

SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM

Character Descriptions

The Older Characters

Belen: Phyllis (FOLLIES)
Desiree (MUSIC)
Dot (SUNDAY)

Sophisticated and sarcastic

Love/hate relationship with Michael—a partner who once was but is not now there for her

The revue traces their relationship which became laden with doubt, insecurity, disillusionment, resignation, and ultimately sadness at wondering what could have been

Michael: Ben (FOLLIES)
Older Frank (MERRILY)
Georges (SUNDAY)

Drive and success define his life, but to others he is often unfeeling and cold, especially in relationships. Articulate, but unable to express the deep feelings he has

Believes Belen does not understand him

Creates the illusion of a secure, happy person, but desperately needs to find meaning and purpose in his life

Married;
Old friends
with Kyra
and Jared

Old friends;
she has
always loved
him

Kyra: Sally (FOLLIES)
Fosca (PASSION)

In love with Michael as he was when she knew him years back

Wants what she can never have and lives in a self-generated fantasy world

Married to Jared, but the love she has for him is obligatory—he is not her prince, but princely in that he offered marriage

The revue traces her journey toward a disconnection with reality

Married;
Old friends
with
Michael and
Belen

Jared: Buddy (FOLLIES)
Bobby (COMPANY)
Older Charlie (MERRILY)

Knows Kyra has always loved Michael—someone who has easily succeeded in ways he never could (even when they were young)

Seeks solace in temporary, meaningless affairs. Doesn't really "connect" and uses humor to cover his pain

The revue builds to self-awareness—a need to take the risk to participate in life

Their younger counterparts

Molly: Mary (MERRILY)

The "extra spoke" who wants desperately to be recognized, to belong, and to be loved

Constant rejection has led to the development of a sharp wit, a need to be the class clown, and an adept ability to play the "cute card"—the best friend who people "love" but are not in love with.

She is secretly in love with Stirling, loves Zed and finds comfort in the safety of the trio. She is adverse to change and a hopeless romantic who wants a movie ending to life

Stirling: Young Ben (FOLLIES)
Young Frank (MERRILY)

Driven and successful with a slightly superior attitude like a high school star athlete

His outer confidence covers up an insecurity caused by a fear that others only see him as a "talent" or "hunk"

Success is an obsession and he buys into a myth that through his success others will be helped to succeed.

Rebecca: Marta (COMPANY)
Charlotte (MUSIC)
Young Phyllis (FOLLIES)

A free spirit: aware and observant, full of life, and intentionally unpredictable. This is a protective shell she hides behind

Actually wants stability, but afraid to remove the mask

Attracted to Zed's creative intellect, but aware of his intense loyalty—friendship over relationship

Kimberly: Anne (MUSIC)
Amy (COMPANY)
Young Sally (FOLLIES)

Innocent and optimistic, but her sheltered life makes her fearful to fully commit to adulthood without someone to hold her hand

She wants mature guidance and protection, and her attraction to Stirling is based upon his outward self-confidence.

"Take Me to the World" is the start of her journey

Zed: Young Charlie (MERRILY)
Young Buddy (FOLLIES)
Paul (COMPANY)

An intellectual with a sharp wit

Extremely loyal to Stirling and Molly, but has always lived in Stirling's shadow

Trust, loyalty, and integrity are top priorities and something given as much as expected

Rebecca is "fun", but he remains unfulfilled at this point which is why his search for fulfillment begins with his friends

Couple; Stirling is close friends with Molly and Zed

Couple; Zed is close friends with Molly and Stirling