

Asheville Community Theatre



35 EAST WALNUT STREET ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA 28801

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* * * FAST FACTS * * *

Box Office Hours:

Tuesdays-Fridays, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Mainstage performance weekends:

Fridays and Saturdays: 6:30 pm - curtain

Sundays 1:30 pm – curtain

Contact Us: 35 E. Walnut St., Asheville, NC 28801;
828-254-1320; www.ashevilletheatre.org

Curtain: Unless otherwise noted, evening performances begin at 7:30 pm and matinee performances begin at 2:30 pm. The house will open 30 minutes before curtain.

Late Arrivals: Late arrivals will be seated at the House Manager's discretion.

Cell Phones: Please turn off any device that rings, buzzes or beeps before entering the house.

Please Note: No photography or videography is allowed. Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.

Our auditorium has a hearing loop installed courtesy of Asheville Audiology Services. We also have listening devices available.

SINGLE TICKET PRICES

Mainstage Musicals: Adults \$35;

Youth (ages 3-17) \$18

Mainstage Comedy and Drama: Adults \$29;

Youth (3-17) \$18

If extra tickets remain 30 minutes before showtime, they may be purchased as Rush Tickets for \$18.

Rush Tickets must be requested by name and must be purchased in person at the door.

Asheville Community Theatre



Proudly Presents

BRIGHT *Star*

Music, Book, & Story:
Steve Martin

Music, Lyrics, & Story:
Edie Brickell

APRIL 21-MAY 14, 2023

Sponsored By

**JOEL ADAMS
AND ASSOCIATES**

REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR

Director.....Mark Jones
 Music Director.....Kristen Johnson Dominguez
 Choreographer.....Jessica Garland Lowe
 Scenic Designer.....Jill Summers
 Costume Designer.....Ida Bostian
 Lighting Designer.....Abby Auman
 Sound Designer.....Casey Clennon
 Properties Designer.....Nicki LaRue
 Stage Manager.....Anne Garren

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1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036 www.theatricalrights.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is stictly prohibited.

OUR SPONSORS



Teel Family Foundation



PRODUCTION CREW

Assistant Stage Managers - Maggie Harvin and Jenna MacIntyre

Wardrobe Supervisor - Fable Wilde Day

Light Board Operators - Kathleen Ayres and Judi Harvin

Sound Engineer - Casey Clennon

Carpenters - David Bortle, Adam Cohen, and Kevin King

Run Crew - Joe Cane and M Kane

Paint and Prop Construction Crew - Jenna MacIntyre, Des Brotak, Steve Pronovost, Jack Heinen, Amanda Levesque, Ruth Planey, Meg McFaddin, Sam Green

Wardrobe Construction Crew - Everett Leggat, Reba Stokes, Cynthia Barrager, Marti Fiantaca, Sherry Banner, Joshua Runkles

Audition Assistants - Cynthia Barrager, Scott Cameron, Judi Harvin, Maggie Harvin, Susan Mengel

FRONT OF HOUSE/BOX OFFICE

Event Management Staff - Katherine Podraza, Cassandra Marcelo

Box Office Volunteers - Judi Harvin, Scott Burgess, Kerri Marguet

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Creative Directions by Dena Rutter Design

Bright Star Poster Artwork by Susan Walker

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Reeni Dowd for ASL Choreography; Mikayla Wilson for Intimacy Coordination; Kayla Pressley Seay and the Thomas Wolfe Memorial

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In order to achieve healing and reconciliation in our community, Asheville Community Theatre respectfully acknowledges that the land currently occupied was taken from its original stewards, the Anikituwah, otherwise known as the Cherokee. As part of the Cherokee's ancestral homeland, this area is known as Togyasdi. Asheville Community Theatre's acknowledgement demonstrates the organization's commitment to dismantling the damage done by settler colonialism. Please take a moment to honor this ancestral land and to celebrate the resilience and strength of the Cherokee people. This acknowledgement shall affirm and declare that the ground Asheville Community Theatre stands on to be the homeland of the Cherokee.

ABOUT THE SHOW

THE TIME AND PLACE:

1924-1925 & 1945-1946 in Asheville, Raleigh, Chapell Hill, Hays Creek, and Zebulon, North Carolina

SONGS

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.....Company
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, Ensemble
A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise).....Mayor Dobbs, Ensemble

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

Entr'acte.....Orchestra
Sun's Gonna Shine.....Alice, Mama Murphy, Ensemble
Heartbreaker.....Jimmy
Another Round.....Lucy, Daryl, Billy, Ensemble
I Had a Vision.....Jimmy, Alice, Ensemble
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
Bows/Bright Star (Reprise).....Company

The lobby will close 30 minutes after the performance concludes.

ABOUT THE SHOW

THE BRIGHT STAR CAST

Alice Murphy.....Maddison McMahan
Jimmy Ray Dobbs.....Eric Martinez*
Billy Cane.....Carson Fox
Margo Crawford.....Safiya Myers*
Mayor Josiah Dobbs.....Greg Austin
Daryl Ames.....Shua Scilex*
Lucy Grant.....Zoe Zelonky
Daddy Cane.....David Cater*
Mama Murphy.....Susan Yeatman
Daddy Murphy.....Bob Pompeo*
Stanford/Storyteller.....Joby Lavery
Max/Storyteller.....Casey Edwards*
Florence/Storyteller.....Naimah Coleman
Dr. Norquist/Storyteller.....Jack Heinen
Government Clerk/Storyteller.....Mary Ann Heinen
Edna/Storyteller.....Elly Leidner*
Well-Dressed Woman/Storyteller.....Mara Breindel*
Stationmaster/Storyteller.....Jamie Trowbridge*

Storytellers: Kailey Blasius*, Cheryl DeCristofaro*, Jan Dixon, Shanna Greenlee*, Taylor Malajati*, Carolyn Reeves, Spike Thompson*

** Denotes an actor's ACT Mainstage debut!*

THE BRIGHT STAR BAND

Piano & Musical Direction.....Kristen Dominguez
Percussion..... David Bruce
Acoustic Guitar & Archtop Electric Guitar.....Tim Doyle
Banjo & Acoustic Guitar.....Bucky Hanks
Mandolin, Steel Guitar, & Acoustic Guitar.....Marty Lewis
Fiddle.....Leo Henry
Cello.....Ben Sharp
Bass.....Sara Nichols and Bob Songster



ABOUT THE CAST



Maddison McMahan (Alice Murphy) is overjoyed to be taking the stage with this incredible cast and crew. As a native to Asheville, NC, she is excited to take part in a show set in her hometown. Maddison last played the role of Kitty Kitteridge in *Five Carols for Christmas* at Hendersonville Theatre. Prior to her recent return to the stage, she played the role of Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* at Asheville Community Theatre in 2011. While in college, she was a regular in many shows at NC State University Theatre, including *Into the Woods* (Little Red), *Urinetown* (Penelope Pennywise), and *Godspell*, among others. She is thankful to her loving and supportive husband and sons for allowing her to take a place in the spotlight again.



Eric Martinez (Jimmy Ray Dobbs) has been acting on stage since he was four years old. Eric has performed in the musical roles of John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins*, John Jasper/Clive Paget in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Albin/Zaza in *La Cages aux Folles*, Max Detweiler in *The Sound of Music*, Whizzer in *Falsettoland*, Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*, and twice in the role of Edward Rutledge in *1776*. In the world of opera, he has taken on many lyric tenor roles and has participated in opera apprenticeship programs with companies such as The Santa Fe Opera. Eric has performed on stage as Ian in *Shining City*, Ralph Wantage in *Frozen* by Bryony Lavery, Lt. Kendrick in *A Few Good Men*, and Renfield in *Dracula*. Eric is an IT director for a large software company and holds an MBA from Notre Dame.



Carson Fox (Billy Cane) is delighted to return to ACT for his 7th show on the mainstage. He most recently had the honor of playing Buddy in *Elf the Musical*, but his first ACT show dates back to 2012 when he debuted as a Corny Collins Kid in *Hairspray*. Carson finds a piece of his own story in the one of Billy Cane, in that they both have pursued their own Bright Star here in Asheville. Carson was born and raised here and works his dream job as a video producer with Bclip Productions. When seldom Carson isn't creating with his friends at Bclip or ACT, he's likely getting involved at Brookstone Church or spending time with his family.

ABOUT THE CAST



Safiya Myers (Margo Crawford) is thrilled to be returning to the theatre after so many years and to be making her "Asheville" debut at ACT. As an Army Brat, she has lived all over, but Burlington, NC is where her roots lie. It's her first time back on stage since high school where she wowed audiences in her roles as a Bird Girl in *Seussical* and Agwe in *Once on This Island*. In her free time she likes to walk barefoot in nature as much as possible and nurture her creativity through storytelling and writing. Special thanks to this amazing cast and to Mark for the opportunity. She also sends deep gratitude to her family for their unwavering love and support.



Greg Austin (Mayor Josiah Dobbs/Dance Captain) is thrilled to be back at ACT. Past performances here have been Mother Superior in *Nunsense Amen*, Judge Yertle the Turtle in *Seussical*, and *Nine to Five*. You have no idea what Greg has done to prepare for the role of Mayor Dobbs in *Bright Star*.



Shua Scilex (Daryl Ames) is delighted to be making his debut on the ACT stage. He first dipped his toes into bluegrass learning to play the Appalachian dulcimer in 6th grade and has since continued his music journey into singing and piano. In his free time he loves to read, travel, and put his art degree to use in front of an easel. He is beyond grateful to work with such an amazing cast and crew and can't wait for many more ACT shows to come!

ABOUT THE CAST



Zoe Zelonky (Lucy Grant) is excited for “another round” with ACT after making her debut this season as Jovie in *Elf!* She is the Education Director at Asheville Community Theatre and recently moved here from Springfield, MO. Past favorite productions include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator), *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), *Kinky Boots* (Lauren), and *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie Oakley). Zoe has directed and choreographed over 30 productions, including *The Lightning Thief*, *High School Musical Jr.*, *Descendants*, and *Grease: School Edition*. Special thanks to this wonderful cast, crew, and creative team, her family, Eli and Ripley, and (as always) her Troupers.



David Cater (Daddy Cane) is thrilled to be back on the stage with such a great cast after an extended run playing the improv role of Dad and Husband (reviews pending). A recent transplant to Asheville, his previous shows were in Atlanta and included Bruce Ismay in *Titanic*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Who's Tommy*, an apostle in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Ito in *Mame*, and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is his first Asheville Community Theatre production, but hopefully not his last.



Susan Yeatman (Mama Murphy) has been involved in theatre for 40 years. From her first show, *West Side Story*, to her latest, Susan has had the pleasure to work with some of the most talented people in Asheville. She had a life-changing experience while doing *The Miracle Worker* at ACT 25 years ago — she met her husband Keith. Susan is especially happy to be on stage again working on this beautiful, sometimes heart-wrenching, production of *Bright Star*. Susan thanks her Director, Mark Jones, and the talented cast and crew for their hard work and dedication. Enjoy the show!

ABOUT THE CAST



Bob Pompeo (Daddy Murphy) is excited to make his debut on the ACT mainstage. He played the role of Sr. Mary Hubert at 35Below in the show *Nonsense A-Men*. He has been seen in Brevard Little Theatre productions of *A Funny Little Thing Called Love*, *Urinetown*, *Godspell*, and *Almost, Maine*. He has also appeared in Hendersonville Theatre's productions of *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Sylvia*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and more! Bob has also been in The Flat Rock Chorus for the last two years. By day, Bob serves as the Director of Marketing for The Laurels of Hendersonville. Thanks to all of you for supporting the Arts and the support of my friends and family, and most of all to this amazing cast and crew for this wonderful experience.



Joby Lavery (Stanford/Storyteller) is thrilled for the opportunity to continue his work on the stage! *Bright Star* will mark his third production with the incredible staff at ACT, and he feels truly blessed to be included in such an amazingly talented cast. When not on the stage, Joby spends his timing feeding the hungry. For money. At the restaurant he cooks for. He is inexplicably blessed with too many friends and family members deserving of thanks for their unending support, but trusts they know who they are.



Casey Edwards (Max/Storyteller) is an Asheville-based performer, scholar, and instructor who is excited to be participating in *Bright Star*. Musically, Casey focuses on the tenor art song repertoire, and his most recent accomplishments include being featured as a 2022 BMC Radio Artist for his work involving music manuscripts from the archives at Black Mountain College Museum + Art Center and playing Garrett in Hendersonville Theatre's production of *JingleJacks*. He has Master's degrees in both music and library science and currently works as a reference librarian at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and as a tenor cantor at First Presbyterian Church of Asheville.

ABOUT THE CAST



Naimah Coleman (Florence/Storyteller) is from Pittsburgh, PA and recently graduated college with a B.A. in Music & Theatre. Naimah is excited to return to ACT for their third mainstage production. Favorite theatrical roles include Jane in *Quilters*, Erma in *Anything Goes*, Mama in *Chicago*, Debra in *Voir Dire*, a lead role in *Songs for a New World*, and most recently Charlotte Dennon in *Elf*. Outside of theatre you can find Naimah singing, dancing, eating, reading, and getting lost in nature. Naimah can't wait to share this beautiful story with an amazing cast and production team!



Jack Heinen (Dr. Norquist/Storyteller) is honored to return to the ACT stage. It is a very special opportunity to be part of this talented cast, crew, and band for the Asheville premiere of *Bright Star*. He hopes the audience will find joy in the music and powerful story of this show. His previous roles with ACT were in *Elf the Musical* (Mr. Greenway), *The Fantasticks* (Henry), *Miracle on 34th Street* (Shellhammer), *Alice in Wonderland* (King of Hearts), *Snowbound* (Conductor), and *Turnpike Sunset* (Preacher). At HART he was Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*. When he is not at ACT, Jack teaches university business courses. Jack thanks Mark and Anne for allowing him to share the stage again with a special Government Clerk and Storyteller.



Mara Breindel (Well-Dressed Woman/Storyteller) is from California, with a BA in Cinema and Communication from the University of Southern California, Mara began singing, acting, and dancing on stage and in film at the age of nine. She studied all styles of dance and performed competitively both in high school and in college. Mara's most recent stage performance in WNC was in 2014 when she portrayed Rachel in the world premiere of Director Jon Menick's *Promises* at the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre. Mara would like to thank her parents Matthew and Priscilla, Alissa and Tim, the ladies of "Fight Club" and, most especially, her incredible husband Adam, for their continued support and encouragement to keep up her love of performing.

ABOUT THE CAST



Mary Ann Heinen (Government Clerk/Storyteller) is excited to return to the ACT stage, where she was most recently seen in *Elf the Musical*. She's been involved in community theatre for over 25 years from Asheville to Michigan, and favorites include *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mrs. Frank), *Harvey* (Veta Louise), *The Sound of Music* (Frau Schmidt), *The Foreigner* (Betty), and *The Fantasticks* (Mute). When she's not on stage, she enjoys volunteering and spending time with her husband Jack, who she is thrilled to share the stage with in this production. Special thanks to Mark and Anne, and the rest of this wonderful team. Enjoy the show!



Elly Leidner (Edna/Storyteller) is so excited to be making her ACT debut with this stellar cast and crew! While this is her first time back onstage since college, her previous roles include Alfieri in *A View From the Bridge*, Little Sally in *Urinetown*, and Peggy in *Godspell*. Elly is the Operations Manager at Brevard Music Center, and when she's not working, she enjoys reading, playing with her nieces, and being forced to watch horror movies by her best friend. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their love and support - it truly means the world.



Jamie Trowbridge (Stationmaster/Storyteller) is fulfilling a lifelong dream of performing in a musical. This is Jamie's debut performance at Asheville Community Theatre, and he'd like to thank you for being here. Enjoy the show!

ABOUT THE CAST



Kailey Blasius (Storyteller) is thrilled to be in her first performance at Asheville Community Theatre. She started in theatre in 2021, when she moved to North Carolina. Kailey has performed in the following shows: Miss Honey in *Matilda the Musical*, Charlie in *Always A Bridesmaid*, Olive in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and The Flat Rock Chorus. In her free time Kailey enjoys riding Dressage, hiking with her dog Gigi and her mom, and collecting vintage typewriters.



Shanna Greenlee (Storyteller) is excited to be making her ACT debut. Her past roles include Ensemble in *Hairspray*, Miss Shields in *A Christmas Story The Musical*, Atina in *The Little Mermaid*, Mrs. Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, Mrs. Phelps in *Matilda the Musical*, and Noyesy in *Five Carols for Christmas*. Shanna is honored to work with such an amazing cast, director, and production team. She would like to thank her family for their support, especially her daughter, Jada, who is her inspiration.



Cheryl DeCristofaro (Storyteller) was born and raised in Providence, RI where she graduated with a double major in Theatre Arts and Education. During that time, Cheryl worked on costumes, props, and as a stage manager. Her onstage experience includes *Hello, Dolly!* (Ensemble and the Rear End of the Dancing Horse), *Oklahoma!* (Ensemble and Pigtails), and *The Pajama Game* (Mabel). Cheryl fondly remembers sharing the stage in *Hello, Dolly!* with then-classmate Lyn Tucci (who later appeared on TV in *Orange is the New Black*). After years away from theatre, she is thrilled to be making her ACT debut in *Bright Star!* She currently lives in Hendersonville with her wife, Anne Garren, and their two dogs, Dolly and Maisie.

ABOUT THE CAST



Taylor Malajati (Storyteller) is a born-and-raised mountain woman from Asheville, she can't think of a better show to welcome her back from a 10 year theatre hiatus! Taylor would like to say to all the beautiful members of her family, both acquired at birth and chosen along the way, a big "I love y'all with all my heart." And a very special thank you to her mom for always showing up to the big moments to cheer her on, usually with cotton candy but always with unconditional love and support.



Spike Thompson (Storyteller) is a newbie at ACT, but theatre has always been a part of their life. Growing up in Florida, Spike found great challenge and comfort on and behind the stage. *Bright Star* is the first production Spike has been a part of since 2020. Spike is not only excited to be on this journey alongside a stellar cast, but even more excited for audiences to experience a story that is one we can all relate to: what it means to forgive and remain open for love to find its way back to you.



Carolyn Reeves (Storyteller) is honored to be making her second appearance on the ACT stage after playing Heidi in *[title of show]* last season. Having spent the last couple of decades doing colorful things like living on a circus train, gigging around the globe as a blues and jazz singer, earning a non-profitable graduate degree, and pouring her heart and soul into a small-but-mighty repertoire of original songs, she's delighted to be reconnected with musical theatre and the wonderful people therein. Favorite past roles include Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Tanya in *Mamma Mia*. In her free time, she likes to dance, write, and strategize about how the arts can address the climate crisis. She sends her love and gratitude to everyone involved in this production- all of whom inspire and challenge her to be better!

ABOUT THE CAST



Jan Dixon (Storyteller) would like to thank the cast and crew and their family and friends for supporting community theatre. Jan is a graduate from community college and UNCA. Go Bulldogs, Panthers and Tarheels. Enjoy the show!

ABOUT THE BAND



David Bruce (Percussion) has played in over 100 musicals throughout western North Carolina over the past 20 years. Some of these have been at Asheville Community Theatre. He's played 5 shows in the orchestra pit, and 5 on stage as part of the show. He's also done several shows in the intimate theater downstairs at 35 Below. David is excited to be playing live music again, especially on the stage!



Tim Doyle (Acoustic Guitar & Archtop Electric Guitar) is a 30-year veteran of the guitar and holds degrees from the University of North Carolina Greensboro and Indiana State University. Tim developed and has directed the annual resident, summer Rock Camp for Indiana State University Community School of the Arts since 2012. Tim is currently teaching as an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina Asheville. There he directs the UNCA Contemporary Guitar Ensemble, is on staff of the UNCA Summer Jazz and Contemporary Music Intensive, and

teaches private guitar lessons. He also teaches for the Music Academy Asheville and Program Director for their middle and high school program, Rock Academy.

ABOUT THE BAND



Bucky Hanks (Banjo & Acoustic Guitar), an Asheville native, has been married to his wife Linda for 52 years, and has two sons Micah and Caleb - both of whom are musicians. Bucky retired as priest from the Episcopal Church at the end of 2021 after 21 years of service. He plays several string instruments: banjo, guitar, mandolin, and fiddle. Bucky has played in musicals at Flatrock Playhouse, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, and was part of the band in the musical *Honky Tonk Angels* at ACT along with Marty Lewis and Brad Curtioff. He supposes you could call him the "senior" member of the band AND he's very happy to be part of it!



Marty Lewis (Mandolin, Steel Guitar, & Acoustic Guitar) is an Asheville native, from a musical family... notably known for their performing and recording as local bluegrass band Sons of Ralph. He is happy to return to the ACT stage after having been in the bands for *Honky Tonk Angels*, *The Great American Trailer Park*, and *Snowbound*.



Leo Henry (Fiddle) is a violinist and a student at Nesbitt Discovery Academy. He is the concertmaster of Nesbitt Discovery Orchestra, 2023 Buncombe All-County Orchestra, and a member of the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra and Western Regional Orchestra. He is an avid chess player and also plays the trombone.

ABOUT THE BAND



Ben Sharp (Cello) is the strings teacher at Nesbitt Discovery Academy, Reynolds Middle/High School, and Cane Creek Middle School. He has performed various musicals with North Carolina Summer Rep, UNCG, and High Point Community Theatre, and is excited to join the Asheville Community Theatre band for *Bright Star*!



Sara Nichols (Bass) is a bass-playing Buncombe girl who can frequently be seen on orchestra and theaters across the region. Sara attended Mars Hill University and by day serves as a regional planner. In addition to her performance work, Sara is also a dedicated teacher, sharing her knowledge and expertise with aspiring musicians of all ages. She is known for her patience, enthusiasm, and ability to bring out the best in her students, and has helped many young bass players find their own voice and style. Sara's performed in several other musicals at ACT and is excited to be a part of this rock star program!



Bob Songster (Bass) began performing and studying music at a young age, starting with piano, violin and clarinet; later he developed a love for the guitar, and then the bass. He received his Masters of Music Performance Degree from the University Denver's Lamont School of Music, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Colorado. As a versatile performer he has had the opportunity to play with many of Asheville's finest musicians, including Michael Jefry Stevens, Billy Cardine, William Bares, Alan Hall and many others. Before moving to Asheville, Bob has performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Five Points Jazz Festival, the Salida Jazz Festival. When he's not playing or teaching music Bob enjoys whitewater kayaking and hiking with his wonderful wife, Emily and amazing dog Tootsie.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM



Kristen Johnson Dominguez (Music Director) Kristen Dominguez is honored to return to Asheville Community Theatre, this time as music director, with her long-time friend, Mark Jones. Over the past 20 years, she has served as accompanist and musical director for productions at ACT, Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, and Diana Wortham Theatre. Kristen serves as full-time Minister of Music and Creative Worship at Hominy Baptist Church in Candler. Kristen holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from UNC Greensboro. Kristen is very excited to work with this talented cast, crew, and band made up of so many of Asheville's finest musicians!



Jessica Garland Lowe (Choreographer) has a BA in Music Ed from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and teaches at Flat Rock Middle School. As a seventh generation native of WNC, *Bright Star* has a special place in her heart. Jessica made her choreographical debut at ACT in 2016 with *Seussical: The Musical*. She most recently choreographed *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at HART. Other favorites include: *The Fantastics* (ACT), *Legally Blonde* (HART) and *Mamma Mia* (HART). She would like to thank her amazing husband Derek for being so supportive, Mark for giving her this opportunity, and this amazing cast for being so hardworking, positive, and fun!



Anne Garren (Stage Manager) asks "what could be better" than working on this most beautiful production of *Bright Star*? She has enjoyed working on a big musical again, with the talented cast and design team on this show. Anne was most-recently Stage Manager for *Elf*, and has been for several other shows at ACT, and she is honored to be serving in that role again for this production. She is grateful to have been part of the ACT family since *Young Frankenstein* and cherishes the experiences she's had and the friendships she's made. Anne thanks Mark, Kristen, Jessica and the talented cast and creative team for all of their hard work, and il suo amante Cheryl for all of the love and support!

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM

Jill Summers (Set Designer) has been working full time at ACT since 2009 after graduating from UNC Asheville with a degree in technical production concentrated in scenic design. This show marks her 70th Mainstage production and her 35th scenic design for ACT. Her past designs includes *Native Gardens*, *Elf*, *Clue*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Avenue Q*, *The Full Monty*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Jill is thrilled to be doing *Bright Star* as she was raised on Steve Martin's comedy albums, and blue grass has always been in her blood. Though born in Charlotte, both sides of her family come from the Blue Ridge Mountains. Moving to Asheville as an adult felt like coming home, and she hopes the show makes you feel the same.

Nicki LaRue (Production Coordinator) is thrilled to assist with the production of *Bright Star!* She enthusiastically brings her eclectic experience to our theatre staff and community. With a certification from Tom Savini's Special Makeup Effects Program, she is trained in practical makeup effects, prop-building, sculpture, fabrication, and graphic design. Aside from designing and creating props, graphics, puppets, hair and makeup for ACT productions, she is also responsible for coordinating our production volunteer activities. If you're interested in getting involved, she's the one to talk to!

Ida Bostian (Costumes) is pleased to be working with the Asheville Community Theatre once more and to be designing costumes for *Bright Star*. This is her 14th season with the company, and she is happy to learn and grow with each show. She is currently teaching costuming and makeup at Brevard College. Some of Ida's favorite designs for ACT include *Seussical*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *La Cage aux Folles*. Ida is happy to have worked with many area theatres, including NC Stage Company, Parkway Playhouse, SART, Flat Rock, Occasional Theatre Company, Bright Star, The Warehouse Theatre and GLOW. Enjoy the show!

Casey Clennon (Sound Engineer) is thrilled to continue her work with Asheville Community Theatre. This will be her fourth design for ACT, previously having worked on *Fight Girl Battle World*, *Transition*, and [title of show]. Other design credits include *Metamorphoses* with TheatreUNCA, *Nothing's Happening: A Black Mountain College Project* with TheatreUNCA in conjunction with SITI Company for the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and *Birds of North America* and *Great Falls* with Mockingbird Productions. The energy the cast and crew brought to this show from the beginning has been the best part of this show for her, and she hopes that the audience now gets to experience the same love and joy she did the first time she saw the cast perform.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Mark Jones (Director) has been involved in all aspects of theatre in Western North Carolina and Virginia for the last 35 years. Some of his favorite roles include: Buddy Holly in *BUDDY: The Buddy Holly Story*, John in *john & jen*, Corny Collins in *Hairspray*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Lurch in *The Addams Family*, Robert Anne in *Nunsense A-Men*, and The Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. Mark has also directed many productions, including: *Assassins*, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Seussical*, *Snowbound*, *Ghost: The Musical*, *Zombie Prom*, *Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Musical*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Putting It Together*, *Songs For a New World*, *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Fantasticks*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Mamma Mia*, and *13 the Musical*. Mark would like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work on this very special production.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Bright Star is a powerful work of American musical theater that brings to life a vibrant community of characters, each with a unique and compelling story to tell. From love and loss to redemption and the search for identity, the show touches on deep and universal themes that resonate with audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

At its heart, *Bright Star* is a story about family and the ties that bind us together, both in the literal sense and in the broader sense of community and belonging. Set against the backdrop of the American South, the show celebrates the region's rich literary and musical culture, while also exploring the complexities of its history and identity.

For me personally, *Bright Star* has a special significance because it takes place in Asheville, which has been home to my family for generations. I am proud to be a part of this production and to share our community's stories with the world.

So sit back and let the music and story of *Bright Star* sweep you away, like the rushing waters of a river. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

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Asheville Community Theatre is honored by all levels of support from businesses and individuals. Donations are used for everything from scholarships to sequins – and anything else that can make our community theatre exciting and accessible. This list includes donations given April 1, 2022 through March 30, 2023.



We are proud to sponsor
Bright Star and to celebrate
the rich cultural heritage of
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