January 25, 2011

Musical comedy finds deeper meaning rewinding through the years
“Merrily We Roll Along”

Edmonton – It’s a joyous, but bittersweet musical for anyone who’s ever had a dream! Join MacEwan University’s Theatre Arts and Theatre Production programs as they present Stephen Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along*, beginning February 10, 2012 in the John L. Haar Theatre.

A Broadway fable about friendship, compromise and the high price of success. *Merrily We Roll Along* has a lot to say about the dangers of fame, selling-out, sacrificing integrity and keeping your dreams alive when life throws you speed bumps. “It’s rich, rewarding material that taps into a theme people can identify and empathize with,” says director and Theatre Arts program chair, Jim Guedo.

"How did we get there from here?" is the question on everyone’s lips at the opening of this unique piece of musical theatre. Unconventionally, the answer is supplied as we roll backwards in time. Stretching from 1976 to 1957, we watch a trio of friends, Frank, Mary and Charley, start their theatrical journey in their jaded forties and end the play in their optimistic twenties. How can fast friends in their youth remain close when life’s choices pull them apart?

After a troubled Broadway debut, Merrily We Roll Along has been tinkered with and revised more than once by its creators – finding new life. It’s a great and underappreciated musical containing one of Stephen Sondheim’s most accessible yet infrequently heard scores. “I think every one of our students should be exposed to Sondheim,” says Guedo. “It’s an amazing workout - vocally, dramatically and musically. I consider him the Mount Everest of musical theatre composers, so it demands that students dig a little deeper.”

*Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is proudly celebrating its 40th anniversary. As a comprehensive university, the institution offers more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, providing career opportunities and opening the doors to academic excellence, continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.*

**Merrily We Roll Along**
February 10-18, 2012
MacEwan University, Centre for the Arts and Communications
John L. Haar Theatre, 10045 – 155 Street, Edmonton, AB
For Tickets and Information: Tix on the Square: 780.420.1757 or [www.tixonthesquare.ca](http://www.tixonthesquare.ca)

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