A new musical by Neil Bartram and Brian Hill

We are standing motionless ... on a planet that pulls us toward it at 32 ft per second ... and spins at 1070 miles per hour ... and orbits the sun at 67,000 miles per hour ... in a galaxy careening through space at 490,000 miles per hour.

Hey, it’s all relative.

But that’s nothing compared to the seismic impact of simple human connection.

The Theory of Relativity is a joyous, youthful musical exploration of the surprising interconnectedness of our own personal orbits as we stand “motionless” on this little rock hurtling through space.

April 11 - 20, 2013
Stephen Sondheim (March 1930 - ) is one of the most influential and accomplished composer/lyricists in Broadway history, was born in New York City and raised in New York and Pennsylvania. As a teenager he met Oscar Hammerstein II, who became Sondheim's mentor. Sondheim graduated from Williams College, where he received the Hutchinson Prize for Music Composition. After graduation he studied music theory and composition with Milton Babbitt. He worked for a short time in the 1950s as a writer for the television show Topper; his first professional musical theatre job was as the songwriter for the unproduced musical Saturday Night. He wrote the lyrics for West Side Story, Gypsy and Do I Hear A Waltz?, as well as additional lyrics for Candide. Musicals for which he has written both music and lyrics include A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Anyone Can Whistle, Company, Follies, A Little Night Music, The Frogs, Pacific Overtures, Sweeney Todd, Merrily We Roll Along, Sunday In The Park With George, Into The Woods, Assassins and Passion. He composed the songs for the television production Evening Primrose, co-authored the film The Last of Sheila and provided incidental music for The Girls of Summer, Invitation to a March and Twigs. Side By Side By Sondheim, MARRY ME A LITTLE, YOU’RE GONNA LOVE TOMORROW and Putting IT TOGETHER are anthologies of his work. He has written scores for the films Stavisky and Reds, and composed songs for the film Dick Tracy. He is the winner of an Academy Award, eight Tony Awards (more than any other composer) including the Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, eight Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer Prize and the Laurence Olivier Award. He is on the Council of the Dramatist Guild, the national association of playwrights, composers and lyricists, having served as its president from 1973 until 1981, and in 1983 was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1990 he was appointed the first Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University. He was also recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor in 1993.

George Furth (December 1932 – August 2008) was an American librettist, playwright, and actor. Born in Chicago, Illinois, he majored in drama & theatre at Northwestern University and received his master's degree from Columbia University. A life member of The Actors Studio, Furth made his Broadway debut as an actor in the 1961 play A Cook for Mr. General, followed by the musical Hot Spot two years later. He was also known for his collaborations with Stephen Sondheim: the highly successful Company, Merrily We Roll Along and the drama, Getting Away with Murder. Furth penned the plays Twigs, The Supporting Cast, and Precious Sons, and wrote the book for the Kander and Ebb musical, The Act. One of Furth's last writing projects was a foray into an area where he had not previously endeavored. Furth penned the lyrics for a musical revue, with music by Doug Katsaros. Furth and Katsaros shaped the work with San Francisco director Mike Ward into "The End-a new musical revue". The piece was performed at San Francisco's New Conservatory Theatre Center during the summer of 2004 and was billed as a "Pre-U.S. Tour Workshop Production". The piece was reworked twice, with the title changing to Last Call and Happy Hour, respectively. Frequently cast as a bespectacled, ineffectual milquetoast, Furth appeared in such films as The Best Man, Myra Breckinridge, Hooper, Blazing Saddles, Oh God!, Shampoo, The Cannonball Run, Young Doctors in Love, Doctor Detroit, Bulworth and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. His many television credits include Tammy, McHale's Navy, Ironside, I Dream of Jeannie, That Girl, Green Acres, The Monkees, Batman, The Odd Couple, Bonanza, Happy Days, All in the Family, Murphy Brown, L.A. Law, Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, Murder, She Wrote, Little House on the Prairie, Love, American Style, Adam-12, F Troop and the made-for-TV movie The Scarlett O'Hara War, in which he portrayed famed film director George Cukor. He adapted his play, Twigs, for a 1975 television production starring Carol Burnett. He worked as a voice actor in several episodes of the animated television series The Adventures of Don Coyote and Sancho Panda for Hanna-Barbera Productions. He won both the Tony and Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical for Company; and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Play for Precious Sons.

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) www.MTIshows.com

Special Announcement!

True North: A Celebration of Canadian Music-In Concert!

After a phenomenal success of past tribute concerts, True North: A Celebration of Canadian Music-In Concert! comes to Sheridan's McDonald-Heaslip Hall on April 24 and 25 at 8:00p.m.

Witness the incredible talent as 45 of Sheridan's own future rising stars from the Music Theatre Performance Program pay tribute and perform live, the greatest hits from the best of Canadian music. Experience the fantastic energy, amazing choreography, and stunning vocals all backed by a phenomenal live band. Featuring the hits of Great Big Sea, Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell, Shania Twain, Celine, Barenaked Ladies, Justin Beiber, Michael Bublé, Tom Cochrane, Bryan Adams, Avril Lavigne, Guess Who, Glass Tiger and many more., this show is sure to entertain.

True North: A Celebration of Canadian Music-In Concert! Will absolutely sell out so don't be disappointed and order your tickets today!

Order by Phone:
905.815.4049

Online:
theatre.sheridancollege.ca
**Technical Crew**

Assistant Stage Managers........Alexandria Chatwin, Jamie Liddell  
Audio Crew..........................David Corbacio, Dylan Eadie, Dalton Grant, Jocelyn McDowell  
Head Electrician....................Luka Trifunovic  
Lighting Crew........................Taylor Armstrong, Gideon Ayesu, Heather Cassels, Michael Daneluzzi, Tristan Goethel, Matthew Proctor, Taylor Sinstadt, Andre Stankovich, David Thorpe  
Properties Crew.....................David Cook, Kristen Domonkos, Jessica MacDuff, Kristen McCormick, Jennifer Miller, Scott Monteith, Sashin Naidu, Jennifer Newnham, Charly Ortega, Rachel Pugsley, Phillip Reist  
Scenic Paint Crew...................Sara Allison, Melissa Arsenault, Mary Davidson, Darcie Kaster, Adriana Marchi, Eden Mader, Terilyn Nutt, Keith Roberts, Jenna Robinson, Jessica Wu  
Wardrobe Crew......................Megan Cummings, Kenzie Ten Eyck, Alana Freistadt, Janna Henry, Rebecca Jennings, Drew Lindeman, April Fresh-Mcewan, Christopher Pattenden, Kristi Poor  
Technical Assistants...............Eric Bennett, Ryan Leeming, William McDaniel  
Production Assistants..............Andrew Avon, Amanda Cho

**Running Crew**

Crew Chief........................Michael Sorowka  
Live Audio Mix.......................David Corbacio  
Lighting Board Operator..........Gideon Ayesu  
Stage Hands.........................David Imiolo, Jenna Robinson  
Monitor Mix..........................Dylan Eadie  
Deck Audio.........................Sterling Barry, Amanda Cho  
Follow Spots........................Matthew Proctor, David Thorpe  
Wardrobe Dressers...............Megan Cummings, Kenzie Ten Eyck, Alana Freistadt, Christopher Pattenden

Theatre Sheridan  
**MERRILY**  
we roll along

**Directed by:** Richard Ouzounian  
**Musical Director:** Scott Christian  
**Choreographer:** Amanda Nagy  
**Set & Lighting Designer:** Nick Blais  
**Costume Designer:** Ming Wong  
**Sound Designer:** Todd Charlton  
**Assistant Director:** Jonathan Logan  
**Stage Manager:** Kevin Bowers

**The Band**

Scott Christian............Band Leader/Keyboard  
Robin Claxton...............Percussion  
La-nai Gabriel...............Reeds  
Chris Tsujiuchi............Keyboard  
Alex St. Kitts...............Bass

The services of Richard Ouzounian and Kevin Bowers by special permission of the Canadian Actors’ Equity Association.
When Michael Rubinoff asked me if I’d like to direct something with the Sheridan College music theatre program class of 2013, I said yes instantly. I’ve been coming to shows here since 1997 and count numerous graduates of the program as colleagues and friends.

I also knew just as quickly what show I wanted to do: Stephen Sondheim and George Furth’s *Merrily We Roll Along*. Not only is it one of those fascinating musicals that have never really succeeded, despite a brilliant score and numerous ambitious productions, something which always excites a director’s imagination, but the fact that it’s about making a career in the world of theatre positions it as perfectly suited for the final project for this class at Sheridan.

*Merrily We Roll Along* starts in 1977, when its three leading characters are all professionally successful and personally empty. It then goes backwards in time, all the way to 1955 to try and answer the question, “How did you get there from here?”

Along the way, you’ll get a fascinating overview of the musical theatre world during the period and even get numerous glimpses of the celebrities of the time in the show’s various party sequences.

But, more importantly, you’ll look inside the hearts and minds of a whole generation of young people who learn that success is not a synonym for happiness and that selling out may be great for a musical, but not so rewarding when it comes to personal ethics.

Franklin Shepherd, the golden boy composer of Broadway moves too quickly to Hollywood, while his best friend and collaborator, Charley Kringas, digs in his heels and pays the price that artistic intransigence can demand. Mary Flynn is the novelist who loves her friends not wisely, but too well and winds up turning to the bottle for a romantic partner.

Because you’ll share the joy of a talented young company giving their all to a work that serves up a lot of truths – some bitter and some sweet – and maybe even offers the hope of a second chance.

“We had a good thing going, going, gone,” says one of the lyrics, which is a poignant revelation, but the best part of *Merrily We Roll Along* is that it lets you see that all good things don’t necessarily have to come to a melancholy end.

- Richard Ouzounian
Chronology

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE: Bel Air, California – 1976
SCENE TWO: NBC Studio, New York City – 1973
SCENE THREE: Frank’s Apartment, New York City – 1968
SCENE FOUR: Manhattan Courthouse, New York City – 1967

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE: Alvin Theatre, New York City – 1964
SCENE TWO: Gussie and Joe’s Brownstone, New York City – 1962
SCENE THREE: The Downtown Club, New York City – 1960
SCENE FOUR: New York City – 1957-1959
SCENE FIVE: A Rooftop On 110th Street, New York City – 1957

Special thanks to: Great Lakes Scenic Studios, Soulpepper Theatre and Daniel Levinson.
The Cast

Corey Agnew  Miranda Atkinson  Flo Aver  Addison Becker  Heather Brezden  Taylor Buchko  Andrew Case  Dillan Chiblow

Jessie Cox  Camila Diaz-Varela  Shakura Dickson-Scarlett  Kyle Dolphin  Heather Jane Farr  Tara Federko  Jake Foy  James Frantowski

Jayme Fuczek  Matthew Fuller  Brooke Lanziner  Calvin Laveck  Chelsey MacLean  Alie Mancuso  Matt Nethersole  Anne Potter

Jonathan Plummer  Sarah Rorabeck  Claire Rouleau  Christopher Webb  Victoria Whistance-Smith  Erin Winsor