

STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

PRESENTS

B R I G H T

STAR

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

**MUSIC, BOOK & STORY BY
STEVE MARTIN**

**MUSIC, LYRICS & STORY BY
EDIE BRICKELL**

**DIRECTED BY PAULA MABRY
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY JORDAN DURHAM**

A NEW MUSICAL FABLE

OCTOBER 3-6 AND 11-15, 2023

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AND BARBARA R. COATS, MBA, RICP**



BRIGHT STAR A NEW MUSICAL

The Cast

In order of appearance

Alice Murphy	Kat Trinke
Billy Cane	Brady Pillstrom
Daddy Cane	Shane Tubbs*
Margo Crawford	Helen Anne Horecky
Max/Stanford/Ensemble	Shamar Hunt*
Florence/Ensemble	Sydney Standridge*
Edna/Ensemble	Brittany Page
Daryl Ames	Jacob King
Lucy Grant	Eden Bedsaul
Jimmy Ray Dobbs	Carter McIlwain*
Daddy Murphy	Bob Swanson
Mama Murphy	Kenzie Claire Burchfield
Mayor Josiah Dobbs	Joe Evans
Dr. Norquist/Ensemble	MJ Etua
Government Clerk/Ensemble	Kayla Broster*
Ensemble	Daniel Swanson*

* SCT Debut

Time and Setting

The play jumps in time between 1923-24 and 1945-46 at various locations in North Carolina. It is based on a true incident.

There will be a 10-minute intermission between Act I and Act II.

"Bright Star" is presented through special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide.

The Crew

Director	Paula Mabry
Musical Director	Jordan Durham
Assistant Director	Pattye Archer
Stage Manager	Jade Keaton
Lead Choreographer	Katherine Hardin
Choreographers.....	Helen Anne Horecky and Kat Trinke
Dance Captain.....	Helen Anne Horecky
Scenic and Lighting Design.....	Wayne Durst
Costumes	Meredith Swanson
Props	Michele Crescenzo
Set Assistant	Sean Mackin
Sound and Lighting Technician.....	Thomas La Foe
Sound Operator.....	Kendashia Smith
Lights Operator.....	Marsha Williams
Dressers	Madeline Golden and Melanie Tubbs
Hair and Makeup	Makayla Smith and Kennadie Cobb
Publicity.....	Brian Hawkins
Box Office	Gabe Smith
Opening Night Party.....	Derek Aaron and Stephen Cunetto
Photographer.....	Dianna Janus

Set Construction

Wayne Durst, Dwayne Wise, Sean Mackin,
Paula Mabry, Marty Haug, and MJ Etua

Special Thanks

Edwin Ellis, Thomas La Foe, Lyle Tate, Mrs. John T. Copeland,
High Point Roasters, Theatre MSU, Melissa Grimes, Melanie Harris,
Shane Tubbs, Madeline Golden, Gabe Smith, Marty Haug, Jesse Wade,
Derek Aaron, Oktibbeha County Heritage Museum, Stephen Cunetto,
Katherine Hardin, Kayla Broster, Kelli Collins and Anthony Daniel

Musical Numbers

Act I

- "If You Knew My Story" — Alice, Company
- "She's Gone" — Daddy Cane, Billy
- "Bright Star" — Billy, Ensemble
- "Way Back in the Day" — Alice, Ensemble
- "Whoa, Mama" — Jimmy, Alice, Ensemble
- "Firmer Hand / Do Right" — Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Alice, Ensemble
- "A Man's Gotta Do" — Mayor Dobbs, Jimmy
- "Asheville" — Margo, Ensemble
- "Picnic Dance" — Stanford Adams
- "What Could Be Better" — Jimmy, Alice, Ensemble
- "I Can't Wait" — Alice, Jimmy, Ensemble
- "Please Don't Take Him" — Mayor Dobbs, Alice, Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Stanford Adams, Ensemble
- "A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise)" — Mayor Dobbs, Ensemble

Act II

- "Sun's Gonna Shine" — Alice, Mama Murphy, Margo, Florence, Edna, Daddy Cane, Ensemble
- "Heartbreaker" — Jimmy
- "Another Round" — Lucy, Daryl, Billy, Ensemble
- "I Had a Vision" — Jimmy, Alice
- "Always Will" — Billy, Margo, Ensemble
- "Sun's Gonna Shine (Reprise)" — Mama Murphy
- "I Can't Wait (Reprise)" — Ensemble
- "So Familiar / At Long Last" — Alice, Ensemble
- "Finale" — Jimmy, Alice, Billy, Margo, Company

About the Cast

Eden Bedsaul (Lucy)

Eden is happy to be back at SCT for this production of one of her favorite musicals. “Having theatre opportunities as a person who isn't in school is such a wonderful privilege that I'm always grateful for. As much as I love working on my original music with my friends, musical theatre will always hold a special place in my heart and SCT is one of the best places I could ask for to continue that passion. I've loved working with this cast and our amazing director, Paula, and I can't wait for everyone to see what we've been working so hard on.”

Kayla Broster (Clerk)

This is Kayla's first performance with SCT, and she is glad to be back involved with music. Kayla originally lived in southern Illinois, and last performed in her high school's productions. Though this is her first performance in years, she has been a fan of musicals and has attended when opportunities arose and has helped with cast auditions for shows when at home. She is a PhD student in the Plant and Soil Science department with a focus on Weed Science. Kayla wants to participate in more shows in the future, no matter where she is after graduating, and wants to thank SCT for this opportunity to participate in *Bright Star*.

Kenzie Claire Burchfield (Mama Murphy)

Kenzie Claire is a senior music education major from Starkville, MS. She is so excited to take the SCT stage again for one of her favorite musicals! Prior to *Bright Star*, Kenzie also performed in SCT's production of *Into the Woods*, and had such a wonderful experience, she decided to do another one! She would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting this tremendous cast! She would also like to thank her friends and family for coming and supporting her!

MJ Etua (Dr. Norquist)

A graduate of the University of Mississippi, MJ taught in the Louisville Municipal School District from 1991 to 2023. She has appeared in the feature films *The Heart of Dixie*, *Great Balls of Fire*, and *The Gun in Betty Lou's Handbag*. Since 1995, MJ has been an active member of the SCT. As well as acting in such plays as *Proposals*, *Inspecting Carol*, *Doubt*, the musicals *Company*, *The Fantasticks*, and the award-winning *Akhmatova* and *Deadline Dawn*, and every SCT summer musical since 1998, she has directed a number of shows including *The Mousetrap*, *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* and the award-winning *ART*. Since 1998, she has been the creative force behind Project P.L.A.Y. The program involves youth from ages 4-18, and emphasizes that the youth participants write, direct, and act in their own productions.

Joe C. Evans (Mayor Josiah Dobbs)

I sneak into the playhouse every few years and insinuate myself into a show. I have run sound, lights, been backstage, acted, and music directed many Starkville Community Theatre shows over the years. I even got engaged to my lovely wife Leigh Ann on this very stage some while back. I am thrilled to be working with this wonderful cast and crew. I hope that you enjoy the show!

Helen Anne Horecky (Margo)

Helen Anne is so excited to be performing with SCT for the second time! Some of her favorite roles include Cinderella in *Into the Woods* (SCT), Erzulie in *Once On This Island* (Theatre MSU), and Sharpay Evans in *High School Musical* (Madison Central High School)! When not on the stage, Helen Anne enjoys shopping, tap dancing, and getting sweet treats with her friends! She would like to thank her closest friends and family for supporting her in all her endeavors! @helenanneh"

Shamar Hunt (Stanford and Max)

This is Shamar's first time performing with the Starkville Community Theatre and he couldn't be more excited. Shamar is from Southaven and is pursuing a marketing degree from Mississippi State. He is super excited for the chance to show his stuff on stage!

Jacob King (Daryl)

Jacob is super excited to be returning to SCT for his third show. Jacob is a senior music voice major at Mississippi state and hopes to pursue a career in performance. Some past roles include the "Dentist" in *Little Shop of Horrors* and "Dwayne" in *9 to 5*. In November he will be playing "Monostatos" in the opera *The Magic Flute* with MSU opera. He would like to give huge thanks to his parents for all their support.

Carter McIlwain (Jimmy Ray)

Carter is happy to have his first show here at SCT. Having done theater here in Starkville throughout middle and high school and competing in multiple theatre competitions, he is excited to be acting again at SCT. He would like to thank the cast and crew for making what always seems impossible, possible. He would also love to thank his friends and family for their constant love and support of his craft.

Brittany Page (Edna)

Brittany started her journey in theater about 4 years ago. She discovered her love of the arts after volunteering as a crew member on a show. She has then gone on to star in a number of productions. She enjoys meeting and working with fellow theater people and having fun putting together a production that others can enjoy.

Brady Pillstrom (Billy)

Brady is very grateful to be returning to the SCT stage. Some of his favorite credits include *Into the Woods* (Starkville Community Theatre), *Young Frankenstein* (Hernando High School), *Footloose* (Panola Playhouse), and *42nd Street* (Theatre Memphis). Brady currently attends Mississippi State University, majoring in Meteorology. He would like to thank the entire cast and production team for their hard work and dedication! @bradypillstrom

Sydney Standridge (Florence)

Sydney is an eighth grader at Starkville Academy. She is thirteen years old, and this is her first theatrical production. Sydney has taken voice and piano lessons since she was six years old. She is a former high-level gymnast who enjoys tennis, painting, and riding her horses.

Bob Swanson (Daddy Murphy)

Bright Star is Bob's third production with Starkville Community Theatre. He played "Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe" in both *Smoke on the Mountain* and *Sanders Family Christmas*. When not on stage, Bob teaches physical science and astronomy at MSU. Bob is thrilled to share the *Bright Star* experience with his family – his wife Meredith designed costumes, son Daniel is in the cast, and sons Nate and Henry helped with learning songs and running lines. He thanks Paula and Pattye for direction and encouragement, and as for his castmates – "Wow, theatre in Starkville has a bright future with such talented voices!"

Daniel Swanson (Ensemble)

Daniel is making his SCT stage debut as a member of the ensemble in Bright Star. He would normally try to make a funny comment right about now, but as of this writing, he's too busy desperately trying to think of something funny to say in the first place. He also happens to have a taste for meta humor.

Katherine Trinqué (Alice Murphy)

Kat is thrilled to be back on the Starkville Community Theatre stage as “Alice Murphy.” She is a fourth year at Mississippi State University, where she studies Psychology, Theatre, and Music. Some of her previous roles include “Lady Macbeth” in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, “Margery” in *Hand to God*, and “Jack's Mother” in *Into the Woods*. Kat is also a member of State Singers at MSU and Lab Rats Improv Comedy - the top improv troupe in the state of Mississippi. She would like to thank her fellow cast and crew, her family, and her best friends, because without their support she would not be here.

Shane Tubbs (Daddy Cane)

Appearing for the first time with Starkville Community Theatre, Shane is a veteran of the stage in nearby Columbus. Beginning in 2010 with Tennessee Williams' *Sweet Bird of Youth* (Tom Jr.), Shane has appeared in seven Williams' Tribute shows, and a gaggle of shows for Columbus Arts Council and MUW. Shane is an actor, musician and songwriter, skateboarder, gaming speed-runner, handyman, and a proud husband/dad. He's always been a character, and he has loved his time laughing and working with his castmates.

Jordan Durham (Music Director)

Jordan is in her 7th year as Associate Choral Director at Starkville High School. She is originally from Florence, Alabama and is a graduate of Mississippi State University where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education in 2016 and her Masters of Music Education degree in Choral Conducting in 2020. Jordan is currently serving as the District IV Chairperson for the High School Choral division of Mississippi High School Activities Association and is on the Mississippi board of the American Choral Directors Association as the incoming Mississippi All-State Honor Choir Chair. In 2021, Jordan was named Mississippi's Outstanding Young Music Educator of the year by Mississippi Music Educators Association and was the October 2022 recipient of the Starkville Rotary Club's Teacher of the Month Award. This is Jordan's second opportunity to music direct at Starkville Community Theatre. She would like to dedicate her work on this production to her wonderfully supportive husband, Christopher Durham, and their daughter, Anastasia Elizabeth Durham, who will be making her debut to the world any day now! Enjoy the show!

Katherine Hardin (Lead Choreographer)

After moving away from Starkville 2.5 years ago, Katherine was thrilled to be asked to contribute to another SCT musical. She has been involved in different ways in a variety of productions over the last 15 years, most recently choreographing the 9 to 5 The Musical. When she isn't attending a cross country meet or transferring her children to ballet, soccer, gymnastics, or piano, she loves squeezing in time to work behind the scenes on a production and accomplish a little 'dance therapy' for herself. On or off the stage, dance is the creative outlet that has brought her the most encouragement and energy since entering adulthood, and she is beyond thankful for her SCT family and all the new faces in this show. Enjoy!

From the Director

It has been a joy to work on this fresh and different musical by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. I am a long-time Steve Martin fan and love his humor.

The people you don't see on stage have worked extremely hard to make the show memorable. Without the creative talents of Jordan Durham, Wayne Durst, Pattye Archer, Katherine Hardin and Meredith Swanson, this show would not have materialized.

Long hours went into their contributions. I greatly admire and appreciate the dedication of the cast and crew. They have busy lives and responsibilities, but unselfishly gave their undivided attention to Bright Star. Each night I am amazed at the phenomenal expertise of the singers.

A special thanks to those of you who traveled to come to rehearsals, and to Jade Keaton, Marsha Williams, Kendashia Smith, Madeline Golden, Melanie Tubbs, Sean Mackin, Makayla Smith and Kennadie Cobb. With many rehearsals behind us, we all hope you love *Bright Star* as much as we do!

Paula C. Mabry

Starkville Community Theatre

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This project is supported in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part, from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.