

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG Production Meeting Notes

V. 1
Emerson Stage
Cutler Majestic

Meeting #: 1

Location: Greene Theater

Day/Date: Friday, 12/12/14

Start: 10:02a

End: 10:53a

General:

1. Thank you very much to all who came to the Concept meeting. A copy of Scott L.'s director notes will be available in the community dropbox.
2. Please let stage manager, Sam Burke, know if you have yet to be added to the dropbox folder.
3. Scott L. would like Deb Acquavella and all necessary parties to discuss reworking tech week to accommodate as much on stage time for the cast as possible.
4. The cast size is numbered at 24 members.
5. The first 6-8 rehearsals will be music rehearsals and in studio 4 in Paramount.

Scenic:

1. Charles has done a great deal of preliminary work in designing the set and meeting with the other designers and Scott L.
2. The set is a "white box into which things come and things project on"
3. The set will have a great deal of motion whether it is sliding panels, automation, or flying pieces.
4. 3 gutted pianos and a large snake sofa are requested.
5. Scott L. and Charles need to discuss panels moving and the man power to need them, Dan B. noted that the crew will be large and can accommodate such man power needs.
6. As of now, 3 palletes are automated and placed in 3 zones, there are 3 projectors, and the fly rail is manually operated.
7. Charles has requested an old light plot from Scott P.
8. A rough CAD version of the set will be sent to Keith and Scott P. within the next week or so.
9. The floor will be "white," meaning not true white but more of a gray
10. A scenic dropbox exists

Props:

1. 3 Gutted pianos are a top priority and will be heavily looked into

Lighting:

1. The "white box" set is very exciting given that it is a blank canvas
 2. Concept ideas will come soon, Scott P. and Sean are discussing how to visualize the narrative and characters' stories
 3. Lighting is waiting on more concrete plans from scenic to move forward
 4. There will be foot lights!
 5. Side lighting will be mainly explored through ladders hung as low as possible to keep the deck clear for traffic and scenic elements.
 6. LEDs will be used a great deal given they're lightweight and have more flexibility in capability
 7. The panels themselves will be carefully examined due to shadow issues.
 8. Silhouetting is a large component that will be explored throughout the show, especially at top of Act 2, Jen (choreographer) will need to be involved in this conversation.
 9. There will be 2 follow spots
 10. Scenic would like to discuss the sunset and sunrise moments more in depth in a private meeting.
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Costumes:

1. Merrily has been meeting with scenic and has been doing a great deal of research
2. The chorus/ensemble usage is very important and will consist of a lot of color
3. She has been focusing on the party scenes and differentiating between the eras and coasts
4. The leads will have a cleaner, less colorful look to make them easier to find onstage
5. A character/scene breakdown has been made with help from Scott L.
6. Quick changes will occur
7. There will be some wigs
8. Shoes will be discussed with Jen, the choreographer and the sooner they are in rehearsal, the better!
9. Prelim work will be sorted out very soon with Jen and Scott concerning shapes and movement
10. She plans to explore rental houses in LA over break with her assistant, Rachael
11. Mics need further discussion with sound given the number of hair styles and wig changes through out the production.

Sound:

1. Arshan is shaping the stage image versus the house image as well as exploring moments of soft vs brassy in terms of where, when, and how
2. All pianos onstage will be nonpractical but will have an actor "faking it" very authentically
3. All piano will come from the pit
4. Jon, musical director, and Arshan need to discuss how much of the sound is scored into the pit
5. Body mics need to be discussed further with costumes, note: Scott L. wants naturalism
6. Dan B. commented that the number of mics needed will be accommodated
7. Arshan would like to be added in all design dropboxes to see prelims, finals, etc.

Choreography:

1. Jen is creating dynamic dance that seems natural out of scenes.
2. The top of Act 2 needs to include Jen in the conversation.
3. A stylized movement conversation will occur with Scott L.
4. The sooner costumes can get the actors shoes in rehearsal, the better for all.

Production Management:

1. Budget talks need to occur with all departments, budget meeting scheduling will be based off prelims around 1/16
2. Prelim designs will be coming in over break, target weeks are as follows:
 Scenic Wk of 1/2
 Costumes Wk of 1/12
3. As needed, a second studio will be looked into for choreography days

Company Management:

1. A projections designer is still being looked into
2. Audition scheduling is being finalized

Office of the Arts:

1. No notes at this time

Scheduling: Our next meeting is January 30th, 10:15a-10:45a in the Semel Lobby.