



# ON CASTING

*Merrily* is the story of a friendship and how it evolves and disintegrates as time goes by. The friendship in question is a trio:

**FRANKLIN SHEPARD** *Male, 20s–40s, Range: A2–B♭4*

Franklin is in many ways the heart of the trio—its soul. He goes from wide-eyed optimism to success-driven hardness as time goes by. Think of him as the all-American boy next door. The one everyone wants for a friend.

**MARY FLYNN** *Female, 20s–40s, Range: G3–G♭5*

Mary is the mediator and Girl Friday of the central trio. Completely in love and devoted to Franklin, she transforms with the years from young go-getter to waspish alcoholic. Think Elaine May meets Dorothy Parker.

**CHARLEY KRINGAS** *Male, 20s–40s, Range: A#2 – G#4*

Charley is difficult, stubborn, and intensely devoted to his friends and family. He's the moral compass of the trio, and remains truest to his original trajectory over the 20-year course of the musical.

Joining and shaping the paths of our central trio are the other central figures in their lives:

**BETH SPENCER** *Female, 20s–40s, Range: A3–G5*

Beth is an all-American girl-next-door, and the “obvious” choice for Franklin. She's warm and loving if a bit insecure. *Though not technically part of the “central trio,” Beth is very much a principal role.*

**GUSSIE CARNEGIE** *Female, 20s–40s, Range: G3–C5*

Gussie is a Broadway star and very much acts the part. She's funny, full of charisma, and extremely self-indulgent and hard to resist. *Though not technically part of the “central trio,” Gussie is very much a principal role.*

**JOE JOSEPHSON** *Male, 30s–50s, Range: A2–F#4*

Joe is a Broadway producer of the Golden Age. Expansive and very New York.

**FRANKLIN SHEPARD, JR.** *8–10*

Frank's son. May be played by a boy or a girl.

**MEG KINCAID** *Female, late teens–20s, Range: D4–G♭5*

Meg is the star of Franklin's big movie. She's young, self-centered and very Hollywood.

**THE ENSEMBLE** of *Merrily* is crucial to the show. They create the entire world of the play—they comment on the action, they set the tone and period of the scenes, and they sing some of the greatest musical theater songs ever written. As much as possible, ensemble roles will be contiguously cast—you'll be playing the same part throughout the piece. We're looking for great character actors who can sing. Ensemble roles include:

**K.T. LEWIS**, pert newswoman

**TYLER**, Frank's friend and benefactor

**SCOTTY**, Frank's crusty (female) agent

**RU**, Frank's starry-eyed (male) hanger-on

**JEROME**, Frank's lawyer

**MR. AND MRS. SPENCER**, Beth's stodgy parents

**ON AGE AND RACE:** Race is not an issue—this show will be cast colorblind. Age, however, is an issue. *Merrily* is a show that spans 20 years. More than that, it runs backwards. We first meet the central figures in the mid-1970s, when they're around 40. We travel backward in time with them to 1957, when they're around 20. We're looking for a mix of actors who can convincingly pull off that age range and mix seamlessly with their onstage contemporaries.

**FOR YOUR AUDITION:** Please prepare one song. Broadway, 1930–1970 (“Golden Age”) preferred. Up-tempo preferred. If you're specifically auditioning for **Franklin, Mary, Beth**, or **Gussie**, please also prepare 16 bars of a song that showcases your belt and legato notes. You'll also be doing cold readings from the script.

We can't wait to see your audition!

*Peter & DC*