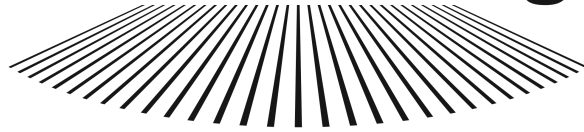


The Western Stage



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

Cheryl Worthy

Email: CWorthy@hartnell.edu

831 755-6816

Written by Kathy Cusson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIGHT STAR

Music, Book & Story by Steve Martin Music, Lyrics & Story by Edie Brickell

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

A dazzling journey of passion, heartbreak, and second chances that will sweep you off your feet with its toe-tapping bluegrass score and unforgettable story of love lost and found!

THE STORY:

Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, "Bright Star" tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption through two intertwining timelines. In the 1940s, literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier returning from World War II who awakens her longing for the child she once lost. The story then flashes back to her spirited youth in the 1920s, where we discover how the dark tragedy that befell her shaped the woman she became. As the past and present connect, Alice's hauntingly beautiful journey explores the endurance of the human spirit, the power of forgiveness, and the ties that bind us to our past – ultimately affirming that even our deepest wounds can lead to our brightest future.

BACKGROUND OF BRIGHT STAR:

Inspired by a true story, "Bright Star" premiered at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego in 2014, before moving to the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and finally opening on Broadway in 2016. The production received five Tony Award nominations, including Best Musical, Best

***** MORE*****

Score, and Best Book. The bluegrass-influenced score, featuring songs like "If You Knew My Story," "Sun's Gonna Shine," and "Bright Star," showcases Edie Brickell's poetic lyrics and Steve Martin's melodic sensibilities, creating a unique theatrical experience that blends contemporary musical theater with the rich folk traditions of Appalachia.

THE AUTHORS:

Edie Brickell (Music, Lyrics & Story) first gained fame as the lead vocalist of Edie Brickell & New Bohemians, whose debut album "Shooting Rubberbands at the Stars" featured the hit single "What I Am." Her collaboration with Steve Martin began with their Grammy-winning bluegrass album "Love Has Come for You" in 2013, which inspired several of the themes and musical styles that would later develop into "Bright Star."

Steve Martin (Music, Book & Story) is an acclaimed actor, comedian, author, playwright, and musician. Beyond his legendary career in film and comedy, Martin is an accomplished banjo player and composer who has recorded multiple award-winning bluegrass albums. His collaboration with Edie Brickell on "Bright Star" marks his Broadway debut as a composer, though he previously wrote the plays "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" and "The Underpants."

ARTISTIC TEAM:

Directed by: Joe Niesen
Music Direction: Don Dally
Choreography: Chaz Sanders
Stage Management: Cali Guisto
Costume Design: Christopher Metzger
Hair & Makeup Design: Reina Cruz Vazquez
Lighting Design: Derek Duarte
Scenic Design: Rafael Toribio
Sound Design: Dante Carballo
Props: Thomas Verdos

CAST:

Alice Murphy: Kelsey Woods
Billy Cane: Ty Ortega
Jimmy Ray Dobbs: Bobby Marchessault
Mayor Josiah Dobbs: Lloyd James Brewer
Margo Crawford: Marlene Bruce
Daddy Cane: Thomas Burks
Daddy Murphy: Stephen Doolittle
Mama Murphy: Paula Haro
Daryl: Christian McCooey
Lucy: Bri Slama
Stanford Ames: John Bridges
Florence: Izzy Pedego
Edna: Jacqueline Aguilar-Madrigal
Max: Carlos Joel González
Dr. Nordquist/Ensemble: Samuel Strelkoff

ENSEMBLE:

Marilyn Cruickshank
Erin Davison
John Fair
Dahlia Rose
Dance Captain: Izzy Pedego

WHEN:

August 23, 24, 30, 31, September 6, 7, 13, and 14, 2025
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:

The Mainstage Theater on the Hartnell College Main Campus, 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, CA.

TICKETING INFORMATION:

Adult \$30; Seniors/Military/Teachers \$24; Hartnell Students FREE; Other Students \$16; Youths (5-15) \$12; Hartnell Faculty/Staff \$15; Student Rush \$5; Group tickets available by contacting the TWS Box Office.

Online tickets and more information: westernstage.com/tickets or call (831) 755-6816.

TWS Box Office is open Wednesday-Saturday 5:00-8:00pm. and Sundays with performances 12-3pm. Leave VM to get callback within 24 hours.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the ticket office at least one week prior to the event.

CURRENT COVID-19 INFORMATION

The Western Stage is not requiring masking or proof of COVID-19 negative test result or vaccination at this time. Ticket holders are asked to not attend if they have temperature or other symptoms, or have been recently exposed to COVID-19, or have recently tested positive for COVID-19. This policy is subject to change based increase infection rates and or Hartnell College policy updates.

ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE – ESTABLISHED 1974:

The Western Stage (TWS) is a professionally managed, community-based theatre company and educational program that provides opportunities for high-level artistic experiences. Led by its educational mission and believing that strong arts experiences are important for building innovative, creative, and resilient communities, TWS offers a robust variety of programs designed for personal growth and skill development in a safe space where students and theatre enthusiasts may engage in theatre production while working side-by-side with theatre professionals. Through its annual production season, TWS provides strong pathways for artists throughout the continuum of a career in theatre and its related performing arts. TWS presents new works that speak to the history and culture of the Salinas Valley and provides educational opportunities for students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talent. www.westernstage.com

ABOUT HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – ESTABLISHED 1920

Located in the heart of Salinas Valley, Hartnell Community College District is a leading institution

serving over 12,000 students annually across our main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus, and education centers in King City, Castroville, and Soledad. HCCD is a Seal of Excelencia Certified institution and a recognized Hispanic-serving institution since 2000. We offer associate and bachelor's degrees and certificate programs to prepare students for successful transfer to four-year universities or immediate entry into the workforce. [Learn more](#) about our programs and initiatives.

###