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SONDHEIM’S ‘MERRILY’ ROLLS BACK THE CLOCK

“Merrily We Roll Along,” the musical many say offers some of Stephen Sondheim’s best work, comes to the Cal State, San Bernardino stage Nov. 10-12 and Nov. 14-15.

“It think it’s one of his best scores,” says Patrick Watkins, director of the play and chair for the university’s Theatre Arts Department. The production is Watkins’ first at Cal State since coming to the university last year.

The story begins with the end as Franklin Shepard, played by theatre arts student Rob Foley, reflects upon his life as a composer and friendships with his lyricist, Charles Kringas and Mary Flynn, a novelist. Charles is played by Matthew Scarpino and Mary by Heatherly Stephens.

Charles and Mary’s disillusionment with Franklin and his professional and personal compromises is revealed—particularly in Sondheim’s lyrics—at time marches backward.

“How did you get to be here?” is one of the play’s compelling questions, says Watkins. “That says a lot,” he says. “Everyone is responsible for the choices they make in life to one degree or another.”

“With Franklin, priorities change—when the art becomes secondary to the commercial.

Based on the book by George Furth, “Merrily We Roll Along” ran for only 16 shows on Broadway when Watkins saw its premiere in 1981. Since then, Sondheim has rworked much of the music, adding four new numbers and cutting two.

Well-known artists have recorded many of the show’s songs. Carly Simon has recorded “Not A Day Goes By,” Frank Sinatra, “Good Thing Going,” and Lena Horne and Liza Minnelli their versions of “Old Friends.”

The production is done in cooperation with the university’s Music Department, the Theatre Arts Department and CSUSB’s Intelectual Life and Visiting Scholars Committee.

See The Friday Bulletin “Calendar” section for further details.
PRIZE-WINNING PIANIST PLAYS


TUESDAY, NOV. 7
Women’s Volleyball. Grand Canyon University, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 10
Men’s Basketball Sneak Preview. CSUSB vs. High Five Sports, 7:30 p.m. CSUSB Tournament. 6/8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 19
Music. CSUSB Symphonic Choir perform Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana.” 8:15 p.m., Recital Hall. General admission $15. Ext. 5859.

CSU NIGHT AT DISNEYLAND PARK
ON FEB. 9, DISNEYLAND TRANSFORMS INTO YOUR OWN PRIVATE KINGDOM.

CSU alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends can enjoy a blanket of stars overhead and adventure all around. It’s a private night for the CSU family. Everyone else will have to wait until morning.

On Friday, Feb. 9, 1996, the alumni association chapters from the CSU campuses are presenting a Private Party at Disneyland as part of the Year of the Alumni celebration.

Specially priced Passports will include admission from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and feature entertainment and attractions. Passports will be limited, so contact the Alumni Office today to make your reservation. Call us at 500.

CSU ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS CAN ENJOY A BLANKET OF STARS OVERHEAD AND ADVENTURE ALL AROUND. IT’S A PRIVATE NIGHT FOR THE CSU FAMILY. EVERYONE ELSE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL MORNING.

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