

PRODUCTION NOTE

The play jumps in time between 1923-4 and 1945-6 in North Carolina.
It is based on a true incident.



Bright Star

Directed by Professor Mary Jo Lodge

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

Musical Direction by
Mitch Samu
Conducted by
Tom DiGiovanni
Choreography by
Deena Linn

Nov. 14-16 @ 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 17 @ 2:00 p.m.

Made possible in part with support provided by
Lafayette College through the R.K. Laros '14 Memorial Endowed Fund

SPECIAL THANKS:

Civic Theatre of Allentown · Lafayette College Library · Muhlenberg College

Bright Star

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

Mary Jo Lodge

Director

Deena Linn

Choreographer

Alex Owens

Production Manager/Technical Director

Melissa Livingston

Intimacy & Fight Director/Hair Designer

Mitch Samu

Musical Director

Jake Salgado

Scenic Designer

Matt Sheehan

Sound Designer

Tom DiGiovanni

Conductor/Performance Pianist

Kia Rogers

Lighting Designer

Will Morris

Costume & Makeup Designer

Katrina Miller

Properties Designer/Scenic Artist

CAST

Alice Murphy - Marisa Carroll* '25
Billy Cane - Max Wasserstein '28
Daddy Cane - Gareth Schuster '27
Margo - Gwen Brown '27
Max - Zackary DePalmer '28
Florence - Olivia Cox '28
Edna - Sonali Shah '26
Daryl - Jack Finegold '28
Lucy - Kelsie Bouyer* '26
Mama Murphy - Benry James* '25
Daddy Murphy - Grant Ely '25

Mayor Dobbs - Chris Taverner* '25
Jimmy Ray Dobbs - Johnny Raheb '27
Stanford - Bryan Kibet '27
Dr. Norquist - Aidan Walsh '28
Government Clerk - Nihan Cedimagar '27
Well Dressed Women - Charlotte Farrelly '26
Ensemble/Understudy
for Male Roles - Miles Sims '28
Ensemble/Understudy
for Female Roles - Jessie Gadeleta '26

BAND

Piano/Conductor Tom DiGiovanni
Banjo Rick Merino
Cello Andreas Pelekis '26
Drums Jacob Allan '25
Fiddle Nathan Bishop

Guitar Maggie Thompson '28
Mandolin/Guitar Quentin Fisher
Piano 2 Ryan Pignotti '25
Upright Bass Rosetta Serrano '27
Viola/Fiddle Andy Santopatre '26

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager

Kate Stadter '26

Assistant Stage Manager

Manning Yip '27, Angel Yan '28,
Zoe Sarr '26

Assistant Scenic Designer

Aven Lancaster* '26

Assistant Technical Director

Chanler Sharpe

Costume/Hair/Makeup Lead

Laura Coffey* '26

Head Electrician

Lily Groff '25

Light Board Operator

Melissa Burstein '27

Followspot Operator

Jay Maresco '28, Delaney Piccoli '28

Sound Board Operator

Calum McConnell '25

Mic Wrangler

Lucas Phillips '26

Flyrail Operator

Roy Nisson '27

Stage/Properties

Leona (Yanyan) Zhou '28,
Juliet Minadeo '27, Alivia Smith '28,
Ceci Skinner-Grant '26, Kim Fayorsey '26

Floaters

James Miller '28, Ash Baeck-Hubloux '26

Costumes

Iris Pierce '27, Miles Asher Dorai-Raj '25
Sehar Bukhari '28, Lexi Handelman '28

Wardrobe Leads

Emma Li '27, Laura Coffey* '26

Program Assistant

Christine Jansen '25

SHOP CREW

Kylee Brotz, Laura Coffey*, Owen Eltz, Sophia Gal, Lily Groff, James Hixenbaugh, Christine Jansen, Lavender Layre, Calum McConnell, James Miller, Champe Mitchell, Zoe Ohl, Kate Stadter, Manning Yip and THTR 102 Students

*denotes a member of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 - Limbo, 1946

"If You Knew My Story" - Alice, Billy & the Company

SCENE 2 - The Cane family home in Hayes Creek, NC, 1945

"She's Gone" - Daddy Cane & Billy

SCENE 3 - Margo's bookstore in Hayes Creek, NC, 1945, and then on the road to Asheville, NC, 1945, the next day

"Bright Star" - Billy & the Ensemble

SCENE 4 - *The Asheville Southern Journal* Office, Asheville, NC, 1945, a few days later

"Way Back in the Day" - Alice & the Ensemble

SCENE 5 - The center of town, Zebulon, NC, 1923, Summer

"Whoa, Mama" - Jimmy Ray, Alice & the Ensemble

SCENE 6 - The Murphy family home in Zebulon, NC, 1923, the same day

"Firm Hand / Do Right" - Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Alice, Ensemble

SCENE 7 - The Dobbs family home in Zebulon, NC, 1923, the same day

"A Man's Gotta Do" - the Mayor & Jimmy Ray

SCENE 8 - Alice Murphy's office at *The Asheville Southern Journal*, 1945

SCENE 9 - Margo's bookstore in Hayes Creek, NC, 1945, the next day

"Asheville" - Margo & the Ensemble

SCENE 10 - A park in Zebulon, NC and the nearby creek, 1923, a few weeks later

"Picnic Dance" - the Company

"What Could Be Better" - Jimmy Ray, Alice & the Ensemble

SCENE 11 - Dr. Norquist's office, Zebulon, Ohio, 1923, 11 weeks later

SCENE 12 - The Dobbs family home in Zebulon, NC, 1923, the same day

SCENE 13 - Limbo, 1923, the same day

"I Can't Wait" - Alice, Jimmy Ray & the Company

SCENE 14 - Alice Murphy's office at *The Asheville Southern Journal*, 1946

SCENE 15 - A small cabin in the woods outside of Zebulon, NC, 1924, night

"Please, Don't Take Him" - Mama & Daddy Murphy, Mayor, Alice, Stanford & the Ensemble

SCENE 16 - On a train in rural North Carolina, later that night, 1924

"A Man's Gotta Do" (Reprise) - the Mayor & the Ensemble

ACT TWO

OPENING - "Entr'acte" - the Band

SCENE 0 - The Train Depot outside Zebulon, NC, End of summer, 1924

"Sun's Gonna Shine" - Alice, Momma Murphy & the Ensemble

SCENE 1 - The Dobbs family home in Zebulon, NC, 1924, the same day

"Heartbreaker" – Jimmy Ray

SCENE 2 - The Shiny Penny Bar & Café, Ashville, NC, 1946

"Another Round" - Lucy, Daryl, Billy & the Ensemble

SCENE 3 - Alice Murphy's office at The Ashville Southern Journal, 1946, the next morning

SCENE 4 - A Government Office in Raleigh, NC, 1946, the same day

SCENE 5 - A Well-Manicured Street in Raleigh, NC, 1946, the same day

"I Had A Vision" - Alice & Jimmy Ray

SCENE 6 - Margo's bookstore in Hayes Creek, NC, 1946, the next day

"Always Will" – Billy, Margo & the Ensemble

SCENE 7 - The Murphy family home in Zebulon, NC, 1946, the same night

"Sun's Gonna Shine" (Reprise) - Momma Murphy

SCENE 8 - The Cane family home in Hayes Creek, NC, 1946, the next day

"So Familiar/At Long Last" – Alice & the Company

SCENE 9 - The Asheville Southern Journal Office, Asheville, NC, 1946, a month later

"Finale" – the Company

DIRECTORS NOTE

Bright Star is a beautiful musical, filled with love and romance, but also tragedy, heartbreak, redemption and forgiveness. Perhaps most surprisingly, it is based on a true story, though to tell too much of the real story here would spoil the play. (Still, the true story of the Iron Mountain Baby, William Moses Gould Helms, who was born in 1902, is worth reading about after the show.) In 2016, the musical premiered on Broadway, after finding its roots in a 2013 song called "Sarah Jane and the Iron Mountain Baby," written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. If you've been watching *Only Murders in the Building*, you may be familiar with actor, writer and comedian Steve Martin. Martin has had an enormously successful career as a comic actor and writer for decades, appearing many times in memorable *Saturday Night Live* episodes, and acting in hit films including *Father of the Bride*, *Parenthood* and *Cheaper By the Dozen*. You may be less familiar with his talents as a bluegrass musician. Martin is a GRAMMY®-winning banjo player and is responsible, along with Edie Brickell (who rose to fame in the late 1980s as the lead singer of The New Bohemians, a band with several hit songs, including 1988's "What I Am"), for *Bright Star*. In an unusual arrangement, they share music and story credits, while Martin crafted the book and Brickell wrote the lyrics. I first saw *Bright Star* during its initial Broadway run, and I went back several times after falling in love with it on my first viewing, and I am so glad to be able to bring it to Lafayette's campus now.

The Theater Department is thrilled to return to the Williams Center for the Arts for *Bright Star*, after producing our shows for the last several years down the

hill on the beautiful Arts Campus in the Weiss Theater in Buck Hall. The move up the hill for this musical has been our most complex technical challenge to date, but technical director Alexander Owens has risen to the occasion, and admirably transformed the space into a gorgeous home for the production, seemingly overnight. Our talented team of designers, including Assistant Professor of Theater Jake Salgado as set designer, returning guest lighting designer Kia Rogers, properties designer and scenic artist Katrina Miller and sound designer Matt Sheehan, along with new collaborators Will Morris as costume designer and Visiting Assistant Professor Melissa Livingston as hair designer, have together crafted a beautiful and evocative world for the production, which is deeply steeped in the looks, sounds and crafts of North Carolina, past and present. We are especially pleased to have students contributing to design and technical elements of the show in meaningful ways, including Aven Lancaster as Assistant Scenic Designer, Laura Coffey as Assistant Hair Designer, and Lily Groff as Head Electrician.

We are very excited that this show features a ten-piece bluegrass band featuring six talented Lafayette students alongside four professional musicians. Musical director Mitch Samu and conductor Tom DiGiovanni have worked tirelessly to help our singers and instrumentalists master the tricky bluegrass sound, while choreographer Deena Linn has challenged our students to perform intricate choreography that reflects the two time periods the musical switches between throughout the show: the 1920s and the 1940s. Our student stage management team, lead by Kate Stadter, and assisted by Zoe Sarr, Manning Yip and Angel Yan, have been a formidable crew and have tackled the many challenges a production of this complexity has presented with ease.

Just weeks after we started rehearsing *Bright Star*, Hurricane Helene devastated Asheville, North Carolina, and many surrounding towns and states. As much of the musical is set there, our company wanted to bring some visibility to the relief efforts that have continued there since late September. We've provided links in this program to organizations providing aid to Asheville and the surrounding communities and we encourage you to visit them and support their efforts.

In the days leading up to the opening of *Bright Star*, the world changed with the 2024 US Election. I know many in our community have found these days, and the prospect of the years ahead, challenging and overwhelming. *Bright Star*, at its heart, is a story of overcoming grief and loss, and finding a way to move forward even when all hope seems lost. I have found comfort in the songs and story over the last few days, and found inspiration in the resilience of the woman at the center of the musical. Thank you for joining us at this show, and if you too are seeking solace, I leave you with the lyrics to "Sun's

Gonna Shine," from *Bright Star*:

You got the power. You got the faith.
You got the strength to go on.
You got the light. You got the way.
We're never all alone.
The sun is gonna shine again.

- Mary Jo Lodge

HURRICANE RECOVERY FOR NORTH CAROLINA

In late September, Hurricane Helene struck areas of the American South, and caused especially devastating flooding in Asheville, North Carolina, where much of *Bright Star* is set. Prior to the storm, Asheville was a thriving Arts hub in North Carolina. Please consider donating to the organizations listed below to help their community recover from the storm.

**American Red Cross
Western North
Carolina Chapter**

**United Way of
Asheville and
Buncombe County**

Manna Food Bank

**North Carolina
Disaster Relief Fund**

Project HOPE

**NC Arts Disaster
Relief Fund through
the North Carolina
Arts Foundation
Asheville.**

JACOB ALLAN (Drums) is a chemical engineering major from Pittsburgh who is involved in Lafayette's music and arts. In addition to pit for *Bright Star*, he has played pit for Marquis Players, is on the board of the percussion ensemble, and plays with his own band in Lafayette Interdisciplinary Music Society (LIMS). He has been playing the drums for 10 years and has loved every performance.

ASH BAECK HUBLOUX (Floater) is a junior transfer student studying biology and psychology. Recent roles include Darlene in *The Diviners* (Dragonfly Multicultural Center), Susan in *Wait Until Dark* (Dragonfly Multicultural Center), and Amy Langford in *Lift Every Voice* with Lafayette's Theater Department.

NATHAN BISHOP (Fiddle) is a fiddler, improviser, and teacher based in Philadelphia. He plays fiddle and viola in his genre-hopping string trio, Midnight on the Water, and baroque violin in La Fiocco. He is a past artist-in-residence at the Mignolo Arts Center and with JoAnna Mendl Shaw's the Equus Project, where he paired live fiddle with self-composed soundscapes to accompany dance and theater works. He founded the bi-weekly Irish seisiún at Flounder Brewing Co. in Hillsborough, NJ, and co-founded When Waves Collide, a new music and dance festival. In 2023, his Irish folk trio, Faoileán, released their first album, Far Hills, which has received over 250,000 listens across streaming platforms. He has presented workshops on playing and teaching the fiddle at the University of New Hampshire and NJASTA and regularly teaches at Folk College and the Ashokan Center. He studied fiddle with Cleek Schrey and plays on the 46th Håkedal hardanger d'amore.

KELSIE BOUYER (Lucy Grant) is a junior biology major and theater minor. As part of Lafayette Theater Department, she has worked on *The Book Club Play* (Props Crew) and performed in *Head Over Heels* (Ensemble). With Lafayette's Marquis Players, she has performed in *Cabaret* (Frenchie) and *Footloose* (Betty Blast/Ensemble). She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support!

GWEN BROWN (Margo) is a sophomore at Lafayette College and she is thrilled to be a part of *Bright Star*. Gwen has been doing theater since 3rd grade and some of her favorite roles include Sophie in *Mamma Mia*, Spider in *James and the Giant Peach*, and Stepmother in *Cinderella*. Gwen would like to thank her castmates, family, and friends for being so incredible, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

OLIVIA COX (Florence) is a first year and projected theater major from Long Island, NY. Her recent roles include Maria Rainer in *The Sound of Music* (St. Anthony's High School Theater Company) and Cady Heron in *Mean Girls* (Theatre Three). Olivia is involved in regional theaters, trains with vocal coach Linda Strasser, and dances at Stage Door School of Dance. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support and encouragement. Olivia is a Lafayette Award recipient.

SYED SEHAR BUKHARI (Costumes) is a first-year student at Lafayette College, studying film and media studies. He's from Kashmir, and this is his first time working in tech theater. He is really excited to be a part of this production and learn more about stagecraft. He wants to thank Alexander Owens for giving him this chance and for all the support.

MELISSA BURSTEIN (Light Board Operator) is a sophomore electrical and computer engineering major. This is her second production at Lafayette, and she is excited to be working the light board.

MARISA CARROLL (Alice Murphy) is a senior biochemistry and theater double major. She is extremely excited to be part of *Bright Star* and to be working with such an amazing cast and crew. Previously seen in *Cabaret*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Ugly Lies the Bone*, *The Galoshes of Fortune*, *Footloose*, *Head Over Heels*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Wolves*, and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Marisa would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for working so hard to bring *Bright Star* to life, and she hopes everyone enjoys the show as much as she does!

NIHAN CEDIMAGAR (Clerk, Ensemble) is a sophomore theater and physics double major from Istanbul, Turkey. She has been involved in various productions with Lafayette's Theater Department including *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Light Board operator), *Miracle on 34th Street* (Mrs. Sawyer), *The Book Club Play* (Elsa, Jen's Understudy). Nihan works at the Williams Center for the Arts as a technician. Prior to attending Lafayette College, Nihan co-directed and acted in a senior project production of *The Real Inspector Hound*.

LAURA COFFEY (Co-Wardrobe Lead & Associate Hair Designer) is a third-year student pursuing degrees in film and media studies and theater. Outside of her theatrical endeavors, she devotes her time to her adorable bunny, Balerion, who brings great joy and happiness. Laura also participates in aerial arts. She warmly thanks all involved in the production and wishes the audience a memorable and enjoyable experience!

ZACKARY DEPALMER (Max/Ensemble) is a freshman in engineering (mechanical engineering concentration). Recent roles include Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast* (Robert's Theater) and Landon/Laurel in *Freaky Friday* (Robert's Theater). Prior to attending Lafayette College, Zack had the opportunity to be the Production Stage Manager for Saint Andrews School's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He would like to thank his friends and family for supporting him in his pursuit of theater.

TOM DIGIOVANNI (Conductor) is a conductor, pianist, composer and arranger. Tom studied orchestral conducting with Maurice Peress at Queens College and received his undergraduate degrees in music & computer science from Lafayette College. He is the Director of Choral Music at Phillipsburg High School and Director of Music and Organist at Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church.

MILES ASHER DORAI-RAJ (Dresser) is a senior anthropology and sociology & religious studies major, originally from Campbell, CA. This is his third production at Lafayette; He was a

member of props crew for *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and was a dresser for *The Book Club Play*. In high school, he acted in a production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, and did lighting for 9 to 5. In his free time, he enjoys making and designing costumes.

GRANT ELY (Daddy Murphy) is very excited to be in his first Lafayette College Theater performance! Grant has been a singer since he was in middle school and was a part of select-choir through high school. He is also a bass singer, and occasional vocal percussionist for The Lafayette Markeys, an all voices a cappella group. Grant is a senior, a mechanical engineering major and German minor. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support and love.

CHARLOTTE FARRELLY (Well Dressed Women) is very excited to be performing in her first production with the Lafayette College Theater Department! Recently she performed in the Marquis Players productions *Cabaret* (Rosie) and *Footloose* (ensemble). Outside of theater, she loves to dance and play piano. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her.

KIM FAYORSEY (Stage/Properties) is a junior computer science major. Prior to attending Lafayette College, Kim was the lighting board operator in *Once on This Island Jr* (Eisenhower Middle School), as well as a prop coordinator and scenic painter. They would like to thank their parents and Loki for their support.

JACK FINEGOLD (Daryl) is very excited for the audience to see him perform in his first Lafayette Theater production! He is a college freshman with an intended major of theater and English. He would like to thank the entire cast, crew, and production team for bringing the show together and all the hard work they put in. Special thanks to his family for everything they've done to support him!

QUENTIN FISHER (Mandolin) is a bluegrass musician hailing from the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania. Since graduating high school, he has been touring with his bluegrass band Serene Green, winning over audiences from New England to Florida and beyond.

When he has time off from his band, you can find him playing with various bands around the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition to performing live, he has recently begun studying the art of violin-making, having completed his first instrument in October of 2024. This production of *Bright Star* marks his musical theater debut.

JESSIE GADELETA (Ensemble) is a junior economics and anthropology and sociology double major from Rye, NY. This is her second performance with the Lafayette College Theater Department, previously playing Mopsa in *Head Over Heels*. She is also involved in the Marquis Players, Cadence Acapella, Alpha Phi, the Office of Sustainability, and is a LEO. Jessie would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for working so hard to bring *Bright Star* to life, and she hopes everyone enjoys the show!

LILY GROFF (Lead Electrician) is a senior theater major with a focus in lighting design and technology. She has previously worked a little bit across every role in College theater and Marquis Players productions, and had the opportunity to work professionally at Creede Repertory Theater this past summer. She would like to thank Kia for her excitement and creativity throughout the process.

LEXI HANDELMAN (Dresser), a freshman, is planning on pursuing a dual major in theater and environmental studies. She was raised in Connecticut where she performed in and completed technical work for 6 mainstage productions with her high school's theater arts department and three twenty-four-hour play productions. Additionally she worked as Head of Properties for the short film *Damn Handy* and is co-starring in a short film currently titled *Peaches Pie* scheduled to be released in 2026.

BENRY JAMES (Mama Murphy) is a senior English and geology major with a minor in theater, who performs regularly with the Lafayette College Concert Choir as well as the Theater Department, including recent productions like *The Book Club Play* (Librarian Pundit/Anna Understudy) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mustardseed). Outside of performing, Benry can be found at Lit Mag

meetings, at the printmaking studio on Parsons St, or reading *The Hobbit*.

BRYAN KIBET (Stanford Adams) is a sophomore economics and theater double major from Bethesda, Maryland. Bryan recently just finished the Lafayette Theater Department production of *Lift Every Voice and Sing* as James Wilson, was props crew for *The Book Club Play* (Weiss Theater), and played Herman in Marquis Players production of *Cabaret*. Outside of theater, Bryan is the Chair of Student Organizations and Budgets for Student Government and a Posse Scholar! Prior to Lafayette, he played Bernardo in *West Side Story*, Fester in *Addams Family*, and Donkey in *Shrek The Musical*. He can't wait for the memories that'll be made on stage!

AVEN LANCASTER (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a junior theater major with a focus in scenic design and stage management. He spent the summer making theater in the mountains as a carpenter with Creede Repertory Theatre, constructing sets for *Baskerville*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and the world premiere of *Prima's Guide to Funerals*. Last year, she was the Scenic Designer for *Cabaret* (Marquis Players) and the Stage Manager of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Weiss Theatre). Aven would like to thank Jake for the opportunity to design with him and Alex for continuously supporting her theatrical goals.

EMMA LI (Co-Wardrobe Lead) is a sophomore theater student at Lafayette College. She was a co-designer for costumes, hair, and makeup in *Lift Every Voice* at Lafayette College Theater, and assistant designer for *Cabaret* with the Marquis Players. Marquis Scholarship recipient.

DEENA LINN (Choreographer) Deena is thrilled to debut her choreography at Lafayette College. She has choreographed many shows throughout the Lehigh Valley and beyond, and most recently made her directorial debut at Civic Theatre of Allentown with *Pippin*. Some of her favorite shows to create have been *Billy Elliot*, *Spamalot*, *Sister Act*, *Rock of Ages*, *The Boy Friend*, *Anything Goes*, *Rent*, *42nd St*, *A Chorus Line*, *Little Shop of Horrors*

and *Evita*. She was the choreographer for the Freddy Awards at the State Theatre in Easton until 2011.

MARY JO LODGE (Director): Professor Lodge (she/her) is Professor of Theater and Head of the Theater Department at Lafayette, and is a theater performer, director, choreographer and scholar. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on the musical, and has directed and choreographed a wide range of professional, college and summer stock productions. At Lafayette, those include *The Book Club Play*, *She Kills Monsters*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Wolves* and *Head Over Heels*. Her edited collection *Dueling Grounds: Revolution and Revelation in the Musical "Hamilton,"* was published by Oxford University Press in May of 2021 and her most recent book, *Milestones in Musical Theater*, was published by Routledge in June 2023.

JAY MARESCO (Followspot operator) is a first year student from New York, NY. This is his first production at Lafayette.

RICK MERINO (Banjo) first discovered the banjo through Steve Martin's performances on *Saturday Night Live*, sparking a lifelong interest in the instrument and its role in the history of American music. Some other influences include the Osborne Brothers, Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, Pete Seeger, John Hartford, Jerry Garcia, Allison Brown, Tony Trischka and Bela Fleck. Rick learned to play Clawhammer banjo from his guitar teacher, John Sheehan. Rick has studied blues, bluegrass and folk music with John Jackson, Keb Mo' and Pat Donahue, among others, at the Augusta Heritage Center at Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia. He has a masters degree in music from William Paterson University. He is thrilled to be part of Lafayette College's production of *Bright Star*, which is his seventh production of this musical. Of course, it's a fun show to play, but it is also an opportunity to collaborate with others to tell a beautiful story and to share wonderful music.

CALUM McCONNELL (he/they) is a senior electrical & computer engineering and theater double major. Calum has been directly involved in numerous productions in the past, most recently *Lift Every Voice* (Sound Design), *Legally Blonde* (Sound Designer/

Engineer), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Soundboard), as well as the upcoming *Silent Sky* (Scene Shop Supervisor). He also works behind the scenes for both on-campus theaters, and hopes you enjoy seeing them cross over!

JAMES MILLER (Floater) is a freshman engineering major. Born and raised in Pasadena, California, James worked on several productions at Polytechnic High School, often on sound design. He is excited to be part of his first show at Lafayette College.

KATRINA MILLER (Properties Designer/Scenic Painter) holds an MFA in Scenic Design from Purdue University and a BFA in theater design and production from Northern Illinois University. Previously her work has been seen at Boston Children's Theatre, Music Theatre Wichita, Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Lehigh University, Muhlenberg College, and NBC's production of *Peter Pan Live*.

JULIET MINADEO (Stage/Properties) is a sophomore film and media studies major from Long Island NY. She worked with props for last year's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Miracle on 34th Street*, and was a part of the costume crew for *The Book Club Play*.

WILL MORRIS (Costume and Makeup Designer) is a freelance theatrical director, designer, and technician. Scenic, Costume, and Lighting design credits include (selection): *Billy Elliot*, *The Color Purple*, and *The Spongebob Musical*. Directing credits include (selection): *The Humans*, *Noises Off*, and *Sister Act*. To learn more, visit www.willmorrisdesign.org

ROY NISSON (he/him) is from Brooklyn New York and is a sophomore majoring in economics and history. This is his first theater production.

ALEXANDER OWENS (Production Manager/Technical Director): In his time at Lafayette, Alexander (he/him) has collaborated on a successful grant for the creation of the Immersive Arts Lab, developed a fellowship for Engineering students interested in theater,

constructed a swimming pool onstage for *Metamorphoses*, and oversaw the move into and opening of William C Buck Hall.

ANDREAS PELEKIS (Cello) is a junior English and film and media studies double major with a music minor, from Ridgewood, NJ. He has played the cello for 11 years, and this is his first pit orchestra production with Lafayette College, and sixth production overall. Andreas plays in Contemporary Music Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, and has performed in multiple recitals at the college. He is also the pit orchestra director for the spring production of *Marquis Players*.

DELANEY PICCOLO (Crew) Delaney is a freshman with a pre-law major, and is so excited to be a part of *Bright Star* as a member of the lighting crew this fall! Best of luck to all the cast and crew!

IRIS PIERCE (Costumes) is a sophomore with a major in English (literature concentration). This is her first production with the Lafayette Theater Department. Last spring, Iris was on costume crew for the *Marquis Players* production of *Cabaret*. Iris also worked as the Assistant Costume Designer at Teaneck Community Charter School's theater camp the past two summers, costuming *Into the Woods* and *The Little Mermaid*.

LUCAS PHILLIPS (Mic wrangler) was born and raised in Newport Beach, California. A junior and theater minor, he has performed in the Theater Department's production of *The Book Club Play* as the Secret Service Agent, and in *Love Letters* and *Miracle on 34th Street*. Lucas would like to thank his friends and family.

RYAN PIGNOTTI (Keyboard II, Accordion) is a senior chemical engineering major from Frelinghuysen, NJ, and this is his first time being involved in a production by the Lafayette College Theater Department. Ryan was Pit Director for the *Marquis Players* production of *Cabaret* last spring, and he is honored and excited to play with the talented *Bright Star* pit. Ryan wants to thank all members of the pit, cast, and production team for their hard work, and he hopes you enjoy the show!

JOHNNY RAHEB (Jimmy Ray Dobbs) is a first year biology major and theater minor from Denver, Colorado. He is incredibly excited to make his debut within the talented Lafayette College Theater Department as Jimmy Ray Dobbs! He has performed in several high-school theater productions including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Newsies*, *Footloose* and *Little Women*! Last season, he performed in the Marquis Players production of *Cabaret* as Bobby. Aside from MP, he is a member of the Lafayette Mar-Keys and is continuing the search to further enrich himself in the arts! Many thanks to Mom and Dad and the wonderful cast of *Bright Star*.

KIA ROGERS (Lighting Designer) is a New York City based lighting designer for theater and dance. International credits include Lighting Designer for *The Baby Monitor*, *Rome and Cagliari*, *Italy 2021*, and *Belgrade, Serbia* for the Belgrade Pride Festival. Associate Lighting Designer for Slutforart/98.6 in Gothenburg, Sweden with Muna Tseng. West coast designs include El Portal's Monroe Forum Theatre, Los Angeles and Z Space, San Francisco. Film credits include *Georgia & Me*, *Happy Days*, and *Hot Angry Mom* web series. She has won Outstanding Lighting Design for *Real*, 2019 and *Jane The Plain*, 2014 by the New York Innovative Theatre Awards, Outstanding Lighting Design for *Mr. Toole*, 2016 by the Midtown International Theatre Festival. Kia is a Creative Partner with Flux Theatre Ensemble and a company member of LAByrinth Theater Company based in NYC.

JAKE SALGADO (Scenic Design): Jake (he/him) is thrilled to serve as the Assistant Professor of Scenography at Lafayette College. He has designed many productions at Lafayette, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Ugly Lies The Bone*, *Love Letters*, and *Head Over Heels* from last season. Professor Salgado works outside of Lafayette as a freelance designer for plays, musicals, and live events. Recent designs include *Shrek the Musical* with Crane River Theatre, in Kearney, NE, along with *Maytag Virgin* and *Souvenir*, both with the Peterborough Players, in Peterborough, NH.

MITCH SAMU (Music Director) is a Composer, Playwright, Keyboardist, Arranger and Music Director. He is currently the Music

Director at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse and Freehold First United Methodist Church. Broadway credits include: *The Lion King*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Saturday Night Fever*. Original Musicals include: *Motherhood: The Agony & The Ecstasy* - A 90-minute musical exploring women's issues and the ups & downs of becoming a mother. *A Kiss For My Daughter A Kiss for My Father* - A 45-minute musical challenging the love of a father and daughter relationship when dementia enters the picture. *Jesus A Life* - A 2-act musical walking through the life of Christ, from Annunciation Death and Resurrection. *God's Trombones* - A choral work based on the poetry of James Weldon Johnson. Mitch is the proud husband of Kristen and proud father of Willow and Orion.

ANDY SANTOPATRE (Viola) is a junior geology major raised on Long Island. They have previously played viola in high school performances of *The Adams Family*, *Aida*, and *Anything Goes*. This is Andy's first time performing in pit with the Lafayette College Theater Department.

ZOE SARR (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior international affairs and Asian studies major from CT. This is her first time being an assistant stage manager for a production and she couldn't be more ecstatic! Outside of Lafayette Theater Department, she is a part of Alpha Gamma Delta and Arts Society and works at the Rec Center and is an usher.

ROSETTA SERANO (Bass) is a sophomore from New York who is planning to major in neuroscience. She is also a campus photographer.

SONALI SHAH (Edna / Ensemble) is a junior English major with a concentration in writing and a theater minor. She has previously been involved with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Lift Every Voice* (Production Assistant), and *Marquis Players' Foot-loose* (Ensemble). She hopes you enjoy the show!

CHANLER SHARPE (Assistant Technical Director) is very excited to be here at Lafayette for *Bright Star*. They have just finished stage managing at Dorney Park for the summer and fall, and are

the tech supervisor at Easton Area High School for their musical in the spring.

MATT SHEEHAN (Sound Designer) is local to Easton, PA. Matt primarily focuses his artistic work in stagecraft, music, and ceramics.

GARETH SHUSTER (Daddy Cane) is excited to be performing in his first musical at Lafayette. He has been involved with theater since high school, and has absolutely loved being able to perform on stage. He was in *Miracle on 34th Street* for the Theater Department last year, and has been in a number of productions before that, ranging from *Newsies* to *Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

MILES SIMS (Ensemble/Male Understudy), coming from Portland, Maine, has been active in theater since fourth grade. He has performed with Maine State Music Theater, local playhouses, and at Waynflete High School. Notable roles include Bobby Strong in *Urinetown* and Patrick Star in *The SpongeBob Musical*. Miles is excited to take on the role of Station Master in this production of *Bright Star* and looks forward to continuing his work in the theater community.

CECI SKINNER-GRANT (Stage/Properties) is excited to be on stage crew for *Bright Star*. While this is her first Theater Department show, she previously worked sound for *Footloose* and *Cabaret* with the Marquis Players and will be the production manager for *Rent* this Spring. She is a junior majoring in math.

ALVIA SMITH (Stage/Props) is a first year chemical engineering major from Scranton, Pennsylvania. Her most recent role was performing in the ensemble in her high school's production of *Big Fish*. She would like to thank her parents and her friends at Lafayette for always supporting her no matter what.

KATE STADTER (Stage Manager) is a sophomore studying history, international politics, and theater. This is her fifth production with the Lafayette Theater Department and her twelfth overall. She is very excited for the opportunity to stage manage this show, and

is grateful to her friends and family for supporting her.

CHRIS TAVERNER (Mayor Josiah Dobbs) is a senior civil engineering major. Previously at Lafayette, he played Herr Schultz in the Marquis Players' production of *Cabaret*, Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Basilius in *Head Over Heels*, and Student 3 (Mercutio/Friar Laurence) in Shakespeare's *R&J*. Chris also plays the trombone in the Pep Band, is in the Chorduroys a cappella group, is a member of Arts Society, has lived on the Music Appreciation Floor (MAFia), and is Co-President of the Lafayette Student Alumni Council.

MAGGIE THOMPSON (Guitar) is a freshman majoring in art history. This is her first production with the Theater Department. Prior to Lafayette College, she was a member of her high school's pit orchestra as a guitarist. She would like to thank Tom DiGiovanni for asking her to play in this production.

AIDAN WALSH (Dr. Norquist) is a freshman from Allendale, New Jersey majoring in engineering (undecided). His high school acting credits most notably include Sam Carmichael in *Mamma Mia!* and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Northern Highlands Theater Company). This year, he intends to continue acting while further developing his academic interests. He would like to thank his parents and sister for their continued support. Marquis Scholarship recipient.

MAX WASSERSTEIN (Billy Cane) is a first year, and he will be majoring in psychology. This is his first show at Lafayette College, but he has been performing in musical theater since he was seven. Some of his favorite previous roles include Chip in *On the Town* and John Hinckley Jr. in *Assassins*, both of which he performed at French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts. He would like to thank the entire cast, crew, and production team for all their hard work and dedication.

JIAYU YAN (ANGEL) (Assistant Stage Management) was born and raised in Shanghai, China. She is a freshman majoring in theater and is considering a double major in economics. Recently, she

participated as Xiaohong and *Ensemble in Luxun*, the musical produced by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and performed Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical The Musical*. Prior to attending Lafayette College, Jiayu worked as the composer and director of the original musical *Li Qingzhao* and she is still working on it.

MANNING YIP (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore, majoring in mechanical engineering, Manning found his interest and introduction in theater thanks to the Wendy Wasserstein Project/Theater Development Fund. In his first semester, freshman year, he worked on crew for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the hair/costumes department. Manning is currently working as an Assistant Stage Manager for *Bright Star* for the Lafayette Theater Department. Manning is a proud Posse scholar.

LEONA ZHOU (Stage/Props) was born and raised in China. She is a freshman, majoring in mechanical engineering at Lafayette College. She is taking the course THTR 102.01-Fall 2024 Basic Stagecraft: Tech Theater. She has had preliminary contact with lighting and stage management in class.

SPRING 25' THEATER DEPARTMENT SEASON

Performed in The Weiss Theater at Buck Hall on
the Arts Campus at Lafayette College

Much Ado About Nothing, by William Shakespeare
Adapted and Directed by Professor Courtney Ryan
March 6-8, 2025 at 7:30p.m. and March 9, 2025 at 2:00p.m.

Silent Sky, by Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Professor Melissa Livingston
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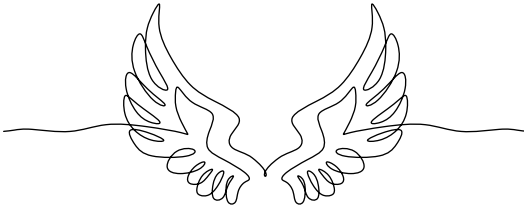


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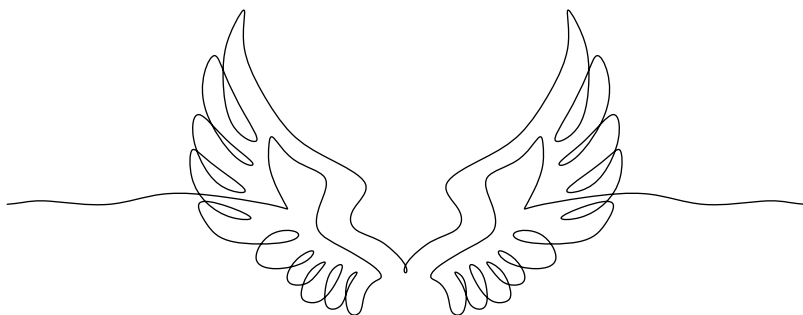
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WE BELIEVE IN ANGELS

In the theater, an angel is a divine person who makes generous donations so theater can happen right here on earth. Support from our Angels has brought in professional designers and choreographers, supported our students competing in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and sponsored lectures by playwrights.



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