. I was not prepared for the wonderfully  
> emotional story about friendship, compromise, the high price of  
> success and staying true to one's ideals.

>

> MERRILY begins in the present (well, 1976) and moves backwards,  
> tracing the lives of wealthy but jaded composer Franklin Shepard (Dan  
> Rich) and his two estranged friends, Charley Kringas (Ron Evans) and  
> Mary Flynn (Kereli Jones). It takes us through each milestone of  
> their personal and professional lives, the good AND the bad.

>

> As with all Sondheim shows, the songs are wonderful and you have to  
> applaud Ron each night with getting through "Franklin Shepard, Inc."

> and the rest of the cast with "Opening Doors". There are also other  
> Sondheim favorites including, "Old Friends", "Not A Day Goes By" and  
> the title song, "Merrily We Roll Along".  
>  
> Along for the ride is Geri Carlson Sauls as Broadway actress Gussie  
> Carnegie. Geri, as always, was fabulous. Why is it that the nicest  
> people can play the best "divas"? Ed Sengstack also gives a wonderful  
> performance as Producer Joe Jefferson. I may not have that last  
> name right because it is not listed in the program.  
>  
> The show is rounded off with excellent performances from Becky Wallace  
> as Frank's first wife, Beth and, on the night I saw the show, James  
> Seifer as Frank, Jr. The ensemble consists of some local musical  
> theater heavyweights such as Molly Carter, Steve Completo, Jen Cuevas,  
> and relative newcomer Greg Goebel. Greg has a voice that we hope to  
> hear more of in the future.  
>  
> The ensemble also includes Michelle Beyda, Kalinda Burton, Jennie  
> Floyd, Laura Hager, Ronnie Misra, Byron Nysen, Elana Ron, Terry  
> Sandke, and Ana Williams. Michelle Beyda is a name that you may not  
> know but she has a great presence onstage. I remember her performance  
> in WEST SIDE STORY as Anybody's. She deserves bigger roles and I know  
> she will get them one day.  
>  
> Bobbi Howe has also put together a terrific orchestra.  
>  
> MERRILY is a show that will definitely make you laugh and if you are a  
> sap like me, you will have a few "leaky head" moments as well.

> Sunnyvale took a chance with this production and I think they have  
> succeeded in doing a good job. Please support this group of talented  
> and hard working actors by seeing MERRILY.

>  
> Check out the Sunnyvale website at [www.sunnyvaleplayers.org](http://www.sunnyvaleplayers.org) for  
> information on purchasing tickets. Don't let this show sneak by you.

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>  
> Howard L. Miller  
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Dan Rich <[drich@employees.org](mailto:drich@employees.org)> | <http://www.employees.org/~drich/>  
| "Step up to red alert!" "Are you  
sure, sir?  
| It means changing the bulb in the  
sign..."  
| - Red Dwarf (BBC)

## Plain Text Attachment

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Merrily-cast mailing list

[Merrily-cast@sunnyvaleplayers.org](mailto:Merrily-cast@sunnyvaleplayers.org)

<http://www.lapseofthought.com/mailman/listinfo/merrily-cast>