

Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's *Bright Star* premieres in Seattle

"...tells a sentiment-spritzed story – of lives torn apart and made whole again..."
The New York Times

SEATTLE, WA – March 25, 2019 – **Steve Martin** and **Edie Brickell's** Drama Desk award-winning musical, *Bright Star*, is the uplifting and powerful tale of a simple summer romance blossoming into true love. Alice and Jimmy Ray's parents have forbidden their union, but the young couple is about to be propelled into a daring and unexpected future that spans decades. This Tony, Drama Desk and Grammy award-nominated musical will make your heart soar and your toes tap. Hold on, love is coming home.

"*Bright Star* is a new, exciting work where the story and the music are equally compelling and beautiful!" said director **Karen Lund**. "The writing team has a shrewd and prolific understanding of what makes good music and what makes for good storytelling. They are both masters and I'm looking forward to living in their world."

Bright Star won the 2016 Outer Critics Circle awards for Best Musical and Best Score, in addition to the Drama Desk award for Outstanding Music. It was nominated for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Book, Best Lead Actress in a Musical and Best Orchestrations at the 2016 Tony Awards.

Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$21-50 with discounts available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

Lund's previous Taproot directing credits include *Always... Patsy Cline*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Sweet Land*, *Persuasion* and *Godspell*.

The cast includes **Gloria Lee Alcalá** (Mamches Productions' *Disenchanted*) as Lucy Grant, **Rheanna Atendido** (5th Avenue's *Mamma Mia!*) as Edna, **Jeff Church** (ArtsWest's *Sweeney Todd*) as Daddy Cane/Dr. Norquist, **Connie Corrick** (ArtsWest's *Jane Eyre*) as Mama Murphy, **Eric Dobson** (5th Avenue's *Rock of Ages*) as Max, **Eric Polani Jensen** (Village Theatre's *Into the Woods*) as Mayor Josiah Dobbs, **MJ Jurgensen** (Village Theatre's *Matilda*) as Florence, **Edd Key** (Taproot Theatre's *Godspell*) as Daddy Murphy, **Brian Lange** (5th Avenue/ACT's *Urinetown*) as Daryl, **Brian Pucheu** (Taproot Theatre's *Miss Bennet*) as Jimmy Ray Dobbs, **Mike Spee** (Village Theatre's *Newsies*) as Billy Cane, **Miranda Antoinette Troutt** (Annex Theatre's *Silhouette*) as Margo Crawford, **Brenna Wagner** (Village Theatre's *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes*) as Alice Murphy and **Nick Watson** (Taproot Theatre's *Baskerville*) as Stanford.

The production team includes **R.J. Tancioco**, music director; **Katy Tabb**, choreographer; **Michael Nutting**, music director; **Nanette Acosta**, costume design; **Andrew Duff**, lighting design; **Mark Lund**, scenic and sound design; **Anne L. Hitt**, stage manager; **Zeapoe Matalda**, dramaturg and **Leah Fishbaugh**, dialect coach.

Taproot closes its 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season: *Family Ties* with the Richard Helleesen drama, *Necessary Sacrifices*.

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE

Post-Play Discussions: TTC staff and cast members will join the audience to discuss the play and its production process. Post-play discussions are held after every Wednesday performance (excluding Preview) and after the Midweek Matinee performance on July 16 at 2:00 PM.

Pay What You Can (PWYC): July 17 at 7:30 PM; a limited number of \$10 tickets are available at noon, tickets may be purchased in person or by phone (card fees may apply). Beginning at 5:00 PM, tickets are name-your-own-price; these tickets may be purchased in person only. Limit 4 tickets per person. Seating for PWYC performances is General Admission, there is no reserved seating. If you have accessible seating needs please call the Box Office directly.

Senior Matinee: July 16 (*post-play discussion*) at 2:00 PM; Our Senior Matinee program provides anyone aged 62 and older with an affordable way to participate in live theatre in convenient daytime performance.

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BRIGHT STAR FACT SHEET

WHAT: Taproot Theatre Company presents Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's *Bright Star*. *Under a serene North Carolina sunset, a simple summer romance blossoms into true love. When Alice and Jimmy Ray's parents forbid their union, the young couple are propelled into a daring future. Inspired by a true story, this powerful tale of love and redemption will make your heart soar and your toes tap. Hold on, love is coming home.*

WHEN: July 10 – August 17, 2019 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Previews: July 10 and 11, 7:30 PM

Opening Night: July 12, 8:00 PM

Pay What You Can: July 17, 7:30 PM

Midweek Matinee: July 16 at 2:00 PM (*limited availability, post-play discussion*)

Post-Play Discussions: Wednesday nights (excluding Preview) following performances and after the Midweek Matinee.

WHERE: Taproot Theatre Company's Jewell Mainstage Theatre, 204 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone 206.781.9707 (Tue-Sat, noon-5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Ticket prices range from \$21-50 with discounts

available for students, seniors, active military, 25 & Under and TeenTix. Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales.

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12+

CAST *(In alphabetical order)*

Gloria Lee Alcalá	<i>Lucy Grant</i>
Rheanna Atendido^	<i>Edna</i>
Jeff Church	<i>Daddy Cane/Dr. Norquist</i>
Connie Corrick	<i>Mama Murphy/Government Clerk</i>
Eric Dobson^	<i>Max</i>
Eric Polani Jensen*	<i>Mayor Josiah Dobbs</i>
MJ Jurgensen^	<i>Florence</i>
Edd Key*^	<i>Daddy Murphy</i>
Brian Lange	<i>Daryl</i>
Brian Pucheu	<i>Jimmy Ray Dobbs</i>
Mike Spee* ^	<i>Billy Cane</i>
Miranda Antoinette Troutt	<i>Margo Crawford</i>
Brenna Wagner*	<i>Alice Murphy</i>
Nick Watson	<i>Stanford</i>

BAND

Michael Matlock or Michael Nutting	<i>Piano/Conductor</i>
Anthony Pooley	<i>Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo</i>
Quinn Knobbe	<i>Bass</i>
Andrew Pang	<i>Fiddle</i>

PRODUCTION

Karen Lund	<i>Director</i>
R.J. Tancioco & Michael Nutting	<i>Music Directors</i>
Katy Tabb	<i>Choreographer</i>
Nanette Acosta	<i>Costume Design</i>
Andrew Duff	<i>Lighting Design</i>
Mark Lund	<i>Scenic & Sound Design</i>
Anne L. Hitt*	<i>Stage Manager</i>
Zeapoe Matalda	<i>Dramaturg</i>
Leah Fishbaugh	<i>Dialect Coach</i>

**Member of Actor's Equity Association*

^Also plays an instrument in the show

PHOTOS: Press photos are available online at <http://taproottheatre.org/for-the-press/> > Jewell Mainstage Theatre > Bright Star. *(This link is not to be published.)*

PR: Isaiah Custer, Communications Manager, 206, 529.3666, isaiahc@taproottheatre.org

Support for Taproot Theatre Company's 2019 Jewell Mainstage Season is generously provided by 4Culture, ArtsFund, the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and Verity Credit Union.

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Jewell Mainstage

Productions, Isaac Studio Theatre Productions, Touring Productions and the Acting Studio. Taproot Theatre Company creates theatre experiences to brighten the spirit, engage the mind and deepen the understanding of the world around us while inspiring imagination, conversation and hope. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS) and Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Association (PNA).

Scott Nolte, Producing Artistic Director
Karen Lund, Associate Artistic Director
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