



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date: July 29, 2019

Kill Date: August 25, 2019

Taproot Theatre extends Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's musical *Bright Star*

"a top-notch show" "the entire cast was absolutely stellar!"
Eclectic Arts

"Brenna Wagner takes on the lead role of Alice Murphy and is a thrill to behold."
Drama in the Hood

SEATTLE, WA – July 29, 2019 – Taproot Theatre Company is excited to announce the extension of **Steve Martin** and **Edie Brickell's** award-winning musical, *Bright Star*. Additional performances have been added on Wednesday, August 21 at 7:30 PM; Thursday, August 22 at 7:30 PM; Friday, August 23 at 8:00 PM; and Saturday, August 24 at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Single tickets for all performances through August 24 are available online at taproottheatre.org, by phone at 206.781.9707 (Tue – Sat, noon - 5:00 PM) or in person at 204 N 85th St. Group tickets are available for groups of 8 or more by calling 206.781.9708 or by visiting taproottheatre.org/group-sales/.

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.

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.

Steve Martin is one of the most well-known and pervasive talents in entertainment. His work has earned him an Academy Award, five Grammy Awards (two for comedy, three for music), an Emmy, the Mark Twain Award and the Kennedy Center Honor. As an author, Martin's work includes the plays *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Underpants*, and *Meteor Shower*. Also an accomplished banjoist, Martin created the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, an award established to reward artistry and bring greater visibility to bluegrass performers.

Edie Brickell released the debut multiplatinum album *Shooting Rubber Bands at the Stars* with New Bohemians in 1988. Her recent works include a 13-track collaboration with Steve Martin titled *Love Has Come For You*. The album won a Grammy for Best American Roots Song and inspired the musical *Bright Star*. Their second album, *So Familiar*, is out now.

Karen Lund serves as Taproot's Associate Artistic Director. Her most recent work includes *Always... Patsy Cline*, the world premiere musical, *Persuasion*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at*

Pemberley, Sweet Land, Lady Windermere's Fan, A Civil War Christmas, Room Service, Silent Sky, Godspell and *The Explorers Club*. She is the past president of Theatre Puget Sound, a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Union (SDC), a professional voice over artist and the recipient of numerous theatre and film directing awards including three Tellys.

RJ Tancioco's musical direction credits include: *Urinetown, Mamma Mia, Grease, Jasper in Deadland* (The 5th Avenue Theatre); *Hairspray, Disney's Newsies, Dreamgirls* (Village Theatre); *The Odyssey, Here Lies Love* (Seattle Repertory Theatre); *Violet, American Idiot* (ArtsWest); *The Spitfire Grill* (Showtunes); *Carrie, Spring Awakening* (Balagan Theatre); *Next to Normal* (Contemporary Classics). Music Supervisor: *Lizard Boy* (Seattle Repertory Theatre). A 2010 Gregory Award and 2011/2014 Gypsy Rose Lee Award recipient, Tancioco is a vocal coach, arranger, composer and enjoys educating youth and cultivating new musicals.

Michael Nutting earned his Piano Performance and Music History degree at WWU and began music directing as a college student in Bellingham. Now a music director in the area, his favorite past shows include: *String* (Village Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (ACT/5th Ave) and *In the Heights* (Village Theatre). When he is not music directing, Michael is an avid teacher, composer and arranger.

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 historical 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.

BRIGHT STAR EXTENSION 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 24, 2019 • Wed/Thur, 7:30 PM; Fri/Sat, 8:00 PM; Sat matinee, 2:00 PM

Dates to note:

Post-Play Discussions: Wednesday nights following performances.

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/ 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

Dialect Coach

**Member of Actor's Equity Association*

^Also plays an instrument in the show

PHOTOS: Production 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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