

**Auditions for Bright Star by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell**  
**Lyrics by Edie Brickell**  
**Book by Steve Martin**

**The Footlight Club (America's Oldest Community Theater)**

Director & Choreographer: Ilana Ransom Toeplitz

Musical Director: Bethany Aiken

Producer: Lori Shaer

**Performances:**

**Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm**

**Saturday, November 2**

**Friday, November 8**

**Saturday, November 9**

**Friday, November 15**

**Saturday, November 16**

**Matinees at 2pm**

**Sunday, November 3**

**Sunday, November 10**

The Footlight Club is committed to diversity and inclusion. As such, we encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, gender identities, sexualities, and abilities to audition.

**AUDITIONS WILL BE BY APPOINTMENT** – Please indicate your preferred date and time slot on the SignUpGenius. If you have any questions, please reach out to Producer Lori Shaer at [brightstarflc@gmail.com](mailto:brightstarflc@gmail.com).

**Auditions** will be held at The Footlight Club (Eliot Hall), 7A Eliot St, Jamaica Plain, MA in the theater on Wednesday, July 10 starting at 7pm and on Thursday, July 11 starting at 7pm. Please note that our Music Director will not be present at the auditions on Wednesday, July 10 so we will be recording them. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the casting process.

**Callbacks** will be held at The Footlight Club in the theater on Sunday, July 14 at 5pm.

**Rehearsals** will begin on Sunday, September 8 and run Tuesday evenings and Thursday evenings from 7-10pm, and Sunday afternoons from 2-6pm, through October 24. Tech Week starts Sunday, October 27 and all actors will be expected to attend rehearsals every night of tech week.

**Conflicts**

Actors will be asked to list any conflicts on our audition form. A great number of conflicts, or conflicts with performances will affect casting decisions.

**Key Dates (Conflicts not permitted)**

Tech Week: Sunday, October 27 - Friday, November 1

Performance Dates: November 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 (see above for times)

Strike: Sunday, November 17

## **AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:**

Audition instructions: Please prepare up to 32 bars or 90 seconds of a song in the style of the show; please bring sheet music in the proper key in a 3-ring binder. Actors will be seen in 5 minute time-slots.

There will be a dance call at callbacks. An inability to attend callbacks may impact your ability to be cast in a named role.

Bring your headshot and resume (if you have it). Audition forms will be emailed out the week prior and/or can be filled out at the Footlight Club.

## **BRIGHT STAR SYNOPSIS:**

"Bright Star" is a heartfelt musical that weaves together themes of love, redemption, and the power of storytelling. Set in the hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Asheville, NC in the 1920s and 1940s, it follows the journey of Alice Murphy, a literary editor with a mysterious past.

As she grapples with secrets from her youth and the challenges of adulthood, Alice's story intertwines with that of a young soldier returning home from World War II, forging connections that transcend time and circumstance.

With bluegrass-inspired music by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, "Bright Star" is a moving tale of hope and resilience in the face of adversity.

## **THE CHARACTERS:**

Alice Murphy (Mezzo-Sop; F3-c5) - The star of the show, playing both 16-17 and 36-37. Alice at age 36-37 is an editor of a southern literary magazine; intelligent, attractive, professional – but with an air of melancholy. Young Alice at age 16-17 is rebellious, high-spirited, adventurous – looking to break out of small-town life and experience the world. She must be a very strong singer and comfortable in folk and bluegrass styles. The same actor will play both teen and adult Alice. This role requires intimacy onstage.

Billy Cane (Tenor; C3-A4) - a young soldier returning home from WWII; an aspiring young writer; fresh, open, optimistic, charming, and a little naïve. Early 20s.

Jimmy Ray Dobbs (Tenor; C3-A4) - plays both age 16-17 and 36-37. Jimmy Ray in his early 20s in flashbacks is Mayor Dobbs' son and young Alice's beau; handsome, boyishly charming, well-built and intelligent; from a family of wealth and power and is being groomed by his father for a similar future in the family business; an independent thinker who is not afraid to stand up to his father for what he believes in; he has a sense of personal responsibility and morality as well as a deep reserve of passion and emotion. The same actor will also play an adult Jimmy Ray. This role requires intimacy onstage.

Mayor Josiah Dobbs (Baritone; A2-G4) - the Mayor of Zebulon; a political and financial powerbroker – distinguished, an imposing and controlling presence; has a genuine interest in protecting his son's future and his family name, but in doing so, is ultimately pushed to a point of extreme and irrevocable cruelty.

Margo Crawford (Soprano; B3-F#5) - A small-town bookstore owner; smart as a whip, kind, Billy's best friend. She has feelings for Billy but is too naïve to see. Sweet, warm folk voice.

Mama Murphy (Mezzo-Sop; G3-C5) - Alice's warm, loving, sensible mother. Strong singer with harmonies.

Daddy Murphy (Baritone; A2-G4) - Alice's proud father with old world views on family and children. A strict, and hardworking man, but a poor respected farmer.

Daddy Cane (Tenor; C3-A4) - Billy's father. Kind, perhaps simple man, living alone in the woods following the death of his wife. Great father, great husband.

Lucy Grant (Soprano; A3-D5) - A junior editor at the Asheville Southern Journal. Forthright and provocative with a sharp sense of humor. Strong modern working woman who is also a flirt. Can play in their 20s.

Darryl Ames (Baritenor; C3-E4) - An assistant at the Asheville Southern Journal. Funny, with a dry sense of humor and great comedic timing. Can be harsh in his directness but is innately likable.

**Ensemble** - all pronouns, types and ethnicities are welcome. Featured throughout the show, the ensemble will be utilized in ensemble and harmonic vocals as well as featured in dance and movement; they may help facilitate some scenic shifts as well. We are looking to cast an ensemble of 8 (2 Mezzo-Sop, 2 Alto, 2 Tenor, 2 Bari/Bass) and the ensemble features will include the tracks below:

**NOTE:** We will be casting understudies for Alice and Jimmy Ray (from the ensemble), with a guaranteed performance. We will also be casting two swings.

**Ensemble Features:**

Florence (Mezzo-Sop) - She is a very supportive friend and is always willing to help out. She is also a romantic and gets caught up in dreams.

Edna (Mezzo-Sop) - Energetic, hardworking and optimistic - works at Margo's Bookstore. Along with Florence, Edna participates in the strong community around Margo.

Government Clerk (non-singing feature, could be doubled with ens track) - A clerk at the Office of Records in Raleigh

Dr. Norquist (non-singing feature, could be doubled with ens track) - Dr. Norquist - The local family doctor in Zebulon who, along with Mayor Dobbs, tries to preserve Zebulon's image. At times valuing that preservation above Alice's own wellbeing, this is an important conflict and influence on Alice in the show.

Max - A young resident of Zebulon who frequents the bookstore. He's naive and very earnest. His blossoming relationship with Edna displays a sense of community and continuity in the town beyond the main plot.

Stanford: Mayor Dobbs' lawyer. Very professional and hard-working. He is caught up in the same societal expectations as Mayor Dobbs, enforcing every one of the Mayor's wishes. The community in Zebulon is very important to Stanford, and he feels strongly about upholding its standards and traditions.

Well-Dressed Woman - A woman living in Raleigh.