**What Does Success Cost? Plymouth State Theatre Presents *Merrily We Roll Along***

**(Plymouth NH-** The department of Music Theatre and Dance at Plymouth State University presents *Merrily We Roll Along* in Studio Theatre from Nov 16-19. This musical turns back time to show what exactly is sacrificed to achieve success, and is it worth it?)

*Merrily We Roll Along* is not like typical musicals. The story line progresses backwards. It opens with Frank Sheperd being a wealthy Movie Producer and with very few friends around him. This immediately raises the questions, how did he become this successful, and why does he seem so lonely? Director, Elizabeth Daily shares.

“*Tension is created by the choices Frank makes about his career and how to manage his personal relationships.  As his older self, we see a successful man who has climbed to the top, but destroyed many of his personal relationships along the way.  Franks says that he has said "yes" many times when he should have said "no."”*

Through backwards storytelling, the audience is allowed to see results before they see the action. It causes an observer to look back at their own life and the choices they have made for themselves. It invokes a “What if?” idea to examine how choices an individual makes in their everyday life, whether big or small, has brought them to where they are today and where they might have been if they had chosen something different.

When asked why we should be producing this now, Daily responded:

*“Life does not always give us clear-cut choices and fulfillment in our lives can be difficult to define and achieve, but the message is that as human beings, we are doing the best we can.  We can relate by our need to make sense of our own career and relationships choices; we don't always realize in the moment how our actions and words will affect our relationships in the future.”*

Plymouth State University and the department of Music, Theater and Dance present *Merrily We Roll Along* by George Furth and Steven Sondheim from November 16-19 in Studio Theater at the Silver Center for the Arts. Performances are at 7PM November 16-18 and 1PM November 18-19. Tickets are on sale now. Call 603-535-ARTS for tickets and more information.