



University of Rochester's
ROC PLAYERS

ROC PLAYERS | SPRING 2022



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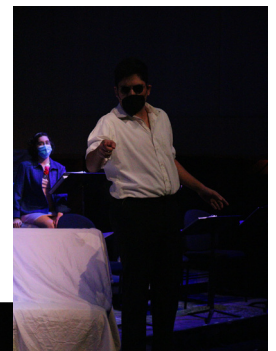
WELCOME A MESSAGE TO OUR ALUMNI

Happy Spring! We hope you are all doing well. Our members are excited to share with you what we have been working on so far this semester. After our first two weeks of the semester online, we have been enjoying general member and production team meetings along with in person rehearsals.

By mixing an encore-style performance with the original blocking of the show we also got the opportunity to perform our musical in person to a live audience. We are thankful we had the ability to perform and grateful for everyone who came to see our show.

In other updates, ROC Players is happy to announce that we have changed our logo to a design created by an alumni member. We are so lucky to have such talented alumni who allow us to help our group adapt as we continue to grow.

In this newsletter you will find interviews with a current member and our current director, information about our spring semester show, and ways we have been improving and expanding as a club. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to our current executive board, listed at the end of this newsletter.



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DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

An interview with our director

Below you will find an interview with our current director, Michael! Read about his excitement and process for our Spring production.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

"My name is Michael Wizorek. I am a senior theater and audio and music engineering double major from Nashville, Tennessee. This is my second time directing a show with our club. I have also worked on other shows as lighting designer, production manager, stage manager and most recently music director."

Why did you choose *Merrily We Roll Along*?

"I love this show, I love the theme that it touches on and I also think it is a really challenging show for this club to work through. Because of the storytelling, the music, some of the emotional registers that it hits and the acting abilities these characters require."

What are you most excited about with this show?

"For people to see it. And to have the audience connect with different parts of it. I think personally as a director I connected to parts of the show that are different than the parts my company has connected to. I am excited to see how the audience reacts to certain points of the show."

Donations

We love theater and want to continue this club for years to come. We are also always looking for your support! You can donate to the club directly using this link: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1676/giving19/giving19.aspx?sid=1676&gid=2&pgid=712&cid=1541&appealcode=19U0A>



To give to ROC Players please fill out your personal information and payment all normally make sure to indicate our club as the place you want the money to be donated. To do this, 1) Click the box that says "Select Gift Designation." 2) Scroll down to where it says "Other - Write-in" click "Continue" and write in the next field. 3) In the box that says "please indicate the area of support," write "ROC Players." The donation will then be sent to our club. Thank you!

What are you most proud of?

"So many things. I am proud of my company for how well they have been able to pick things up. I am very proud of my assistant director who has been able to effectively step in when I am unable to and really push the production forward. I have been proud of my management team and how well they have been able to roll with all the changes and everything I have asked of them. I am proud of my own work, there are beautiful moments and I'm incredibly happy that we have a show"

How has it been set designing for your own show?

"I have loved it, it has been a blast. I have enjoyed it as a director because we travel to so many different places. Through this set it was really a challenge for me as a director to explore those different locations. But as a set designer I was able to create pieces that I wanted and needed that could be used in various scenes along with creating the settings that I was picturing as I was directing."

As one of our oldest members of ROC Players, how have you seen us grow?

"We have really become a social group in a lot of ways. We have grown to become a community and there is a sense of club as well as production, which I think has been really great. Also thanks to recent donations it has been really nice to talk about everything that is possible for our group based on our creative abilities rather than only our possibilities due to a restricted budget."



New Club Logo

Last semester our club voted in a brand new logo. Throughout the spring we have made changes to our shirts, social media, and marketing materials. We are excited to share this with you with special thanks to ROC Players alumnus Delilah Pryzbyla '21 for creating this design.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Interview with one of our newest members

ROC Players is so fortunate to be full of talented individuals that all share a passion for theater. Below you will find an interview with Oren Schwartz '25, a new member excited to be joining us for his first time with the club.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

"My name is Oren Schwartz. I am still working on picking a major, maybe digital studies, social psychology or business. I am from Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, which is right outside of Philly. (Go Philly!)"

Why did you join ROC Players?

"First semester I was not involved in any groups and it felt weird. I told myself that in the second semester I would buckle down and join a bunch of clubs. I did theater in high school and ROC Players was a club that always stood out to me. I saw their production of 'Falsettos' and said 'Ok, this is the club for me.' I was excited to join because it seemed like such a fun, friendly group that had the exact vibes I was looking for in a college club."

Tell me about your part in the show

"I am playing Charlie who is one of the main characters that the story follows, and to be able to play a character that is so stubborn and sticks to his values is so interesting. Because the show takes place over 20 we go through the process of a character arc that is actually a backwards character arc. This has been really interesting and has made me see acting in a different way and has me really thinking about motivation and what has come before, even if what comes before hasn't yet happened in the show. Each line has much more depth, because even if you don't know it yet, every line connects to something later in the show."

What has been your favorite part so far?

"Getting to meet all these new people, they are just all so great. It is really fun to bond when you do a show with people, I feel like you really form a strong connection with them. I think there really is no better way to meet people than to rehearse with them and so going through the rehearsal process with them has been an amazing experience for me."

Is there anything about ROC Players that you are looking forward to in the future?

"I'm looking forward to participating in the years to come. I am really glad I joined freshman year because it means I can be more involved in the future!"

Merrily We Roll Along Our Spring '22 Production

Last semester we voted to have Merrily We Roll Along to be this semester's production! Auditions were completed virtually early in the semester and our cast began in person rehearsals in February. We are so thankful for those who could make it to our show. If you did not get a chance to see our show read below for more information.



Merrily We Roll Along is a famous Sondheim Broadway flop. As time passed people came to appreciate the story this show tells and the unique form of storytelling it brings to the stage.

The show tells the story of Frank Shepard, Charley Cringus and Mary Flynn and their relationships with each other and the entertainment industry that they are all involved in. The story explores different connections and disconnections of these three main characters throughout their lives by starting at the end of their story and working backwards through their story. Through that we meet all of the people who have made impacts on each of the characters lives and decisions. We see their mistakes and big life changes while already knowing how they turn out. This creates an ending of melancholy and bittersweetness that leaves audiences wondering about their own lives and decisions.

For more pictures, information and celebration of our show this semester please keep an eye on our Instagram (@urROCplayers) and our Facebook page (@univROCplayers!)



Ever improving our club

Changes in ROC players using our new donations

In 2019, ROC Players received a very generous donation. Over the past few years, this has allowed us to greatly improve our production value. First and foremost, thanks to this new income, we were able to increase our show budgets. Historically, we have had set costume, prop, and set budgets. This semester, for the first time ever, we were able to add a sound and lights budget! We were also able to add an emergency budget; as you probably know, something always seems to pop up during tech week and now we are able to comfortably absorb that cost.

Specifically, we've been able to purchase many items to allow the show process to run smoother. Notably, ROC Players now has a Nomad for our lighting team, a plethora of tools for our set team, and fully stocked backpacks for our costume designer and stage management!

Saving the best for last, ROC Players was able to invest in maroon and gold graduation cords. ROC Players is a major part of our college experience and we wanted to honor that. As of Spring 2021, all ROC Players seniors walk the podium donning their ROC Players cords.

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