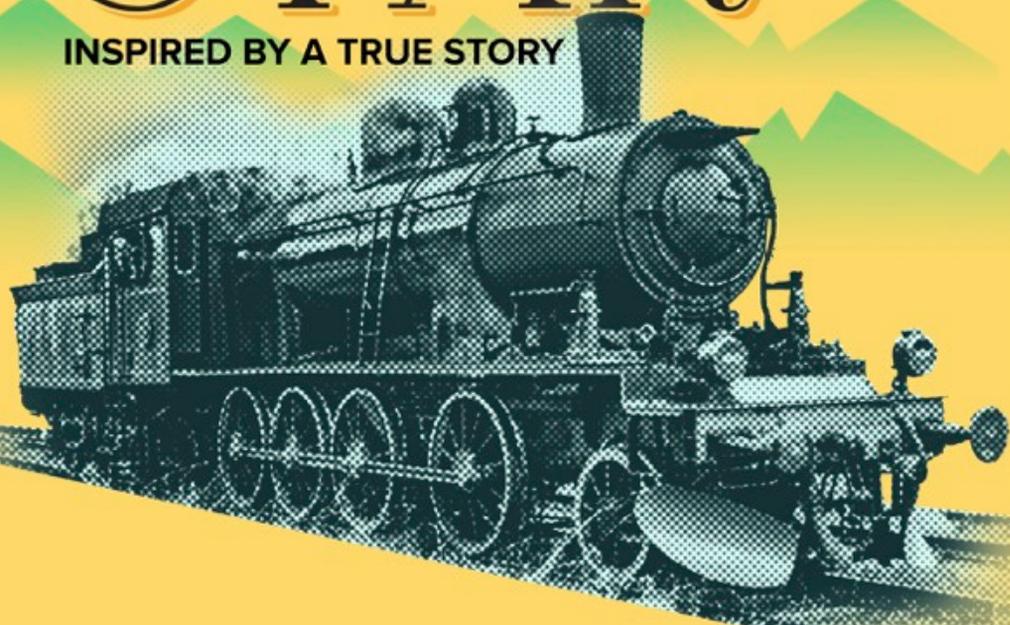


ALABAMA SCHOOL *of* THE ARTS
ROGER BRELAND CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

-presents-

BRIGHT STAR

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY



Music, Book & Story
by Steve Martin

Music, Book & Story
by Edie Brickell

Alison Wilks • Director

Dr. Christopher Lovely • Conductor

FEB 17-19 at 7PM & FEB 20 at 3PM

Saraland Performing Arts Center

\$20 General Admission \$10 Students UMOBILE.EDU/PAS

Produced by: Joey Parnes, Sue Wagner, John Johnson, Zebulon LLC, Jay Alix & Una Jackman, Len Blavatnik, James L. Nederlander, Carson & Joseph Gleberman, Balboa Park Productions, The Shubert Organization, Jamie deRoy/Catherine Adler/Cricket Jiranek

In Association With: Rodger Hess, A.C. Orange International, Broadway Across America, Sally Jacobs & Warren Baker, Diana DiMenna, Exeter Capital, Agnes Gund, True Love Productions, And The Old Globe



UNIVERSITY
of MOBILE

Production

<i>Director</i>	Alison Wilks
<i>Associate Director</i>	Malinda Powers
<i>Music Director & Conductor</i>	Dr. Christopher Lovely
<i>Choreographer</i>	Jacob Rowe
<i>Intimacy Director/Stage Manager</i>	Tabitha Robinson
<i>Set Design/Technical Director</i>	Kristina Swearingen
<i>Assistant Technical Director</i>	Kamron Glover
<i>Technologies Director</i>	James Collingsworth
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Perry Stone
<i>Costume Design</i>	Malinda Powers
<i>Costuming Assistant</i>	Angel Sneed
	Hannah Grace Smith
<i>Hair & Makeup Design</i>	Lizzy Griffin
<i>Hair & Makeup Assistant</i>	Claire Strong
<i>Props Manager</i>	Savannah Newman
	Hannah Grace Smith
<i>Paint Charge</i>	Carley Duet
<i>Master Carpenter</i>	Camden Jewell
<i>Carpenters</i>	Parker Powers
	Kathan Brannon
	Bright Star Cast
<i>Dramaturge</i>	Hannah Grace Smith
<i>Dance Captain</i>	Taylor Kroop
<i>Assistant Dance Captain</i>	Paige Davis
<i>Stage Hand</i>	Karli Alaniz
<i>Audio Technician</i>	Cheyenne Burge
<i>Audio Assistant</i>	Josh Clackler
<i>Video Director</i>	Savannah Waldo
<i>Camera Operator</i>	Connor Duckett
	Chad Rivers
<i>Lighting Assistant</i>	Isaiah Milligan
<i>House & Box-Office Manager</i>	Shadoe Valentin
	Erika West

Note from the Director

Each year there's a "room" and in said room, the season for the next academic year is selected; operas, musicals, plays and so on. Preparing for the decisions made there takes time, exhaustive research, and continuous questioning of things like, "do we have tenors who can sing this?", "are there enough female roles to give our current students the best season possible?", and so on... Then, there's the question I personally find the most challenging, "does this story work for who we are as a university and also prepare our students for successful careers in this industry after graduation?"

I will be honest with you all. This show was a tough one for me. Conversations were had and further questions were asked of people with more wisdom than I. This is where I have landed.

As you experience the story of "Bright Star," you will be introduced to characters inspired by real people. This incredible journey is based on real-life events and, in real life, people make tough decisions. Some are incredibly incorrect, some brilliantly poignant, while some make choices that don't reflect exactly what we would like them to – yet based on who we know Jesus to be and how He loves us, their stories are still worth telling.

As I have continued to work with our incredible students in preparation for the experience of this performance, we have been able to have beautifully deep conversations about where man has been in history, how women have walked through times without a voice or autonomy, and how running to things like alcohol may provide momentary relief but leave you empty-handed.

Note from the Director, Continued...

This work has allowed us to explore how the ugliest of circumstances can turn into beautiful moments of restoration. Isn't that exactly what we get to learn about Jesus? It is the work done on our behalf that allows us to walk in the truth that "all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28). While this is not a show presenting a direct representation of the Gospel, it has reminded me so much of the book of Esther and how we see an entire group of people walk through impossible circumstances, seeing God move, yet God's name is not mentioned once in the whole book. Through this entire process, I truly hope each person in this production has developed a deeper understanding of just how precious the hope we have in Jesus is, and a greater empathy for those who are walking through their own dark nights of the soul.

I am so excited you get to experience this story with us. I cannot wait for you to meet the characters we have all grown so fond of. It will be an adventure but, I promise, it's an adventure worth taking!

To the cast, production team, and crew, thank you for creating such a beautiful work. It has truly been a privilege.

Alison Wilks
Director, Bright Star



Alison Wilks, Director

Originally from north Alabama, Alison Wilks, graduated in 2009 from the University of Mobile with two bachelor's degrees and immediately began teaching. With a B.A. in Theatre and B.A. in Psychology, Alison taught both theatre and journalism as the Theatre Department Chair for a high school in northwest Florida. Her pursuit to further her education landed her at Liberty University, where she received a graduate assistantship and completed her M.A. in Strategic Communications. After completing her graduate studies, Alison returned to Alabama to serve on staff for a non-profit specializing in social and education equity. Alison is a valued ASOTA staff & adjunct faculty member, where she serves as Director of Communications, adjunct instructor for Theatre and Production Technologies, Director of ASOTA graduate services, Production Director for ASOTA's largest productions, a Director for the Theatre Department's mainstage musicals and plays, costume & makeup designer consultant and the Director of Miss University of Mobile program. Her most recent productions with ASOTA include "Daddy Long Legs", "Little Women" and "Steel Magnolias".



Malinda Powers, Associate Director

Malinda Powers, hailing from Chipley, Florida, is a proud graduate of the University of Mobile, where she earned both a Master of Arts in musical theatre and a Bachelor of Music in musical theatre. During her undergraduate studies, she traveled with Voices of Mobile from 2017 to 2019. Malinda is currently the voice instructor for Bay Area Performing Arts and is an adjunct faculty instructor at the University of Mobile.



Dr. Christopher Lovely, Music Director & Conductor

Dr. Christopher Lovely is associate professor of music at the University of Mobile and currently teaches courses in Music Theory and Vocal Coaching. He also serves on the graduate faculty, and as Director of Music Theory Studies. In 2010 Christopher was invited to join the faculty of the summer program, International Performing Arts Institute, as principal coach in Kiefersfelden, Germany, and has performed at Carnegie Hall, in Alaska with Voices of Mobile, and on the island of Nevis in the West Indies. Since his start at UM, Christopher has worked as keyboardist, assistant musical director, and conductor in various UM Performing Arts Series operatic and musical theatre events. Since 2017, Christopher has served as minister of music at Christ Fellowship Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama. He holds degrees in Church Music, Piano Accompanying, and Conducting.



Jacob Rowe, Choreographer

Jacob Rowe is the artistic & executive director of The PACT Theatre Company, leading them to become one of the fastest growing theatre companies in the Southeast. Under his helm, The PACT has received top honors at national and international theatre competitions and produced multiple award-winning productions. Jacob attended The University of Alabama studying Musical Theatre, Dance, and Directing. While at The University of Alabama, Jacob was the production manager for Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre and Dance Alabama. He spent the summer of 2018 as the Director of musical theatre at the world-renowned French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts in New York. Jacob is the youngest recipient of Mobile Bay Magazine's 40 Under 40 and he is an ambassador for The Mobile Chamber of Commerce. Jacob is currently working on multiple productions in Mobile and is on the creative teams for multiple musicals and productions in development.

Cast

<i>Alice Murphy</i>	Abigail Anderson
<i>Billy Cane</i>	Josh Hery
<i>Daddy Cane</i>	Greg Naman
<i>Margo Crawford</i>	Hannah Grace Smith*
<i>Max</i>	Nathan Irvin
<i>Florence</i>	Lizzy Griffin
<i>Edna</i>	Grace Dunn**
<i>Daryl Ames</i>	Cory Anderson
<i>Lucy Grant</i>	Lauren Routledge
<i>Mama Murphy</i>	Taylor Kroop
<i>Daddy Murphy</i>	Dustin Gonzales
<i>Mayor Josiah Dobbs</i>	Camden Jewell
<i>Jimmy Ray Dobbs</i>	Kathan Brannon
<i>Stanford</i>	Erin Biglane
<i>Dr. Norquist</i>	CJ Helt
<i>Government Clerk</i>	Sabina Mana-ay
<i>Well-Dressed Woman</i>	Claudia Dahlman
<i>Young Daddy Cane</i>	Nathan Blake
<i>Ensemble</i>	Lisa Rosado Rivera
	Tiffany Aikens
	Paige Davis

*Alice Murphy understudy

**Margo Crawford understudy

Orchestra

<i>Keyboard</i>	Dr. Christopher Lovely
<i>Mandolin</i>	Rebecca Hicks
<i>Banjo</i>	Noah Hayes
<i>Double Bass</i>	Jonathan Parker
<i>Percussion</i>	William Langely



Abigail Anderson as Alice Murphy

Currently residing in Saraland, Alabama, Abigail Anderson is a senior Vocal Performance major from the University of Mobile. With experience in both classical and musical theatre settings, Abigail has had the opportunity to portray operatic and theatrical roles including Aunt March in “Little Women,” Madame Herz in Mozart’s “The Impresario,” and Mrs. Soames in “Our Town.” She is thankful for her family, her husband, Cory, her baby to be, her voice teacher, the production staff and cast of “Bright Star”.



Joshua Hery as Billy Cane

This is Joshua Hery’s second show at the University of Mobile. He is in Alabama Repertory Company (REP), an educational theatre ensemble and University Singers in the Alabama School of the Arts. Josh is a first-year transfer student from Katy, Texas, majoring in Theatre with a focus in directing. He has enjoyed taking on the role of Billy Cane in this production of “Bright Star” and hopes you have a great time and enjoy show!



Greg Naman as Daddy Cane

Greg Naman is a junior at the University of Mobile double-majoring in Acting Performance and Communications. Since beginning the school year, he has performed as Lucas Beineke in “The Addams Family,” served as the dance captain for “The Spitfire Grill,” and just recently closed a production of “Thoroughly Modern Millie”. He has so graciously enjoyed the opportunity to sing, dance, and create art with these beautiful people. He would like to thank his family, this wonderful production team, and this incredible cast. He hopes you enjoy the show, keep on shining!



Hannah Grace Smith as Margo Crawford
Alice Murphy understudy

Originally from Pensacola, Florida, Hannah Grace Smith is a junior currently working to receive her BFA in Musical Theatre under the direction of Dr. Maryann Kyle. Recent credits include Jerusha Abbott in “Daddy Long Legs,” Beth March in “Little Women,” and Shelby in “The Spitfire Grill.” Hannah Grace is thrilled to be involved in presenting such a beautiful story of love, redemption, and forgiveness. She would like to dedicate this performance to her grandmother, Kathy.



Nathan Irvin as Max
Ensemble

Nathan Irvin is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Worship Leadership with a Certificate in Theatre from Opelika, Alabama. Nathan enjoys theatre and has held roles as Lord Capulet in “Romeo & Juliet” and Oberon in “A Midsummer Night's Dream.” Most recently, he was a part of the ensemble in the University of Mobile’s production of “The Spitfire Grill.” Nathan would like to thank his family and friends for all their support throughout his aspirations.



Lizzy Griffin as Florence
Ensemble

Lizzy Griffin earned her bachelor’s degree in music from Ouachita Baptist University and her master’s degree in vocal performance from the University of Mobile. Currently, she is completing her Master of Arts in Musical Theatre at the University of Mobile. From as early as she can remember, Elizabeth has felt most at home on the stage. Her favorite roles include Laetitia in “The Old Maid and the Thief,” Tonina in “Prima la Musica e Poi La Parole,” and Clairee in “Steel Magnolias.” Her other interests include stage makeup design, cooking and reading. Lizzy would like to thank God, her parents Steve and Joy, and her teacher, Dr. Kyle.



Grace Dunn as Edna
Margo Crawford understudy & Ensemble

Grace Dunn is junior BFA Musical Theatre Major at the University of Mobile from Spanish Fort, Alabama. Her most recent roles include Ouiser in “Steel Magnolias” and Beth in Everblue’s production of “Little Women.” Grace would like to thank her family for always supporting her dreams, no matter how crazy they might be, and for reminding her to follow God’s plan for her life, no matter how crazy THAT might be.



Cory Anderson as Daryl Ames

L. Cory Anderson II is an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Mobile, where he studies with Dr. Lori Guy. A native of Mobile, Alabama his recent credits include Paris in Gounod’s “Roméo et Juliette” and Guccio in Puccini’s “Gianni Schicchi.” Cory is elated to be involved in such a beautiful production and thankful for the opportunity to “get his feet wet” in the musical theatre world. He would like to dedicate this performance to his wife, Abigail Anderson, and future child due in August — “I had a vision of how our life would be, full of love and laughter and sweet harmony...” - Bright Star a New Musical.



Lauren Routledge as Lucy Grant

Lauren Routledge is a junior Musical Theatre Major at the University of Mobile who is grateful for every role she’s had the opportunity to take on. Lauren states, “Each role stretches me and allows me to grow both as a performer and a woman” and is grateful for every person who has trusted her to portray these characters effectively. Some of her recent roles include M’Lynn in “Steel Magnolias,” Mrs. Webb in “Our Town,” and played Soprano at The Carey Dinner Theatre’s “The All-Night Strut.”



Taylor Kroop as Mama Murphy
Ensemble

Taylor Kroop is from Boynton Beach, Florida. Taylor attended Catawba College in North Carolina where she received a BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in Music. Taylor is currently completing her Master of Arts in Musical Theatre at the University of Mobile. She recently worked with Everblue Arts in “Little Women” as Meg March, Cassie Blaylock in “The Mayfair Affair” at the University of Mobile, and P.T Wonder touring with Missoula Children’s Theatre in “Jack and the Beanstalk.” Taylor would like to thank her family and her fiancé, Jonathan, for always supporting her.



Dustin Gonzales as Daddy Murphy

Dustin Gonzales is excited to play Daddy Murphy in this production of “Bright Star” at the University of Mobile. Dustin is currently getting his Master of Vocal Performance and will be graduating in the spring. You might have seen Dustin in other UM productions such as “The Mayfair Affair” as John Mayfair, “The Old Maid and the Thief” as Bob, and “The Spitfire Grill” as Caleb Thorpe. Dustin has also appeared in local productions including Everblue Arts’ “Band Geeks” as Elliott and FestivalSouth’s Tribute Concert “The British Invasion.”



Camden Jewell as Mayor Josiah Dobbs

Camden Jewell is excited to take on the role of the Mayor in this production of “Brightstar.” Although Camden is often found behind the scenes as part of the production team, he still enjoys his moments on the stage. This is Camden’s first leading role in a musical while at the University of Mobile and is excited for the challenge. When he isn’t acting, Camden enjoys directing, especially film – a career he seeks to pursue after graduation. In his off time, he likes to spend time with his friends and, more importantly, his dogs. Camden would like to thank his Mom and Dad for their constant love and support.



Kathan Brannon as Jimmy Ray Dobbs

Kathan Brannon is a senior at the University of Mobile from Navarre, Florida, and is excited to be a part of this production of “Bright Star.” He’s played multiple roles over his last two years with the Alabama School of the Arts including Mr. Laurence in “Little Women,” Sam Ingersoll in “The Mayfair Affair,” and most recently, Joe in “The Spitfire Grill.” He would like to thank his teachers, friends, and family for their support, and all of you for coming!



Erin Biglane as Stanford
Ensemble

Erin Biglane is a junior Music Education major from Ellisville, Mississippi. Erin enjoys theatre and has been a part of various productions throughout her years. Past roles include Anna Maria in “Godspell,” Sandy in “Grease,” and was a part of the ensemble for “Hello, Dolly!” This is her first musical with the University of Mobile and she is very grateful to be in this production with such wonderful colleagues!



CJ Helt as Dr. Norquist
Ensemble

CJ Helt is a junior Acting Major at the University of Mobile. A Pensacola native, he’s had the opportunity to join the Pensacola Ballet in their production of the Nutcracker as a Parent and was Prince Phillipe in Pensacola Little Theatre’s production of “Snow White & The Prince”. He would like to thank his director, Alison Wilks, for the opportunity to perform with this amazing cast in this production of “Bright Star.”



Sabina Mana-ay as Government Clerk
Ensemble

Sabina Mana-ay is a BFA Musical Theatre Major at the University of Mobile from Long Beach, Mississippi. Some of her previous roles include Leila from Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe," Iris in Shakespeare's "The Tempest," and Alice Bieneke in "The Addams Family Musical." When not on stage, Sabina enjoys working on props for shows and university productions. She hopes you enjoy this production of "Bright Star!"



Claudia Dahlman as Well-Dressed Woman
Ensemble

Claudia Dahlman is a graduate student at the University of Mobile pursuing her MA degree in Musical Theatre. Hailing from Houston, Texas, she is quite comfortable on stage with roles like Cathy Hyatt in "The Last Five Years," Viola in Shakespeare's "12th Night," and Truvy Jones in "Steel Magnolias." Claudia hopes you enjoy this beautiful show!



Nathan Blake as Young Daddy Cane
Ensemble

Nathan Blake is a sophomore Music Education major from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and is excited to make his university musical theatre debut with the cast of "Bright Star." His previous roles include The Tin Man from "The Wizard of Oz," Leaf Coneybear from "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," and understudied the role of Bob in the opera, "The Old Maid and the Thief." Nathan would like to thank Alison Wilks and his cast-mates for making this production an unforgettable experience.



Lisa Rosado Rivera
Ensemble

Lisa Rosado Rivera is a graduate student pursuing a Vocal Performance master's degree at the University of Mobile. She is from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and has two bachelor's degrees in vocal and acting performance at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana. Throughout her life, Lisa has held various positions in choirs and traveling ministry groups, and served as choreographer and soloist for musical theatre and classical productions. Doing "Bright Star" for the second time in her career has been a wonderful experience and she looks forward to future opportunities.



Tiffany Aikens
Ensemble

From Birmingham, Alabama, Tiffany Aikens is a Vocal Performance major at the University of Mobile. She is in the third year of her undergraduate program and has performed in the Alabama School of the Arts' Opera and Musical Theater Scenes Programs and their production of Gounod's "Romeo et Juliette." She would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support.



Paige Davis
Ensemble

Paige Davis from West Point, Mississippi, is excited to be part of the ensemble in this cast and serve as assistant dance captain. Some of her roles and productions before University of Mobile include Maria in "The Sound of Music," Gertrude in "Seussical," and Adaperle in "The Wiz," to name a few. Julianna wants to say how proud she is of everyone in this cast and that she appreciates all of the hard work that has been put into it. She has loved getting to know each and every one in the cast and she can not wait to be in more productions with them. Julianna wishes the cast to Break a Leg and hopes you enjoy the show!



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