



SPORT FOR JOVE
THEATRE CO.



BRIGHT
★
STAR

A BLUEGRASS MUSICAL
by STEVE MARTIN and EDIE BRICKELL
Presented by Sport for Jove and Hayes Theatre Co.

CASTING BRIEF

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ABOUT THE SHOW

“The point of diving in a lake is not immediately to swim to the shore...”

The NSW premiere of the ingenious and inspiring musical by the superb Steve Martin and Edie Brickell will be co-presented by Sport for Jove and The Hayes Theatre Company in September, 2025.

Drawn from a true story and featuring a Tony-nominated score, *Bright Star* tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s.

When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past, and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives.

With soaring melodies, a witty book, and actor-centric theatricality, *Bright Star* is an evocative and deeply humanising story; as refreshingly real as it is daringly hopeful.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CREATIVE TEAM

Directors - Damien Ryan and Miranda Middleton

Musical Director - Alec Steedman

Choreographer - Shannon Burns

Senior Producer - Rob Jago

(With more to be announced)

DATES

Rehearsals:

Three week full-time rehearsal period from Monday 11th August to Saturday 30th August, in Surry Hills.

Three to four music calls will be scheduled according to cast availability, between July 28th and August 10th.

Production Week:

September 1 - 4, 2025

Season:

September 5 - October 5, 2025

Interstate artists are very welcome to apply, however please note you must make your own travel and accommodation arrangements in order to be Sydney-based for the rehearsal and production period.

FEE

An Upfront fee of \$2500 + profit share

CASTING

The creative team is seeking submissions from talented actor-musicians to make up a ten-strong cast of singers, instrumentalists, movers and storytellers. We are committed to assembling a cast that represents the rich mix of races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, abilities, neurodiversities, body types, and gender identities of the people living here on Gadigal land.

Please, note, all cast members excluding the actor playing Alice must be proficient in at least one of the following instruments: piano, accordion, banjo, guitar, mandolin, drums, fiddle, viola, cello, upright bass.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

ALICE MURPHY

Female-identifying. 20s - 30s. Mezzo-soprano.

A whip-smart magazine editor with a dark past. We also meet Alice as a spirited sixteen-year-old, so versatility/acting range is key.

JIMMY RAY

Male-identifying. 20s- 40s. Tenor.

We first meet Jimmy Ray as a playful young adult, so versatility/acting range is key. As an adult, he is hard-working and kind. Guitar ability preferred.

BILLY CANE

Male-identifying. 20s. Tenor.

Recently returned from WWII, yet filled with an unbridled optimism and energy.

MARGO

Female-identifying. 20s - 30s. Soprano.

A kind and witty bookshop owner.

MAYOR DOBBS

Male-identifying. 40s - 60s. Baritone.

A man of tradition, father of Jimmy Ray.

DADDY MURPHY

Male-identifying. 40s - 60s. Baritone.

Alice's well-meaning father, with strong religious beliefs.

MAMA MURPHY

Female-identifying. 40s - 60s. Mezzo-soprano.

Alice's mother, who fights to protect her daughter.

LUCY GRANT

Female-identifying. 20s - 30s. Soprano.

Alice's lively and witty assistant.

In addition to these roles, we will cast an AFAB ensemble member and an AMAB ensemble member, to cover the smaller parts and some principal tracks, as well as an AFAB and AMAB swing.

AUDITION PROCESS

INITIAL TAPES

Actors are invited to submit a self-tape.

Submissions are due by 5pm on Friday 7th February, including the following material:

1. A piece in the style of the show (Country/Bluegrass/Folk) that showcases you to the best of your ability on your primary instrument.
2. A song in the style of the show, highlighting your acting through song.
3. Audition monologue on the following page (you are welcome to try in a Southern American accent!)
4. Please send a private Youtube/Vimeo link of your tape, as well as your Headshot and CV to info@sportforjove.com.au. Please also note whether you will have any scheduling conflicts.

All submissions will be reviewed, but in-person auditions are not guaranteed

FIRST ROUND

Actors who progress to the first round will be sent instrumental and character-specific material from the show, and invited to attend an in-person audition between Saturday 15th - Tuesday 18th February.

Interstate actors may be asked to audition via Zoom.

CALLBACKS

In-person callbacks will be held on Sunday 9th March. This will involve some scene work and a movement call.

AUDITION MONOLOGUE

Here are your stories back, Mr. Cane. Except this one, which I'm buying from you for ten dollars. I am not publishing it, but I am investing in you. You have a flair, Mr. Cane. Not for the scourge of war, but for gentleness and tenderness, and also the well-timed lie. You write well. But, you will write better when you find your voice. You need to find a sweeping tale of pain and redemption. In the people you know and in the people you meet.