



presents...

BRIGHT ★ STAR

MARCH 5, 6, 7, 8, 2026
NORTH BRUNSWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL





presents...

BRIGHT
★
STAR

Music, Book, and Story by STEVE MARTIN

Music, Lyrics, and Story by EDIE BRICKELL

Orchestrations by AUGUST ERIKSMOEN

Vocal Arrangements by ROB BERMAN

Directed by

Music Direction by

HEATHER TEDESCO PASQUALE

ISAIAH C. MASON



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BRIGHT STAR

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Director's Note

If you knew my story.....you'd have a good story to tell.....

In the opening of the show Alice sings "I was born to carry more than I can hold" and I think that line really sums up the struggles we all face. Each and every one of us has our own worst days. Our own burdens that feel insurmountable. How we face them and how we face every day in between are the makings of our character. The ways we handle grief, longing, ambition, strife, shape us and our own stories.

...the longing of the human heart and its search for propinquity.

No story is truly just ours. It belongs to every person that story touches. Whether it's the people you know, the people you meet, or the truth itself that walks beside us like a shadow....until one day it merges with us.

Bright Star is the story of Alice Murphy; but it's also the story of a soldier coming home from war, a young man fighting pressures of society, a mayor with a legacy to protect, a bookstore owner with dreams of adventure, of families just like yours and mine with their own burdens and sorrows. More than that, it's the story of how all those stories come together. None of us are alone and when we find the right people to help us carry those burdens, and our happiness, we can survive the brightest days and the darkest nights.

*You never know what life will bring, only what you bring to life.
Hopes and dreams and fine imaginings; they happen in their own good time.*

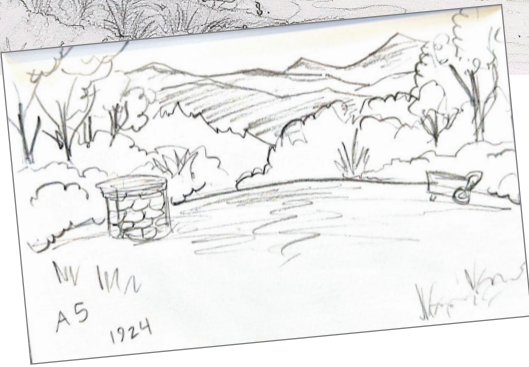
Bright Star is a story about a lot of things, but our production about Bright Star has come to be about resilience. The proof that no matter the weight of our burdens, if we can muster the strength, we will carry it. A week before opening night, we had missed a few rehearsals due to snow only to find out that the snow was going to permanently displace our production. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made the move possible so that we could continue to tell our story.

It's the day I've waited for, at last.

Finally, thank YOU for being a part of our story by supporting live theater. In a world where entertainment is constantly at our fingertips, we appreciate you taking the time to join us as we turn back time.

Enjoy the show and shine on!

Heather Tedesco Pasquale
Producer/Director, North Brunswick Drama Group



Concept Sketches for
Bright Star digital projections

**Bright Star takes place in North Carolina,
and jumps in time between 1923-24 and 1945-46.
It is based on a true incident.**

ACT I

If You Knew My Story.....	Alice, Company
She's Gone	Daddy Cane, Billy
Bright Star	Billy, Ensemble
Way Back in the Day.....	Alice, Ensemble
Whoa, Mama	Jimmy Ray, Alice, Ensemble
Firmer Hand / Do Right	Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Alice, Ensemble
A Man's Gotta Do	Mayor Dobbs, Jimmy Ray
Asheville	Margo, Ensemble
What Could Be Better	Jimmy Ray, Alice, Ensemble
I Can't Wait	Alice, Jimmy Ray, Ensemble
Bright Star (Reprise)	Billy
Please, Don't Take Him	Mayor Dobbs, Alice, Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Stanford, Ensemble
A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise)	Mayor Dobbs, Ensemble

THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT II

Sun's Gonna Shine	Alice, Mama Murphy, Margo, Daddy Cane, Edna, Florence, Ensemble
Heartbreaker.....	Jimmy Ray
Another Round	Lucy, Daryl, Billy, Ensemble
I Had a Vision	Alice, Jimmy Ray
Always Will.....	Billy, Margo, Ensemble
Can't Wait (Reprise)	Ensemble
So Familiar	Alice, Ensemble
At Long Last.....	Alice, Ensemble
Finale	Company

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Stephanie Elson	✧	Alice Murphy
RJ Clemens	✧	Billy Cane
Luke Gavin	✧	Jimmy Ray Dobbs
Elizabeth Rzasa	✧	Margo
Norman Politziner	✧	Mayor Dobbs
Billy Morris	✧	Daddy Cane
Mercedes DaLomba-Richter	✧	Mary Lee Cane
Tom Douglas	✧	Daddy Murphy
Brendan McCunney	✧	Daryl Ames
Kathi Troy	✧	Mama Murphy
Amanda Haasz	✧	Lucy
Rowan Underberg-Davis	✧	Max
Don Benhardt	✧	Stanford
Louis Mastro	✧	Dr. Norquist/Shadow
Rose Flahive	✧	Edna
Jill Carty	✧	Florence
Sharon Underberg	✧	Adoption Clerk/Shadow
Emily Christensen	✧	Well-Dressed Woman/Shadow
Leslie Grimes	✧	Shadow

ENSEMBLE

Alison Slifkin	Mary Liedtka
Ashley Woodworth	Mercedes DaLomba-Richter
Conor Donegan	Patrick Carty
Crowley Underberg-Davis	Rachel Schleppey
Heather Davenport	Samuel Benifield-Chivore
Jeanne Massary	Will Lomassaro
Leland Font	

Cast

Alison Slifkin (Ensemble) is excited to again be performing with NBDG and has been performing with the group since 2016. In addition to performing, Alison works backstage at Plays in the Park and was part of “Rent” during the 2025 season. She thanks Heather and everyone involved in the production for the opportunity to be part of the show. She also thanks her fellow cast members for their support and always thanks her family and friends for supporting her in all she does.

Amanda Haasz (Lucy/Assistant Choreographer/Baby) is excited to be playing herself in this production with NBDG. When she’s not on stage or at rehearsal, Amanda can be found doing fiber arts, at karaoke (Georgie’s Idol 2025), or hanging with her dogs Benji and Georgie. Huge thank you to the cast and crew for all the hard work!

Ashley Woodworth (Ensemble) is excited to participate in her second show with North Brunswick Drama Group. Ashley found her love for theatre only a few years ago and is thrilled to return to the stage. Previously, she was part of North Brunswick Drama group’s production of Jekyll and Hyde. Ashley would like to thank her family for supporting her all their support.

Billy Morris (Daddy Cane) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a 2 year hiatus. Performing many shows here with NBADG, a few of Billy’s fav roles have been Emcee (Cabaret), Adolfo Pirelli (Sweeny Todd), Lord Savage (Jekyll & Hyde) and Rusty Charlie (Guys & Dolls). Billy extends big thanks to cast & crew welcoming his return with all their support and love. For Ryu & Boo, “You know how much she loved you, son.” Hey Moe, just another show!

Brendan McCunney (Daryl Ames) Brendan is delighted to be playing Daryl Ames in his second performance with the North Brunswick Drama Group. Most recently he played John in The Lion in Winter. Prior roles include Bob Enright (9 to 5), Bert Healy/Harold Ickes (Annie), Wes Warnicker (Footloose), Jamie (Company), Pugsley (The Addams Family), Bellhop (Lend me a Tenor), Cowardly Lion (Wizard of Oz), Lord Montague (Romeo and Juliet), Horton (Seussical), Billy Moore (Assassins). His performance is dedicated to his two favorite grandmothers.

Conor Donegan (Ensemble) Is so excited to immerse himself in the magic of Bright Star. I’ve been in five prior productions to this one such as Bye Bye Birdie, Into the Woods, Footloose, 9 To 5, and Jekyll and Hyde. Storytelling is kind of my comfort food.

Crowley Underberg-Davis (Ensemble) has been having a wonderful time both on stage and behind it with Bright Star as his 3.5th show with NBDG. His previous roles have been in Jekyll & Hyde (General Lord Glossop), 9 to 5 (ensemble), and Footloose (Bickle). He is also reprising his secondary roles of taking point on stage makeup and assisting with costuming. Off stage he can be found crafting, usually as part of some sort of costume for an upcoming LARP. As always, he loves sharing the stage with his mother and younger sibling (Sharon and Scout), and would like to thank them for their help and support!

Don Benhardt (Stanford) Don is thrilled to be returning for his 27th season with the NBDG. Most recently he appeared as Christmas Present in “A Christmas Carol” (BACCP), Sir Danvers Carew in “Jekyll & Hyde” and Dick in “9 to 5” (NBDG) as well as being in the supporting cast at the New Jersey Renaissance Faire. He wants to thank this awesome cast and crew and his family for their support, especially his beloved wife, Mel and his biggest little fan, Piper.

Elizabeth Rzasz (Margo Crawford) returns to NBDG having appeared as the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (2024 NJACT Perry Awards Lead Actress in a Musical), Vi Moore in *Footloose*, and Violet Newstead in *9 TO 5*. Some favorite roles across the tristate area include the title roles of *Mary Poppins* and *Peter Pan*, *Marian* (*The Music Man*), *Maria* (*The Sound of Music*), *Lily* (*The Secret Garden*), *Anna* (*The King & I*), *Rosa Bud* (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* - Lead Actress in a Musical, 2020 NJACT Perry Awards Nom), *Ida* (*HONK* - Lead Actress in a Musical, 2007 NJACT Perry Awards Nom), *Katarina Cavalieri* in *Amadeus* (Supporting Actress in a Play, 2015 NJACT Perry Awards Nom), *Mollie Ralston* (*The Mousetrap*), *Hermia* (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and the *Ghost of Christmas Past* (*Scrooge*, 2013 NJACT Perry Award Featured Actress in a Musical). She is a VERY recent breast cancer survivor after a tough 2025 and is so happy to be returning to the stage and performing with this wonderful group as she continues to recover. Get your mammograms!!

Emily Christensen (Well-Dressed Woman/Shadow) is so excited to be making her NBDG debut! Favorite credits include *Alice* in *Alice @ Wonderland* (MSTC), *Phyllis* in *Three Doors to Death* (JOM), *Matilda* in *All Shook Up* (MSTC), and *Philia* in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (MSTC). She also directs, music directs, and is an instructor for *Main Street Academy*. She would like to thank the entire production staff for this opportunity and her amazing boyfriend, *Sam*, who introduced her to this musical on their first date, for being her rock.

Heather Davenport (Ensemble/Dance Captain) Heather is excited to be joining NBDG for her first production with the group! With a background in competitive dance, award-winning choreography, and childhood community theater, she is happy to be returning to the stage to pursue her passions. Offstage, Heather is a published researcher in *Interpersonal Communication* and is pursuing her Ph.D. at *Rutgers University*. In her free time, she can be found laughing and smiling with her friends!

Kathi Troy (Mama Murphy) is elated to be working alongside the wonderful folks at the *North Brunswick Drama Group*! Kathi was most recently seen in *Ferrell Studios' Cabaret* (*Fraulein Schneider*). Additionally, other favorite roles have included, NBDG's *9-5* (*Margaret Pomerance*), and *Into the Woods* (*Cinderella's Step-Mother*), *Mystic Players's Hairspray* (*Prudy Pingleton*), and *KOTA's Off-Broadway US Premier of A Little Princess* (*Miss Minchin*). TV/Film credits include: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Law and Order SVU*, *Trainwreck*, and more. Recently, Kathi added directing to her community theatre credits, at *Ferrell Studio's Our Time - An Evening of One Acts*, and is also on their board. By day, Kathi is currently teaching a full day of public speaking classes. She wishes to thank her hubby, *Brian*, for his always steadfast support of her strong desire to be a theatre person. She thanks her daughter *Bri*, and theatre friend, *Jane*, for their contribution to show props, and to *Heather, Rich, Becky, Shannon, Nick, Isaiah, Jason*, and the whole NBDG production team, for their talents, patience, and support. So grateful for this lovely time traveling experience with you all!

Jeanne Massary (Ensemble) Jeanne is excited to be doing her first show with *North Brunswick Drama Group*. Her two sons *Jason* and *Justin* are in the pit. Hope you enjoy today's show.

Jill Carty (Florence) is so excited to be back performing with some of her favorite people again! She was last seen with NBT Drama in 9 to 5 as part of the ensemble. Some of her favorite past credits include an Apostle/Featured Dancer in Jesus Christ Superstar, Sylvia in All Shook Up, Florinda in Into the Woods, and Morticia in The Addams Family (All with Main Street Theater). Jill would like to thank Heather, Isaiah, Becky, Nick, Amanda, Sam, and Shannon for helping us put on this AMAZING show, and to her family for always supporting her. Special shout outs to the Bookstore Baddies for being awesome and to her husband, Patrick who she successfully pestered into joining the cast!

Leland Font (Ensemble) Leland Font is 15 years old and has been doing musicals since he was in 5th grade. He was previously Grumpy in Snow White, Augustus Gloop in Willy Wonka, Lennie in Junie B Jones Jr, Cat in Honk!, a guard in Frozen Jr., and the President in Annie. Leland is thankful for his Mom, Dad, brother Jaxon, and sister Emersyn.

Leslie Grimes (Ensemble/Shadow) Is thrilled to be in her fifth production with NBDG. She had a very early start in theater in productions such as Gypsy with Angela Lansbury. Other roles as a teen and young adult include Maria in West Side Story, Kathy in Company, Princess Yin Yaolak in The King and I. Finally she is doing theater again and thanks her family for their support!

Lou Mastro (Dr. Norquist/Shadow) has been with this group since 1991 having many memorable roles. Been doing community theater 34 years making many incredible lifetime friends. Several memorable roles were Igor, Uncle Fester, Melvin P. Thorpe, Horton, Pseudelous, French Taunter, etc. Thanks to family and friends for all their love and support! Thanks especially to this incredible cast old and new, adore you all!

Luke Gavin (Jimmy Ray Dobbs) had a blast at his first North Brunswick Drama Group show! This is a dream show, he's overjoyed to be in this production. He's worked previously at MSTCOB and Premier Theatre. Please enjoy, and big thanks to the cast and crew!

Mary Liedtka (Ensemble) Betty Blast (Footloose), Puttin' on the Ritz Tapper (Young Frankenstein), Ensemble (Jekyll & Hyde), New Employee (9 to 5), Giant understudy (Into the Woods). Much love to Greg, Don, Heather and the whole cast and crew. Break a leg everyone!

Mercedes V. DaLomba-Richter (Mary Lee Cane/Ensemble) Mercedes is so grateful to be part of this amazing and talented group! Past credits with the NBDG and beyond includes, Jekyll and Hyde, 9 to 5, Into the Woods, Bye Bye Birdie, Guys and Dolls and The Fantasticks! And also recently had the honor of taking part in an incredible original work by one of our very own! Johnny Della Luna's; "Humbugs" with the Spotlight Players! Mercedes wants to send special love and thanks to Ryan, Rosalina and Amelia, Harry Paquito, Zorro the Cat, Bruce the Fish, Family and Friends. Also sending out more special love and thanks to Heather, Becky, Nick, Isaiah and Elaine. Love and hugs to Jessica and my family at the NJ State Theatre! Much love and many thanks to the Cast, the Pit and to the Production Staff and Crew! PS: *Meli, this makes 6 Madre e Hija shows in a row, together!! Whoohooo!!*

Norm Politziner (Mayor Dobbs) is delighted to be working with Heather, Isaiah, Becky, Nick, Shannon, Rich and this very talented cast and crew. Norm is the recipient of the Governor Thomas H Kean Arts Advocacy Award and the NJACT Lifetime Achievement Award. He has performed in more than 80 regional and community theater productions in NJ. Favorite roles include Zangler in “Crazy for You”, Caldwell in “Urinetown”, Finch in “How to Succeed in Business”, Nicely Nicely and Brother Arvide in “Guys and Dolls”, and Patsy in “Spamalot”. He has appeared in “Old Jews Telling Jokes”, the online program, and a cameo role in “Our Town” at George Street Playhouse. He thinks that Mayor Dobbs is one of his most challenging roles. In his spare time, Norm is a Certified Financial Planner in Highland Park. And a special thank you to Dotty, for all your help and support.

Patrick K Carty (Train Conductor/Ensemble) is happy to be back on the lovely NBDG stage since he was Amos in Big Fish. He has performed in over 100 shows from Toms River to High Bridge since 2003. If you want to know what shows he was in, just ask him. He is glad to be performing with his amazing wife Jill! And the center of his universe is his red-headed daughter Julia.

Rachel Schleppey (Ensemble) is thrilled to be part of the ensemble in Bright Star and to make her debut with The North Brunswick Drama Group! She previously appeared in the ensemble of Mermaid at West Morris Central High School. Rachel takes voice lessons and was a member of her school choir throughout high school. She also spent four years performing with All College Theater at The College of New Jersey. Rachel would like to thank her family along with her amazing castmates for their constant support.

RJ Clemens (Billy Cane) is thrilled to be part of Bright Star and to help share this heartfelt story. Recent credits include Aaron Fox in Curtains, Moonface Martin in Anything Goes, and Cogsworth in Beauty and the Beast. He is thankful for the talented cast and the dedication of the production staff who brought the show to life. RJ sends his love and gratitude to his family, especially his parents, for their constant encouragement and support.

Rose Flahive (Edna) is excited to be returning to NBDG for a second show! Previous performance experience includes Jekyll & Hyde, the New Jersey Renaissance Faire support cast (most recent role: Saoirse the Faery, on cast from 2015-present), Sparta Renaissance Faire’s Faery Guild (2023-2024), and member of the Punnie Wars, an improv show dedicated to competitive pun making (2017-present). When not performing, Rose can be found teaching middle school language arts, crocheting, spinning her own yarn, singing in a choir, or making cosplays.

Rowan “Scout” Underberg-Davis (Max) is proud to be in their third NBT production. They love working with NBT, especially working along with their mom, Sharon, and brother, Crowley. Outside of community theater, Scout enjoys Live-Action Role-playing, along with knitting and crochet.

Samuel Benifield-Chivore (Ensemble) is thrilled to be performing again with North Brunswick Drama Group. Audiences may remember him as Lyle in Footloose and the Wedding Officiant in Jekyll & Hyde. He has also appeared as the Teen Angel in Grease, in Hamlet-Thrill-Ma-Geddon, Theatre Revue '25 & '26 and Little Shop of Horrors with Alchemist. Samuel was born with a brain AVM that caused right-sided weakness making his path a bit tougher than most. Even with daily challenges that others might take for granted, he hopes his journey inspires anyone living with a disability, visible or invisible, to keep pushing forward. He is deeply grateful for his incredibly amazing supportive family, Mrs. V., Mrs. Marx, Heather Tedesco, and everyone who has helped make this opportunity possible.

Sharon Underberg (Adoption Clerk/Shadow) is thrilled to be on stage again with NBDG playing a Shadow and the adoption clerk. She's equally excited to be in the cast again with both of her kids, Crow and Scout. Most recently she died spectacularly in Jekyll and Hyde playing Baroness Fredericka Proops. Sharon previously was prop master for 9 to 5 and appeared as Lulu Warnicker in Footloose and one of Cinderella's birds in Into the Woods. Favorite past roles include Sister Mary Amnesia (Nonsense 1 and 2), Ruth (Pirates of Penzance) and 3 different roles in productions of Godspell. A pediatric radiologist living in Highland Park, Sharon keeps her voice in shape by singing all the verses of "The Wheels on the Bus" to her patients, motions included. She also directs Kol Ahava, the choir of Congregation Kehilat Shalom, sings with Makhelat HaMercaz (the Jewish choir of central NJ) and has studied voice with Alyssa Saunders and Alta Malberg.

Stephanie Elson (Alice Murphy) is thrilled to be back with her NBDG family after having last appeared as Roz Keith in 9 to 5. Previous community theater credits include Rosie in The Wedding Singer, Jack's Mother in Into the Woods, Sandra Bloom in Big Fish, Lenore in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Stephanie is currently fully enjoying her retirement after more than two decades with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. Stephanie would like to thank her husband, Michael, for his patience, love and support. Much love to her daughter, Lorelei, who led to Stephanie's favorite role of all time, "Mom".

Tom Douglas (Papa Murphy) is back for his twelfth year with NBADG and has been featured as Mr. Tinsworthy in "9 to 5", The Wolf in "Into The Woods" and has also appeared as The Blind Hermit in "Young Frankenstein". Also featured as Scott the Choreographer in "The Producers", Not Dead Fred in "Spamalot" and Angie the Ox in "Guys and Dolls". He has also appeared in "The Music Man", "The Addams Family", and "Beauty and the Beast". Tom has the full support of his family, especially grandson Teddy & granddaughters Maeve & Shea. Best wishes and big thanks to HTP, ICM, RC, NC and the talented cast & crew of the NBADG. Break Legs!

Will Lomassaro (Ensemble) is thrilled to be in his 18th NBDG show. Will has been in 7 NBYDAG shows which were Once On This Island, The Wedding Singer, Things to Ruin, Urinetown, Legally Blonde, Be More Chill, and Carrie. He was also in 4 NBADG shows which were The Addams Family, Beauty and the Beast, Big Fish, and Guys and Dolls. Will has also been in six NBDG shows and they are 50 Years of Revue, Bye Bye Birdie as Harvey Johnson, Into the Woods as Milky White, Footloose, 9 to 5 as Josh Newstead, and Jekyll and Hyde as beggarman. Break a leg to everyone in the cast and a special thanks to Heather, Ms. Cahill, and Isiah for their dedication to the show.



Norman J. Politziner, MBA, CFP®, CeFT™

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**Congratulations to this
wonderful cast and crew for
overcoming the unprecedented
challenges faced in the
production of this show.**

**-Dotty Politziner
& Norm Politziner**



Production/Creative Team

Heather Tedesco Pasquale
Producing Director

Isaiah C. Mason
Music Director

Rebecca Cahill
Choreographer

Nick Cartusciello
Technical Director

Richard Siegel
Assistant Producer

Shannon Knopf
Stage Manager

Lina "Lark" Knopf
Assistant Stage Manager,
Lighting Designer

Jason Wang
Assistant Music Director

Amanda Haasz
Assistant Choreographer

Heather Davenport
Dance Captain

Michael Gage Costa
Designer

Kate Wolfel
Assistant Designer

Allison Schaechter
Marketing Manager

Elaine Martin Amodio
House & Box Office Manager

Samantha Melgar Nix
Costume Designer

Sam Lazofsky
Tech Consultant

Nicholas Pasquale
Carpenter

Lauren Gray & PJ Campacci
Crew

Pit Orchestra

Isaiah C. Mason
Conductor

Gates Kielty
Keyboard

Jason Wang
Viola

Amelia Richter
Bass

Bri Zietler
Mandolin

Michelle Kim
Piano

Justin Wang
Fiddle

Frank Sweeney
Tenor Saxophone

Emma Selinger
Banjo/Guitar

Scott Cohen
Drums

Production Staff

Heather Tedesco Pasquale (Director/Producer) is so blessed to lead such a wonderful and talented group of humans. This is her 10th production leading the North Brunswick Drama Group and with every show her pride and devotion for the group grows. When not at the theater Heather runs the NJ State Governor's Volunteerism Awards. She also serves as the Director of Programs for the Volunteer Center of Burlington County and was recently appointed to the Board for the NJ Association of Community Theaters (NJACT). In her spare time, Heather enjoys tending to her chickens, guinea fowl, peacocks, kitty (Muffin), and pups (Sally Da Baby and Ollie Pasquale). Thank you to all of the family and friends on and behind the stage; as well as in the audience. She couldn't live her theater dreams without all of your support; especially her incredible husband — Nick St. Nick — who keeps the farm running while she's at rehearsals and who has officially built his first set piece! Bub, I love you to the moon and back.

Elaine Martin-Amodio (House Manager) during the day she can be found working in the Compliance Department at Rutgers University. Elaine used to be on stage now has been working the house for more years that she can remember. However, she enjoys volunteering her time working with this very talented group that she has known and shared the stage within the past. Helping her work the house is her husband Peter and son Nicholas. Love and Hollywood kisses to Heather.

Isaiah C. Mason (Music Director/Conductor) is so excited to return to the Adult Drama Group as a first time Music Director after previously performing in four productions with the group onstage and in the pit. He currently serves as a band teacher at Linwood School in North Brunswick Township Schools. His previous music directing experience includes LTC's Oklahoma and Godspell. A Sergeant in the New Jersey National Guard, he brings a strong spirit of teamwork and dedication to every endeavor. Isaiah also serves on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Music Educators Association and is a published composer through Carl Fischer. He looks forward to collaborating with the cast and organization to create a meaningful experience and deliver a memorable performance for the audience.

Lauren Gray (Crew) is in her freshman year of high school and is excited to work crew in this year's production. She's helped out in school productions during her middle school years, along with a few high school productions and has helped out in past shows in NBT Drama. When she's not backstage, she's often making many crafts, hanging out with family and playing with many different pets. She would like to thank her sister, her mom, Dana, her twin brother, and Philip for supporting her many hobbies.

Lina "Lark" Knopf (Assistant Stage Manager) is beyond thrilled to be working with North Brunswick Drama Group for their 8th show together, this being their second show doing lights for the program. They are incredibly thankful for being given the creative outlet, and send nothing but love to the cast and crew, who have been a joy to work with throughout the process.

Production Staff (cont.)

Michael Gage Costa (Production Designer) is enjoying contributing to Bright Star's atmospheric set projections and graphic elements. You may have seen him onstage recently in NBDG's *Jekyll & Hyde* (*Jekyll, Hyde*) and *9 to 5* (*Franklin Hart Jr.*), as well as many other NJ theatrical productions. Thank you to Heather and the rest of the production team, as well to his wife and kids—Allison, Charlie, and Penny—for their boundless support. By day, he's a graphic designer, amateur aquarist, escape room enthusiast, gourmet food lover, and Disney fan.

Richard Siegel (Associate Producer / Props / Sound) is thrilled to continue as a member of production staff for NBDG. Past acting roles include *9 to 5* (*Dwayne*), *It's A Wonderful Life* (*Harry Bailey*), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (*Leaf Coneybear*). Richard has performed stand-up comedy at the Stress Factory and teaches 6th grade English. Outside of theater, he enjoys playing tennis. He thanks his friends, family, the cast and crew, and his dog, Marzipan.

Shannon Knopf (Stage Manager) is pleased to be celebrating her sixth show with the NBDG. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all their help with this one, as well as her family for all their support during the rehearsal process. When not on stage you can find her at work doing work stuff, at home doing home stuff, or out and around town doing out and around town stuff.

Rebecca Cahill (Choreographer) is excited to continue sharing her love of dance with the NBDG. She served as Choreographer for the North Brunswick Township High School *Alchemists* for 20 years and has taught in studios throughout Middlesex County. NBDG credits include *Legally Blonde*, *Be More Chill*, *Carrie*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Into the Woods*, *Footloose*, *9 to 5*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. Some of her other choreography credits include: *Mean Girls*, Disney's *the Little Mermaid*, and *Spelling Bee* with the *Alchemists*. She is currently a Social Studies teacher at NBTHS and is a Disney Vacation planner. Rebecca loves and appreciates her family, for their continued support. Special thanks to Dan for keeping her sane during another chaotic theater season! @rebecca_ett

Nick Cartusciello (Technical Director) has been listening to Heather talk about the magic of this group for years and is so happy that now he gets to be a part of the stories as well. Theater and storytelling are passions of Nick's that lead him to earn his BA in Theatre from Rutgers University and MFA in Directing from Pace University this past spring. He would like to thank his family, friends, and fiance for all of their support of this and all of his theatrical endeavors. Nick would also like to thank Heather for getting him involved but mostly for writing this bio for him when he forgot.

Pit Orchestra

Amelia Richter (Bass) Amelia is excited to be coming back to NBDG for Bright Star playing bass in the pit! In her free time, she enjoys singing, performing, dancing, and playing various instruments. Amelia has performed in many concerts and shows, most notably Moulin Rouge in her junior year and a mix of Grease and Hairspray in her senior year at her high school's dance shows. She has also done Bye Bye Birdie, Into the Woods, Footloose, 9 to 5, and Jekyll & Hyde at NBDG. Amelia is studying Psychology at Rutgers and minoring in Music! She would like to thank her girlfriend, family, director, and music director for supporting her!

Emma Selinger (Banjo/Guitar) is excited to be back in the pit for another NBDG production! Emma has played guitar and bass for NBDG since 2018, including their productions of Be More Chill, Carrie, Bye Bye Birdie, Footloose, 9 to 5, and Jekyll and Hyde. She is a proud graduate of Seton Hall University with a degree in Secondary Education and Music and a minor in Psychology. She is a passionate music educator and freelance musician who is currently teaching Adaptive Music in the Franklin Township Public School District. Emma would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support and the entire NBDG for another wonderful production experience. Enjoy the show!

Frank Sweeney (Tenor Sax) is happy to return to his alma mater's auditorium and be part of another NBDG production, previously having played with the group in Urinetown, Bye Bye Birdie, Into the Woods, and 9 to 5. An engineer in his day job, music is always his Bright Star.

Gates Kielty (Keyboard) is grateful to have the opportunity to play with the pit for another NBDG performance! Performing with this group is always a blast. Thankful for my own Bright Star, Bunny, for supporting me always. I love you! <3 ,òÜ

Jason Wang (Assistant Music Director/Violist) Jason Wang (Assistant Music Director/Viola) is thrilled to be part of this production. He previously served as Assistant Music Director for Jekyll & Hyde and has performed as a violinist in numerous productions, including Fiddler on the Roof, 9 to 5, Chicago, Into the Woods, and The Hunchback of Notre Dame, with the North Brunswick Drama Group and other local companies. Jason is currently studying Computer Science and Music at Rutgers University.

Justin Wang (Fiddle) Justin Wang (Fiddle) is coming back to NBDG after participating in last seasons show, Jekyll and Hyde. He has been playing violin for over nine years. Previously, he participated in the pit orchestra in productions including Cinderella and Mary Poppins, Newsies, Once Upon a Mattress, Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night's Dream. He would like to offer his thanks for all the people here in the audience supporting us perform Bright Star!

Michelle Kim (Piano) is a composer and pianist currently studying at Mason Gross School of the Arts—Rutgers University, studying with Scott Ordway and Jack Frerer. Her works have been performed at notable venues and festivals including Piano House Opernring GmbH in Vienna, the Atlantic Music Festival, and the Timucua Arts Foundation. As a pianist, she has won several competitions, including the Satori Young Pianist Contest. Having lived in Seoul, San Francisco, Paris, Los Angeles, New Jersey, and North Carolina, Michelle's diverse cultural experiences inspire her to create atmospheric music that reflects the beauty of nature and connects audiences of all backgrounds through shared emotional experiences.



To the cast of Bright Star:
we can't wait to see you
shine—break legs!

—Peter, Elaine,
and Nicholas Amodio

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Boosters

\$100

Will— You're going to be the "brightest star" on the stage.
Have a blast and break a leg!!! Love, Mom, Dad, Elizabeth & Joey.

\$25

Alison, Sending you positive energy!
You will shine in your role as always! You are our Super Star!
Love, Aunt Naomi and Uncle John

Good luck Alison. Have fun and enjoy every minute!
Love, Mom, Dad, Nick, Cristal, and Baby Mateo

We are very proud of you as you take stage for your very first performance with NBDG in Bright Star! The whole family is proud of you as you make your appearance on stage. With all our love and applause, Mom and Dad

\$10

Congratulations Alison, Milltown's talented 'bright star'! Love Michelle

Best wishes to the cast and crew of "Bright Star".

From the Slifkin family

"Mercedes, am I in this?"

"Billy, Margo has 'hot pants' for you!"

"Mary Lee, I could not have done it without you".

\$5

Break a leg, Leland. Shine Bright!

Love Dad, Mom, Jaxon & Emersyn

Justin, Great job on the Violin and Viola!

Mom and Grandmom

Jason, Great job as assistant music director! And thanks for helping singers to learn their songs! Mom and Grandmom

Break a leg, Alison!

From Chris Walker

Alison, Let your light shine!

"Oh, Margo!!!"

"Lucy, the 'Unsung Hero' "

"Steph, how long we've been doing this?"

"Little Heather, I got the arm swings right, finally!"

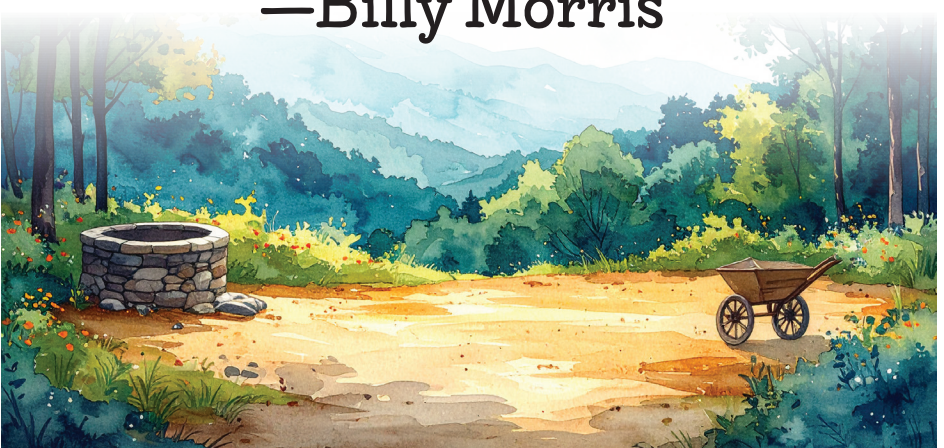
"Tommy, is it 'oohs' or 'aahs'?"

"Someday, we'll do your scenes."



In theatre they say
“Timing is everything.”
I guess it’s the “Lord’s will”
the role of Daddy Cane came
my way. Thanks to all cast
and crew for being there.
Love you, Moe.

—Billy Morris





FUNDS FOR FRIENDS

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

Raise funds for the North
Brunswick Drama Group by
dining at

THE GREENE TURTLE

211 MAIN STREET
NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902

732-515-9760



the **Greene Turtle**
SPORTS BAR & GRILLE



DJ MCMONEY
EVENTS/PARTIES/WEDDINGS
BRENDAN.MCCUNNEY@GMAIL.COM

 <p>K9 RESORTS LUXURY PET HOTEL</p>	<p>K9 Resorts of East Brunswick 545 Route 18 East Brunswick, NJ 08816 Phone: 732-952-1211 Fax: 732-862-4455 Email: eastbrunswick@k9resorts.com www.k9resorts.com</p>
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DINE TO DONATE
Saturday, March 7th
5pm - 10pm

Raise funds for the North Brunswick Drama Group
by dining at the Brunswick Grove

Please mention North Brunswick Drama Group
or present this flyer when dining

327 Milltown Road
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

BrunswickGrove.com

732-254-0495

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MyKiwiHealth.com






SHAKE  SHACK®

DONATION DAY

Thursday, March 5th
10:30am to 11:00pm

Mention Donation Day at the register or drive-thru, or use promo code **DONATE** on the Shack App, web, or kiosk at checkout and we'll donate **25%** of your total meal purchase to

North Brunswick Drama Group

SHAKE SHACK NORTH BRUNSWICK
240 Grand Ave, North Brunswick | North Brunswick, NJ
08902



BIG DEODORANT CAN KICK ROCKS

FOR THE TREES isn't just a deodorant company.

We're a **sustainability company** trying to save the planet, one pit at a time.

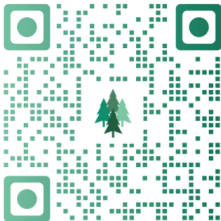
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1% for the Planet | 1 Tree Planted | The Bee Conservancy

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Travel Size \$3.29

Regular Refill \$4.29

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Congratulations

Heather Tedesco Pasquale on your
10th show as Director for the
North Brunswick Drama Group!
Your directorial vision Always Shines
like a Bright Star!

**“You never know what life can bring,
only what you bring to life.”**

Love Mammie and Daddy xoxo

Break a leg and many thanks to the
fabulous cast, pit, crew and all those
behind the scenes that lent their talent,
time and support to this production!



Alchemist Theatre Company Presents

THE

Wedding

SINGER



APRIL :

9th-11th

Location: @7PM

*North Brunswick Township
Highschool*

98 Raider Rd, North Brunswick

Township, NJ 08902



Some DPRCS Highlights at a Glance !

Saturday, March 21- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Greene Turtle Sports Bar & Grille - 8:00am, Last seating 9:30am

Saturday, April 18th – Earth Day

Pulda Farm - 10:30am – Noon, Free hayrides and educational fun

Friday, April 24 – Blood Drive

Municipal Building – 10:00am – 3:00pm

Monday, May 25 – Annual 5k Run / Walk / Children’s Run

Community Park / Memorial Day Ceremony – 11:00am – Veteran’s Park, Rain or Shine

Sunday, June 21 – Annual Father’s Day Fishing Derby

Boyd Ponds

Friday, September 11th - 5:30pm Ceremony

Hermann Road - September 11th Memorial

Saturday, October 3 – Heritage Day

Rain Date: Sunday, October 4

Saturday, October 17th Halloween Celebration

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Month of November and December, much focus is shared from organizations, entire community on the collection of food for the North Brunswick Food Bank. Gift Cards are accepted to local stores. Collection of food is ongoing throughout the year.

*Please no glass jars.

Monday, December 7th – Annual Tree Lighting

Municipal Building - 6:00pm

Lighting of the Menorah

Municipal Building - TBA

DPRCS CONCERT SERIES

Thursdays – Community Park

June 11 • July 9 • August 6

Summer Camp, aquatics, swim lessons, swim team, chess, drama, exercise classes and so much more! Join the fun!

Come visit the Senior Center located on 15 Linwood Place and join the activities, events and programs. All welcomed 55 and over. Obtain your Senior Sage during your visit to learn about details on programs, events and trips.

Follow us for a lifetime adventure filled with making lasting friendships.

Any additional questions, please phone 732 247 0922 ext. 475.

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION,
AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

BLOOD DRIVE

Give the gift of life.

We are back
with another
Blood Drive!

Time:

10AM-3PM

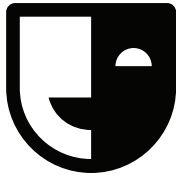
Friday, April 24, 2026

The Blood Drive will be held on the first floor of The Municipal Building.

710 Herman Road, North Brunswick New Jersey 08902



For more information you can reach The Department of Park,
Recreation, and Community Services at (732) 247 - 0922 ext. 475



NORTH BRUNSWICK DRAMA GROUP

The North Brunswick Drama Group offers opportunities for individuals of different ages and abilities to participate in no-cut theatrical productions that strive to be first-rate, accessible, and educational for participants.

We are a proud participating theater of NJACT (New Jersey Association of Community Theatres), celebrating the vibrant spirit of community theater across the state. Through our involvement, we honor artistic excellence, foster collaboration, and uplift the voices of local performers, directors, and creatives.

**Want to get involved in our next show?
Follow us on social media,
shoot us an email, and keep in touch!**

Email: nbtdrama@gmail.com

Facebook: [@NorthBrunswickDramaGroup](https://www.facebook.com/NorthBrunswickDramaGroup)

Instagram: [@nbtdrama](https://www.instagram.com/nbtdrama)

TikTok: [@nbtdrama](https://www.tiktok.com/@nbtdrama)

NBDG is a program of The North Brunswick Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services.

<http://www.northbrunswicknj.gov/dpres-home>

For more information call 732-247-0922 ext. 475

Special Thanks

Mayor Francis “Mac” Womack III
Council President— Alvin Rich

Council Members

Carlo Socio

Bob Davis

Amanda Guadagnino

Rajesh Mehta

Mary Hutchinson

North Brunswick Board of Education

Dr. Brian Zychowski — Superintendent of Schools

North Brunswick Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services:

Lou Ann Benson — Director

Laura Rosenberg, Giovanna Melanson,

Nicole Font, Alexis Krzewick

North Brunswick Senior Center:

Jessica Prinzivalli, Marly Espinal, and Danielle Jegou

North Brunswick Township Middle School Staff:

Anthony Casabianca, Mary Fasano, and the Custodial Staff

Very Special Thank You To:

Marcy Marx

Frankie Marrone

The Alchemist Theater Company

Nate Duncan

Brandon Tedesco

Papa Rzasa

Tori Clemmens

Dunellen High School