

## **BRIGHT STAR**

Inspired By A True Story

Music, Book and Story by Steve Martin | Music, Lyrics, and Story by Edie Brickell

### **SYNOPSIS**

**BRIGHT STAR** tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past—and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives. With beautiful melodies and powerfully moving characters, the story unfolds as a rich tapestry of deep emotion. An uplifting theatrical journey that holds you tightly in its grasp, **BRIGHT STAR** is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful.

Rehearsals will begin mid-late June. Opening night is July 31st and will run through the weekend with strike following the final matinee performance. All cast members will be involved in song and dance numbers. Ensemble members will stay busy and need to be able to move well.

### **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN**

**Alice Murphy I** (Plays both 16-17 and 36-37 ) Alice at age 36-37 is an editor of a southern literary magazine; intelligent, professional – but with an air of melancholy. Young Alice at age 16-17 is rebellious, high-spirited, adventurous – looking to break out of small-town life and experience the world. She must be very strong singer and comfortable in folk and bluegrass styles. Vocal range: Very strong singer with a wide vocal range.

**Billy Cane I** A young soldier returning home from WWII; an aspiring young writer; fresh, open, optimistic, charming, and a little naïve. Vocal range: Bright, natural Bari-Tenor.

**Jimmy Ray Dobbs I** Plays both age 18-20 and 38-40. Jimmy Ray in his early 20s in flashbacks is Mayor Dobbs' son and young Alice's beau; handsome, boyishly charming, and intelligent; from a family of wealth and power. An independent thinker who is not afraid to stand up to his father for what he

believes in; he has a sense of personal responsibility and morality as well as a deep reserve of passion and emotion. The same actor will also play an adult Jimmy Ray at age 38-40. Vocal range: Very strong singer in a pop-folk style. Bari-Tenor.

**Mayor Josiah Dobbs** | The Mayor of Zebulon; a political and financial powerbroker – has a genuine interest in protecting his son’s future and his family name, but in doing so, is ultimately pushed to a point of irrevocable cruelty. Vocal range: Bass-Baritone

**Margo Crawford** | A small-town bookstore owner; a childhood friend of Billy’s who now harbors romantic feelings towards him; plucky with a keen intellect.

**Daddy Cane** | Billy’s father. A widower. Spry, kind hearted, if a bit lonely.

**Max** | A customer at Margo’s bookstore, at first, he has a crush on Margo, but later becomes Edna’s beau.

**Florence** | An employee at Margo’s bookstore and a childhood friend of both Billy and Margo.

**Edna** | An employee at Margo’s bookstore.

**Daryl Ames** | An assistant at a literary magazine. Funny, with a dry sense of humor. Insecure, and perhaps a bit socially awkward, but endearing.

**Lucy Grant** | A junior editor at a literary magazine. An ambitious, professional young “modern” career woman of the 1940’s. Strong, forthright and provocative with a sharp sense of humor.

**Mama Murphy** | Alice’s mother. A caretaker to her family and her rural community. A warm, loving, sensible woman.

**Daddy Murphy** | Alice’s father; an authoritative and a stern disciplinarian; devoutly religious, hard-working, a poor but proud farmer.

**Stanford** | Loyal assistant to Mayor Josiah Dobbs

**Dr. Norquist** | The local family doctor in Zebulon