



BETWEEN THE LINES

Taproot Theatre Company's
Subscriber Newsletter
Volume 27, Issue 4

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Phone:
206.781.9707

Email:
box@taproottheatre.org

Box Office Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday,
Noon - 5 pm

*On performance days,
the box office phone
is answered until
30 minutes
prior to show time.*

**Tickets always
available online at
taproottheatre.org**

Discounts are available for
groups of 8 or more by calling
206.781.9708 or by visiting
[taproottheatre.org/
group-sales](http://taproottheatre.org/group-sales).

**Thank you to our 2019
Jewell Mainstage
Season Supporters!**



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Union**



Taproot audiences will be first in Seattle to see Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's *Bright Star*.

Steve Martin and **Edie Brickell's** uplifting and powerful musical makes it's Seattle premiere at Taproot this summer. It 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 a new, exciting work where the story and the music are equally compelling and beautiful!" said director **Karen Lund**, whose directing credits at Taproot include *Always... Patsy Cline*, *Miss Bennet*, *Christmas at Pemberley*, *Sweet Land*, *Persuasion* and *Godspell*. "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."

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's *Godspell*) as Daddy Murphy, **Brian Lange** (5th Avenue/ACT's *Urinetown*) as Daryl, **Brian Pucheu** (Taproot's *Miss Bennet*) as Jimmy Ray Dobbs, **Mike Spee** (Taproot's *Godspell*) 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's *Baskerville*) as Stanford.

The production team includes **R.J. Tancioco**, co-music director; **Katy Tabb**, choreographer; **Michael Nutting**, co-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.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

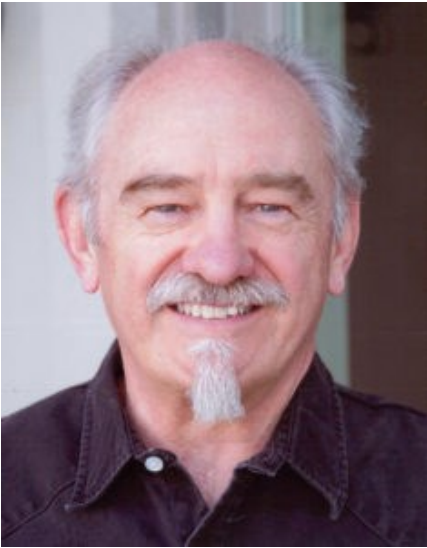
Previews: July 10 & 11 at 7:30pm | **Opening:** July 12 at 8:00pm
Running: July 10 - August 17 | **PWYC:** July 17 at 7:30pm

Show Times: Wed & Thur, 7:30 pm; Fri & Sat, 8:00 pm; Sat Matinee, 2:00 pm

Running Time: Approximately 2 hours, 15 minutes
with one 15-minute intermission.

Bright Star is recommended for ages 12 and above.
Children under 5 are never admitted.

Actor Spotlight: Edd Key



Audience favorite, Edd Key plays Daddy Murphy in *Bright Star* at Taproot Theatre.

If you knew my story...

Favorite Rehearsal

Snack: Chocolate-covered almonds.

Favorite Song: Yikes!

Impossible to answer... Probably one I've written - you always love your own kids the most!

Favorite Karaoke Song:

I'd always give Sting's *Fields of Gold* a shot.

Favorite Musical:

Probably *The Fantasticks*, one of the first shows I worked on, way back in the day.

Favorite TV show: Maybe

The Twilight Zone. It expanded our minds in amazing ways.

Favorite Steve Martin film: *Pennies From Heaven*

You're a longtime friend of Taproot Theatre, what makes this theatre special for you?

The people, first and foremost. Taproot is not just a theatre, not just an employer, but a caring organization that is of the highest integrity. It is always an honor and a privilege to work for Taproot. Their concern for their community and their audience as well as their commitment to artistic growth is never-ending. And I know they are always giving 200% to guarantee fairness, equality and well-being for their employees and co-workers.

What's your favorite show that you've been a part of with Taproot Theatre? Why?

This is a tough one. Every show has had its special meaning for me, including the Sanders family series which were some of the many that allowed me to work with my wonderful wife, Theresa Holmes. But when I think back over the last 28 years, *The Rainmaker* always pops out at me. It was one of the first non-musicals I ever worked on; I got to simply be an actor. And I got to be onstage with three of Taproot's heart-core: Scott Nolte and Karen and Mark Lund. What a blast it was!

What do you like best about *Bright Star*?

The music is, of course, a lot of fun. I once again get to bring along my banjo for a very challenging ride. And the tunes just continue to grow on you once you've heard them. It's an active story that jumps between the 1920s and 1940s, two periods that have always fascinated me. It's filled with emotionally light and dark times that powerfully draw you into the characters' lives.

You also teach in Taproot's Acting Studio, what do you enjoy about working with the kids each summer?

Music education was my primary field of study. Performance came later. So, I still do a great deal of teaching, through my public school residencies, at my teaching studio in North Seattle and, of course, at TTC's Acting Studio. I really look forward to the latter because the kids are so eager, motivated and brimming with potential. And the Acting Studio, as with all of Taproot's endeavors, always puts the needs and feelings of the students before everything else. The kids are truly cared for as they explore their gifts.

What's the best advice you've ever received, theatrical or otherwise?

If you're about to break-up (laugh inappropriately) on-stage, just breath out, exhale. It works in real life as well!

What's the best surprise you ever got?

The wonderful way my life has unfolded and continues to do so.

Bright Star: The Serendipitous Creation of a Musical

Sometimes good things just happen. That was certainly the case when musician Edie Brickell met famed actor/comedian/banjo-enthusiast Steve Martin at a party. They began to chat about Martin's banjo music and he offered her a melody for which he'd been struggling to find lyrics. She began to improvise lyrics for it on the spot and Martin was so pleased that, later, he sent her another song to work on.

"It almost became a game," Brickell recalled in an NPR interview in 2015. "A fun challenge with music. He always had an idea and I would bounce one back. There's so much emotion and drama in the way that he plays the banjo and in the melodies that he comes up with that I can just picture people and situations, and all I have to do is sing it out."

The result of their musical game the album *Love Has Come For You*, which won a 2014 Grammy Award for Best American Roots Song.

"The whole thing was a giant accident that, in our view, turned out to be very rewarding to us." Steve Martin told the *New York Times* in 2013, just prior to the album's release.

As they continued to collaborate, they discovered they shared a love of musicals and, finding inspiration from their own album, decided to try their hand at one. Two songs, *Sarah Jane and the Iron Mountain Baby* (and the true story that inspired it) and the titular track *Love Has Come for You*, provided large portions of the story outline of the show. Another two songs, *Sun is Gonna Shine* (Martin and Brickell's original collaboration from their first meeting) and *When You Get to Asheville*, were adapted directly into the show.

The musical, *Bright Star*, tells a wistfully romantic story of youthful optimism, heartbreak, redemption and amazing serendipity.

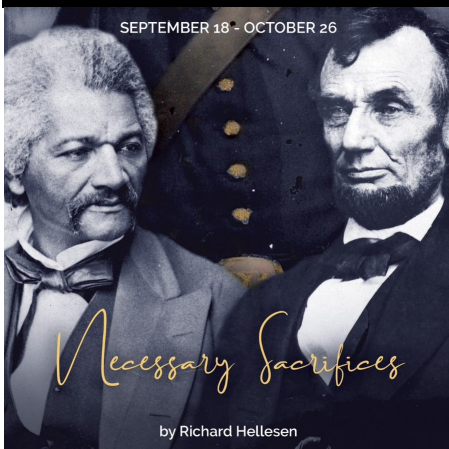


Brenna Wagner, Rheanna Atendido, Mike Spee and Miranda Antoinette Trouitt in *Bright Star* at Taproot Theatre. Photo by John Ulman.

Quotes from:

npr.org/2015/12/25/461005614/edie-brickell-steve-martin-broadway-bound-with-bright-star
& nytimes.com/2013/04/21/arts/music/steve-martin-and-edie-brickells-love-has-come-for-you.html

Next on the Jewell Mainstage: Necessary Sacrifices by Richard Helleesen



Necessary Sacrifices

By Richard Helleesen

Playing on the Jewell Mainstage Sept 18—Oct 26

Five words were meant to change a young country divided by civil war when abolitionist and Union recruiter Frederick Douglass challenged his president to act on the statement that "all men are created equal." As these two brilliant Americans wage a battle for the future of the Union, their arguments affect not only their sons but the nation we live in today.

Production Spotlight: Welcoming Back Anne L. Hitt



Anne L. Hitt is the Stage Manager for *Bright Star* at Taproot Theatre.

Welcome back to Taproot! You were on staff as Taproot's Production Stage Manager a few years back. Where have you been? What have you been up to?

I got my masters degree in Stage Management! I spent three years at UC Irvine in Southern California and then I worked as a freelance stage manager in Los Angeles for about two years before moving with my family back to Seattle.

How excited are you to be back at Taproot?

It's so exciting to be back! I was on staff when the fire happened, in 2009. I was the last one to leave the building the night the arsonist hit. So for most of my time here, we were planning the new building. I left right as construction was getting started, so I never got to work in the building we talked about until now. It's really wonderful to come back and see how beautiful the new building is.

What made you want to come back for this show?

This is truly a dream team of people! The cast is made up of heavy hitters, and the creative team is comprised of some of my favorite people in the industry. I knew that the show would be killer and we'd have the time of our lives doing it. I'm lucky to be with such talented people.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time here?

Taproot is where I fell in love with Stage Management. I discovered that I was happiest when working on a show and that I really wanted to be a freelance stage manager. I loved working on the Mainstage shows, and mentoring the interns during the summer. Now, I've been a freelance Stage Manager for seven years and I've created a stage management intensive course called SM Boot Camp to help educate young stage managers.

What does a stage manager do?

There are so many things a stage manager does! One of the main responsibilities is maintaining the artistic integrity of the show. I'm there from 1st rehearsal through closing night. I see every part of the show and make sure everything fits together like it should. The stage manager calls all light, sound, and projection cues, with perfect timing so the exact same thing happens every night. It's kind of like conducting the technical aspects of the show. Nothing happens without the stage manager's "Go." Once the show opens, the stage manager is in charge of making sure that the show people see on Opening, is the same show they see on Closing.

What's your favorite part of the job?

I love getting to oversee every aspect of a show coming together. I get to talk with the director about how they want a scene to land and what's the impact of it on the characters and the audience. I get to create backstage tracking to get an actor off stage, into a new costume and back onstage all in 30 seconds or less. I work with the actors, technical crew, designers and creators to fulfill a vision. Stage managing is the perfect blend of organizational and artistic skills.

What's the best advice you've ever received, theatrical or otherwise?

There's always going to be someone better than you, so stop trying to beat other people. Focus on the things you're already good at and become excellent at those. I used to stress about not being perfect at every aspect of the job. I stopped beating myself up for not being great at some things and started celebrating and honing the skills that I was already really good at. It gave me permission to celebrate the areas where I was talented instead of always focusing on the places I fell short.

2019 Subscriber Rewards Discounts



American Dance Institute — NEW THIS YEAR!

8001 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | americandanceinstitute.com

Discount: \$40 registration fee will be waived when you show your Subscriber Rewards Card at any of our three locations in Greenwood, Magnolia and Shoreline.

Dance classes taught with an emphasis on technique, sensitivity and respect.

Additional locations: Magnolia – 3116 W Smith St & Shoreline – 1240 NE 175th St



The Cookie Counter

7415 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | seattlecookiecounter.com

Discount: 2 for 1 cookie when using your Subscriber Rewards Card.

We are a small batch bakery and ice creamery offering traditional and nostalgic flavors, with something for everyone! We have a full espresso bar, featuring Cafe Mam Espresso and Taglewood Chai. Open until 10pm, Wednesday – Saturday.



Flying Bike Cooperative Brewery

8570 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | flyingbike.coop

Discount: \$1 off your first beer when you show your rewards card and a ticket stub from a recent show at Taproot Theatre.

Flying Bike is Washington's first co-op brewery! We strive to ensure our tasting room and delicious brews are accessible to all. We're also a Cooperative which means we are owned by our members (100%!). Co-op member also gets you some great deals, and once you're a member it lasts for life — come be a part of this great community!



Greenwood Vision

133 N 85th St, Seattle, WA 98103 | greenwoodoptical.com

Discount: 10% off on glasses or contacts when you mention code TPG019.

An optical office providing exams, contact lenses and eyewear.



Hounds Tooth Public House

8551 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | houndstoothpublic.com

Discount: 10% off all purchases when using your Subscriber Rewards Card.

Consider Hounds Tooth Public House the next time you want to really feel at home at a Greenwood venue! A sports/pinball bar with a rock and roll edge. Great food, awesome staff, cool music and good times are a guarantee. Weekly pinball tournament Wednesday, Thursday Trivia and sports all day, every day.



Ladywell's Vitality Spa & Sauna

8538 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98177 | ladywellspa.com

Discount: 10% off entry when you present your Subscriber Rewards Card.

We are a woman's hydrotherapy facility. We have three different heated tubs, (a hot tub, tepid tub, and a cold plunge) and three different heated saunas, (A steam room, Cedar Sauna, and a Pink Himalayan infrared salt room).

2019 Subscriber Rewards Discounts



Luna Azul Latin Cuisine — NEW THIS YEAR!

8552 1/2 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | lunaazulseattle.com

Discount: 10% off when you use your Subscriber Rewards Card.

Cheery, no-frills taqueria dishes out tacos, salsas, enchiladas and other basic Mexican eats.



Luso Food and Wine

8218 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | lusoseattle.com

Discount: Special pricing when you show your Subscriber Rewards Card.

(Wine Tasting: \$10 Wed – Sat, 3 PM - 6 PM; 2 white, 2 red and 2 fortified wines. Lunch: Two menu items for \$10, Fri - Sat 11 AM - 3 PM. Dinner: One item on the menu for \$12, Wed – Thurs 6 PM - 9 PM.)

A small corner of Portugal in the heart of Greenwood! Welcoming everyone to experience some tranquil time over a glass of wine and some delicious food.



Modern Japanese Cuisine

6108 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | modern-seattle.com

Discount: 10% off both lunch and dinner when you present your Subscriber Rewards Card. (No discount on happy hour items.)

We are a Japanese cuisine and desserts restaurant. We serve Japanese comfort food, sushi, curry, noodle, desserts, sake and beer.



The Olive and Grape

8516 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103 | theoliveandgrape.com

Discount: 10% discount off your bill when you present your Subscriber Rewards Card.
Traditional Italian and Turkish Grill.



Seatown Veterinary Care

8542 1st Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117 | seatownvet.com

Discount: Show your Subscriber Rewards Card and receive 10% off on all professional services. (Does not include lab work or prescriptions/OTC products).

We are a state of the art, full service veterinary clinic located in the heart of Greenwood. We offer exams, surgical and dental services, as well as a full suite of in house and send out diagnostic capabilities. On site specialist consults also available on a limited basis.



Truffle Queen — NEW THIS YEAR!

1524 Pike Place Seattle, WA 98101 | trufflequeen.com

Discount: \$8 Wine Tasting and \$5 Pours. (Normally \$10 each.)

Gourmet specialty foods and wine located in the Pike Place Market.