MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

SYNOPSIS
Merrily We Roll Along is a story about growing up, the people we love, and the promises we don’t keep. Merrily begins on October 4, 1976, at the premiere party for Franklin Shepard’s newest film, and moves backwards in time to October 4, 1957. We follow the lives of Frank, Mary, and Charley, three estranged friends and artists, through their personal and professional successes and failures. The show ends at the story’s beginning: with three new friends looking at the night sky from a rooftop on 110th street, full of potential, passion, and will to change the world.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN
Franklin Shepard (20–39)
A gifted musician, and later, a successful producer. Magnetic.

Mary Flynn (20–39)
Sharp, funny, an excessive personality. Deeply (and often darkly) honest.

Charles Kringas (20–39)
Driven, a gifted writer. Quick, clever, neurotic.

Beth Spencer (22–30)
Frank’s first wife. Practical, fair. Looks for the best in people until she can’t.

Gussie Carnegie (25–42)
A Broadway star. Self-made, glamorous, and knows exactly what she wants.

Joe Josephson
Gussie’s third husband, a successful Broadway producer. Loud, self-assured, unapologetic.

Meg Kincaid
An emerging movie star. Idealistic, romantic.

Ru
A young screenwriter. Eager, impressionable.

K.T.
An NBC reporter.

Jerome
Frank’s lawyer.

Tyler
Inventor of the telephone answering machine.

We are also looking to cast a large ensemble who will play party guests, lawyers, disapproving parents, talk show hosts, and more.

VIOLENCE & INTIMACY BREAKDOWN
Pulling away, MARY falls down hard, knocking over the entire bar with a loud and awful crash. As the guests gasp, she struggles up from the floor, then falls again. (p.22)
MARY trips and RU grabs her. She squirms away from him. (p.22)
GUSSIE grabs the iodine from RU and throws it directly into MEG’S eyes. (p.27)
CHARLEY grabs FRANK’S arm. FRANK swings around, shoving CHARLEY, sending him sprawling to the floor. CHARLEY gets up and lunges at FRANK. (p.48)
FRANK hugs and kisses FRANK JR. (p.50)
FRANK and GUSSIE embrace, then kiss. (p.70)
FRANK pushes the PHOTOGRAPHER, they scuffle and FRANK shoves him down on the ground. (p.78)
BETH kisses FRANK. (p.97)
JOE leaves a group, crossing over, leaning in to kiss GUSSIE’S cheek. She pulls away in irritation. (p.106)
CHARLEY jumps on FRANK’S back. (p.124)
FRANK and BETH kiss. (p.154)

We are so excited to get to know you and share this beautiful text with you in the upcoming weeks! Please reach out to Simran Deokule and Owen Kiley at producers@nudolphinshow.org with any questions or if you’d like to get involved in our process in any capacity.