

# Bright

LIVE AT THE WORM CREEK OPERA HOUSE



# Bright Star

Inspired By a True Event

Music, Book, and Story by Steve Martin

Music, Lyrics, and Story Edie Brickell

Directed & Choreographed by Jen Caldwell

Music Directed by Jon Wright

Technical Director John Caldwell

Bright Star is presented through special arrangement with Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by TRW

# **Program Notes**

How far would you go to uncover the truth about your past? With music composed by Grammy, Emmy, and Academy Award winner Steve Martin and Grammy winning artist Edie Brickell, Tony nominated Best Musical Bright Star demonstrates how one secret can change the course of your story. Taking inspiration from the true story of the "Iron Mountain Baby" in 1902,the collaboration between Martin's book and Brickell's lyrics brings audiences back to North Carolina at the end of World War II with flashbacks to 1923.

When Alice Murphy, the strong-willed editor for the Asheville Southern Journal, hires the ambitious, yet naive, young Billy Cane, she develops a strange liking to the soldier and his writings. This unexpected connection prompts flashbacks to 1923 and events in Alice's young, carefree life in Zebulon that she has struggled to completely understand. In her desperate search for answers, she uncovers a truth that will change both of their lives. Her story of love, heartbreak, and hope takes audiences on an engaging journey of the human spirit and perseverance.

"Love can often be expressed in a way that makes you cringe. You feel like it's corny somehow. We hoped that we could express it in a way that would inspire authentic feelings."

#### - Edie Brickell

On August 14, 1902, the original Iron Mountain Baby, William Moses Gould Helms, was found at a river's edge off of Southeast Missouri train tracks at 5 days old in a suitcase filled with clothes and diapers, all embroidered with the letter "B." A few days later, local minister, John Barton, composed the song "Iron Mountain Baby," and the story spread across the country. People flocked to the Helms' home, and many women claimed to be his mother but could never show any proof. William and Sarah Helms cared for the boy as their own until he moved and became a newspaper editor in Fair Grove, Missouri. Martin and Brickell wrote their own version of the song titled "Sarah Jane and the Iron Mountain Baby," which inspired them to write Bright Star.

"You have a baby discovered in a suitcase — it needs a mother and a father. There needs a reason for that baby to have been thrown. You just start moving backwards, and the characters step up to you and say, 'Yeah, you need me.'"

#### - Steve Martin

Bright Star was nominated for 5 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Original Score, and the 2016 winner of both the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Broadway Musical. The Appalachian Bluegrass score showcases the talent of Martin and Brickell's unique partnership that spans beyond the Broadway stage. Two songs from their first album Love Has Come For You (2013), When You Get to Asheville and Sun's Gonna Shine, were modified to be included in the musical with others from their album, So Familiar.



# **AUDITIONS!**

April 3rd and 4th
Sign up online at RiversideProductions.org



# Scenes and Musical Numbers

### **ACT ONE**

Scene 1
If You Knew My StoryAlice, Ensemble
Scene 2
She's GoneDaddy Cane, Billy
Scene 3
Bright StarBilly, Ensemble
Scene 4
Way Back In The DayAlice, Ensemble
Scene 5
Whoa, MamaJimmy Ray, Alice, Ensemble
Scene 6
Firmer Hand/Do RightDaddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Alice, Ensemble
Scene 7
A Man's Gotta DoMayor, Jimmy Ray
Scene 8
Scene 9
Asheville
Picnic DanceStanford Scene 10
What Could Be BetterJimmy Ray, Alice, Ensemble
Scene 11
Scene 12
I Can't Wait pt. IAlice, Ensemble
Scene 13
I Can't Wait pt. IIAlice, Jimmy Ray, Ensemble
Scene 14
Scene 15
Please, Don't Take HimMayor, Alice, Mama, Daddy Murphy, Ensemble
Scene 16
A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise)Mayor, Ensemble

# THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

# Scenes and Musical Numbers

### **ACT TWO**

ACT I WO
Scene 0
Sun's Gonna ShineAlice, Mama Murphy, Margo, Florence, Edna,
Daddy Cane, Ensemble
Scene 1
HeartbreakerJimmy Ray
Scene 2
Another RoundAlice, Daryl, Billy, Ensemble
Scene 3
Scene 4
Scene 5
I Had A VisionAlice, Jimmy Ray
Scene 6
Always WillMargo, Billy, Ensemble
Scene 7
Sun's Gonna Shine (Reprise)Mama Murphy
Scene 8
I Can't Wait (Reprise)Spirits
So Familiar / At Long LastAlice, Ensemble
Scene 9
FinaleAlice, Jimmy Ray, Margo, Billy, Ensemble



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# Cast

# In Order of Appearance

Alice Murphy	Rivkah Wright
Billy Cane	
Daddy Cane	
Margo	
Edna	
Florence	
Max	
Daryl	Davin Griffith
Lucy	
Jimmy Ray	
Daddy Murphy	
Mama Murphy	
Mayor	John Caldwell
Stanford	
Dr. Norquist	Paul Swainston
Clerk	
Well-Dressed Woman	Makel Kunz

# **Ensemble**

Rose Dyer, Morgan Jenkins, Elena Kunz, Brooklyn Kunz, Elsie McKague, Caimbrey Turnbow

### The Band

Piano/Accordian	Rachael Allred
Fiddle	Jill Durrant
Viola/Violin	Stacey Keller
Cello	Katherine Mueller
Banjo/Guitar	Kelin Gibbons
Guitar	Luke Weaver
Mandolin	Violet Conrad
Bass	Nick Nielson
Drums/Percussion	Kimee Atkinson

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# **PERFORMANCES**

October 18, 19, 21 October 25, 26, 28



# Stage Crew

Lights & Sound Spot Operator	Sara Jenkins Brad Parker Jen Caldwell Caimbrey Turnbow, Claudine McKague, Elsie McKague
Props	Jen Caldwell, Sara Jenkins, Rose Dyer, Claudine McKague
	John Caldwell, Ean & Makel Kunz, David Steele, Davin Griffith, Rose Dyer, Ami Phillips, Jordan Turnbow, Caimbrey Turnbow, Jana Bontrager, Sara Bontrager, Scott Bontrager, Benjamin Bontrager, Sara Jenkins, Claudine McKague, Elsie McKague, Michael Barton, Lily Barton
Hair & Makeup	Katie Purser, Rivkah Wright, Morgan Jenkins, Gracie Caldwell
PR & Marketing Special Mentions	

# **HELP US IMPROVE**

We would love to hear from you! As we are a new performing arts group in Preston, we want to connect with our community. If you could take a few minutes and fill out the survey below, it will really help us know how to better provide services and experiences that appeal to our patrons.

Thank you for helping us do a better job for you!!





# **Donors & Sponsors**

At Riverside Productions, we recognize that our donors & sponsors are the true stars of our shows. Their partnership and belief in supporting the arts allows our performers to gain a wide array of theatrical training and experience, while also allowing our patrons of all ages to experience and explore the magic of the theatre regardless of income or background.

# Thank You!

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