

## MERELY PLAYERS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Artistic Director	Mona Wood-Patterson+
Technical Director	Charles Ford+
Company Manager	Mary Lynn Clark+

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Janet Curry, President	Jessica Jane Harris, Treasurer
Marc Arbeeney, Vice-President	Diane Panelli
Kate Ishay, Secretary	Heather Howe
	Deborah Heath

MERELY PLAYERS was founded in 1995 and has been bringing theatre to our community ever since. Our vision is to consistently provide quality theatre in this region, while broadening the range of types of experiences available to local theatergoers through relevant, exciting productions. Merely Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and we assure you that any money donated will go toward making quality theatre in Durango both now and in the future.

*Merely Players is supported in part by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support general operating expenses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

## A NOTE FROM THE CREATIVE TEAM

Steve Martin and Edie Brickell wrote the story of *Bright Star* as a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit. At its core, the play is a celebration of storytelling. It reminds us that we all have a story to live, and that our experiences are interconnected with those of others. In our version of this play, folktale meets mythology as a community of storytellers takes on various roles. Minimal scenery activates the playgoer's imagination and adds a layer of timelessness, making it feel like a story that has been passed down through generations. We are glad you are here to share in this story, even as you write your own.



# Merely Players Presents



inspired by a true story

Music, Book & Story by  
Steve Martin and Edie Brickell

MAY 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2023



# BRIGHT STAR

The play jumps in time between 1923-24 and 1945-46 in North Carolina. It is based on a true incident.

## The Cast

Alice Murphy	Mandy Irons Gardner+
Billy Cane	Conor Sheehan+
Jimmy Ray Dobbs	Dallas Padoven+*
Mayor Josiah Dobbs	Geoff Johnson+
Margo Crawford	Katie Dittelberger+
	on Thursdays and Fridays
	Gyana Bandy Gomar+
	on Saturdays and Sundays
Daryl Ames	Nicholas Parker+
Lucy Grant	Hallie Denman
	on Thursdays and Fridays
	Brin DeVore+
	on Saturdays and Sundays
Mama Murphy	Lori Fisher
	on Thursdays and Fridays
	Melissa Mossinghoff
	on Saturdays and Sundays
Daddy Murphy	George Gross
Daddy Cane	Riki Tsethlikai+
Max	Declan McAlvany^
Stanford	Jessica McCallum+
Dr. Norquist	Marc Henry Arbeeny+
Government Clerk	Daphne Tingey
Dancer/Shirley	Cassandra Owen+
	on May 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14
	Kasey Hall
	on May 4, 7, 18, 19, 20, 21

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Ballantine Family Fund  
Bank of Colorado  
La Plata Electric Round Up  
Foundation

Psyche Digital  
Sleep Inn/Mainstay Suites  
TBK Bank

## We are excited to announce our 2023-2024 MERELY PLAYERS THEATRE SEASON:

*An Original Dance Work by Javon Jones*  
**A Slow Crawl Towards Heaven** August 2023

*Shakespeare's Magical Tale*  
**The Tempest** October 2023

*An Exciting Contemporary Musical*  
The Regional Premiere  
**Hands on a Hard Body** December 2023

*A Unique, Award-Winning Drama*  
The Regional Premiere  
**Small Mouth Sounds** February 2024

*A Musical Theatre Classic*  
**Guys and Dolls** May 2024

## We are also developing our Studio Series shows at this time.

*Season Subscriber Brochures will be mailed this July. Season Subscribers get discount prices and the best seats in the house! Sign up for our mailing list at [www.merelydirectors.org](http://www.merelydirectors.org)*

## ANNOUNCING AUDITIONS:

*The Tempest* July 25 and 26, 2023  
*Hands on a Hard Body* July 31 and Aug. 1, 2023

Watch our website or join our mailing list for more details in the coming weeks. Video auditions are acceptable if you will be out of town.

For more information on Merely Players, to buy tickets, to get involved, or to be added to our mailing list:

Website: <http://www.merelyplayers.org/>

Telephone: 970.749.8585

Email: [directors@merelyplayers.org](mailto:directors@merelyplayers.org)

Like us on Facebook: Merely Players-Durango

Instagram: Merely\_Players\_Durango

## MORE CREATIVES

Ivy Walker  
Ann Willard

Charles and Janet  
Williams

Amber Wojcik  
Bob and Lynn Wynn

## INNOVATIVE

Jennie Albert  
Anita and John Albright  
Katherine Barr and  
Linda Barnes  
Jim Beatty  
Lynne Murison  
Robert Bowie and Vicki  
Vandegrift  
Janet Curry and Peter  
Arcomano

Mandy Irons Gardner  
Jeffrey Graves and  
Dr. Katie McCrea  
Ruth Guarino  
Michelle and Mark  
James  
Jodie and Jack  
Klumpenhower  
Meredith and Carlisle  
Page

Richard and Georgeann  
Reitz  
Roto Rooter  
Mike and Teresa  
Sheehan  
Janice Sheftel  
Ken and Jan Smith .  
Shaila Van Sickle  
Jill and Ted Wright

## VISIONARY

Kathleen Adams  
Norman Broad and  
Carol Salomon  
Jennie Dear  
Katie Dittelberger  
Marilyn and Les Hagie  
The Halverstadt  
Foundation

Chris and Tony  
Johnson  
Marti and Steve Kiely  
Paul and Mary Jo  
Laakso  
Nancy and John Loftis  
Christoper Otolé  
Nancy and Jim Ottman

John Perri  
Ray and Carol  
Schmudde  
Karen Soltes  
Jeannie and Steve  
Wheeldon  
The Yeargin Family

## INSPIRING

Anonymous  
Marc and Pam Arbeeney  
Bank of Colorado  
Ballantine Family Fund  
Stephen Bowers and  
Wendy Grant  
Cheryle Brandsma  
Kim Dalen  
Margie and Will Gray  
Marian Hamlen

Al Harper  
Trisha and William  
Hayes  
Ken and Debbie Kurz  
Merely Entourage  
Mary-Catherine and  
David McAlvany  
Marcey Olajos  
Bud and Jeani Poe  
TBK Bank

Linda Schwinghammer  
and Mick Souder  
Bob and Emmy Therrell  
Ilga K. Vise  
Lucy West and Rhonda  
Eppard  
Bill and Chris Warren  
Rick and Enid Wood

## EXTRAORDINARY

Richard and Mary Lyn Ballantine  
Lou and Joyce Fontana  
Susanne Shutz  
Gary and Carol Treat

## SUPERLATIVE

Diane Panelli

## Ensemble

Florence

Edna

Patricia

Helen

Joyce

Grace

Lorraine

Ruby

Irene

Stationmaster/Roger

Donald

Angie

Carol

Bette

Vivian

Wanda

Millie

Fern

Raleigh Woman/Dorothy

Archie

Charlie

Glen

Sam

Ralph

Walter

Mohriah James+

Ava Allen^

Daphne Tingey

Ashley Rose Hunt

Abby Kubicek+

Shaunibah Morfin+

Elizabeth Crawford

Sadie Hanson^

Genevieve Thompson^

James Thompson

Luca Sandoval McCallum^

Katie Dittelberger+

Gyana Bandy Gomar+

Hallie Denman

Brin DeVore+

Lori Fisher

Melissa Mossinghoff

Jessica McCallum+

Kelly MacNiven

Riki Tsethlikai+

Declan McAlvany^

George Gross

Marc Henry Arbeeney+

Nicholas Parker+

Geoff Johnson+

+ Merely Players Artistic Company

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association

^ Member of Merely Actletes, our Youth Production class

## **The Band**

Keyboard/Conductor	Paula Millar
Fiddle	Joel Denman
Bass	Chris Conrow
Guitar	Adam Millard
Banjo	Reuben Schafir
Mandolin	Elizabeth Crawford

## **The Creative Team**

Director/Acting Coach	Mona Wood-Patterson+
Director/Choreographer	Mary-Catherine McAlvany+
Music Director/Conductor	Paula Millar
Vocal Music Director	Tom Kyser
Tech Director/Scenic Designer	Charles Ford+
Costume Designer	JoAnn Nevils+
Light Designer	Kristian Sigloch
Stage Manager	Katy Schneider

## **The Production Team**

Asst. Stage Manager	Selena M. Trujillo+
Wardrobe Foreman	Mary Lynn Clark+
Stage Right Manager	Natalie Cohn+
Ticket Manager	Greta Richter+
Production Assistant	Diane Panelli+

## **DYNAMIC**

Nancy and Alan Andrews	Sandra Gilpin	Winnie Neunzig
BJ Boucher	Lani Graham	Liz Oetter
Susan Brown	George Gross	Lissa Paak and Gordon
Sandy and Michael Burke	Tara Haller	Henriksen
Sharyn Butler and Ted Hall	Wendy Hillmer	Mary Patalan
Ted and Nancy Carr	Rich and Jill Hoehlein	Michelle Reott
Nancy Conrad	Lindie and Daniel Hunt	Kelly Rubin
Nona Dale	Jesse Hutt	Marcia Sabeti
Janet DeFratus	Gail Johnston	Pamela Smith
Charlotte Deters	Patricia Joy	Kathy Stottlemeyer
June Dunn	Maureen May	Peggy Winkworth
	Laura Miller	Suzanne Zerbe-Erickson
	Stephanie Moran	
	Kay Neal	

## **IMAGINATIVE**

Jean Aaro	Sarah Kelly	Jim and Karen McManus
Ginny Brown	Susan Koonce and John Lyons	Karen Peterson
Bethiah Crane	Dell Manners and Burt Coleman	Joan Rhoades
Brian Devine	Sandra and Don Mapel	Susan Ristow
Dan and Jane Doty	Paige Marchus	Peggy Schroder
Chessa and Jay Gill	The Matheson Family	Frank and Kathy Sinton
Barb Gysel and Frank Viehmann	Melissa McKee	Marta Snow
Gyana Gomar	Hal and Melanie McLean	Ron and Jan Turner
David Jeffers	MaryAnne Nelson	Mike and Caroline Todd
Wendy Joyce-Fenton		Gretchen Wilson
Abigail Katzer		

## **CREATIVE**

Sue Agranoff	Lisa Govreau/Remax	Phyllis Max
Carrie and Eric Allen	Betsy Norton	Lynn May
Kay Anderson	David and Carol Grenoble	Susan Merrill and Mike Uhes
Meghann Baker	Susan and Scott Graham	Martha Tinsley Minot
Gayle and Wayne Bedor	Richard and Gail Grossman	Russ and Janet Monell
Debbie and Joe Bishop	Stephen and Sheryl Guy	Shawna Off and Kent Ford
Dwight and Katherine Burgess	Deb and Bern Heath	Siggy Palmer
Tom Campbell	Michelle, Will, and Isabelle Herringer	Ross Park
Dee Dee Carlson and Michael Goldman	Kurt and Diane Hillman	Jerry and Kristine Poer
Mimi and Bob Chaput	Doug Jacober	Katy Pytte and Beach Edwards
John Condie and Wanda Ellingson	Connie Jacobs and Tekla Miller	Pat and Mike Rustad
Cathy Crum and Mike Field	Tami and Pete Joslin	Peppi Sanders
Mimi Davis	Karren Little	Faye Schrater and Dick White
Dwight Frankfather	Paula Lutz	Ann Schwarz
Bill and Kim Fisher	The Thane Malison	John and Aline Schwob
Betsy Fitzpatrick	Charitable Fund	Carol and Bob Simmons
Gaines L. Godfrey		Tom and Susie Stuber



Sleep Inn and MainStay suites offer cozy rooms, classy service, and a convenient location in Durango, Colorado. We are immensely grateful to them for sponsoring BRIGHT STAR. If your guests need a place to stay this summer, they could do no better.

970.403.1350

## SUPPORTERS/DONORS WHO HELP MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Mere words cannot describe how honoured we are by your support. We encourage our audience members to solicit these businesses and to tell the individuals that they are grand!

### ARTISTIC

Luann Andrew  
Rebecca Arndt  
Lynnette Apo  
Sherrod Beall  
Lyndee Beller  
Linda Bellush  
Lillian Boe  
Judy Bolen  
Abby Bowen  
Kip and Nellie Boyd  
Marjorie Brinton  
Tracy Brothers  
Deborah and Patrick Callahan  
Carol Calkin  
Kara Cavalca  
Mary Lynn Clark  
Jennifer Cocchia  
Natalie Cohn  
Nanc Cole  
Deanna Collins  
Barbara Conn  
Chris Cooke  
Libby Cowles  
Jennie Dear  
Jonathan and Alicia DeLacey  
Margy Dudley  
James Eidson  
Kim Eisner  
Barbara Elliott  
Lindsay Elworthy  
Ron and Jan Enge  
Sarah Fischer  
Judi Fitts  
Mark Franklin  
Richelle Gensheer  
Barry and Lyn Goldberg  
Emily Golden  
Charlie and Daisy Grice  
Tami Hanson  
Jessica Jane and

Jacob Harris  
Satoko Harris  
Jessie Harrison and Donald Archuleta  
Donald and Wendy Hassemer  
Diana Hassett  
Susan Hillmeyer  
Suzy and Roy Horvath  
Ann and Rick Huttner  
Dawn James  
Bonnie Johnson  
Deborah Johnson  
Mariah Kaminsky  
Maureen Keilty  
Caitlin Kneller  
James Koenigsfeld  
Darlene Koontz  
Esther Kopf  
Jill Langoni  
Michael Lee  
Deborah List  
Amy Lochte  
Wendy Ludgewait  
Priscilla Lukens and Tammy Hoier  
Linda Mack and Wynn Berven  
Jan Mayer-Gawlik  
Brian McAleer and Carol Shepard  
Marianne McClain  
Janelle McCallum  
Jessica McCallum  
Dawn McDermond  
Barbara McLachlan  
Ember Michel  
Paula Millar  
Kevin Miller  
Jim and Sue Mooney  
Grace Morledge

Donna Nelson  
JoAnn Nevils  
Lindsey Nicholson  
The Oury Family  
Donna and Larry Perino  
James Peters  
Lindsay Petersen  
Mike and Christine Phillips  
Claire Raines  
John Redemske  
Honor Reynolds and John Edens  
Greta Richter  
Emily Rodman  
June Russell and Frank Lockwood  
Jeff and Lori Schell  
Jill Schuman  
Peggy Sharp  
Lisa Shaw  
Richard Silverman  
Marlene Sloan  
Sharon Stetz  
Anne and Steve Swisher  
Kathy and Mike Switzer  
Lynda and James Thompson  
Krista Vandiver  
Voss-Patterson Family  
Charles Wales  
Devon Wayne  
Greg Weiss  
Kory Williams  
Kristine Williams  
Susan Wortman  
Kay Zillich

## The Crew

Light Operator	Mick Souder+
Mic Operator	Heather Rasmussen Thomas+
Props Master	Diane Panelli+
Props Manager	Jessica McCallum+
Costume Manager	Kelsea Anderson
Costume Assistant Manager	Grace Dendy+
Master Carpenter	Michael Lee+
Cast Captain	Marc Arbeeny+

### Set/Scenery/Props Creation Crew

Matt Bodo	Mariah Kaminsky	Nicholas Parker+
Mary Lynn Clark+	Abby Kubicek+	Jamie Pickering+
Natalie Cohn+	Jenny Mason	Joel Ryan
Margy Dudley	Jessica McCallum+	Reuben Schafir
Charles Ford+	Mary-Catherine McAlvany+	Jeff Widen
Heather Howe+	Tess McAlvany	Mona Wood-Patterson+
Michael Lee+	Diane Panelli+	

Photographer	Kara Cavalca+
Poster Hanging	Anna Newman Heather Howe+ Nora Stafford

Please silence or turn off your cell phones; they don't work that well down here anyway.

*We welcome you to take photos/video in the theatre before and after, but not during, the performance. If you post photos of the stage, please be sure to credit and tag Merely Players. @merely\_players\_durango*



# Bank of Colorado

the communities we're a part of make us who we are.

we're not just a bank in colorado.

we're bank of colorado.

970-247-5151



In accordance with our production contract, the videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. We know that, for many of you, taking performance photos or video of your loved ones is a huge temptation. Please respect this rule of theatre etiquette and resist! Phone use during a show is distracting to actors and audience members, violates our contract, and is disrespectful of our creative property. Live theatre is meant to be temporal – let it be just that. Thank you!

*There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts. Concessions from Greta's Goodies will be on sale. It's a Cash Only deal.*

The choreographer and lead dancers in this show are members of Wildwood Dance Project, a project-based dance company in Durango that explores the beauty of being human through dance. They also seek to broaden the exposure of dance through the use of multiple media, genres, found spaces, and collaborations with other artists. Follow them on Instagram @wildwooddanceproject and on Facebook.

*Bright Star* was originally produced by Joey Parnes, Sue Wagner, John Johnson, Zebulon LLC, Jay Alix & Una Jackman, Len Blavatnik, James L. Nederlander, Carson & Joseph Gleberman, Balboa Park Productions, The Shubert Organization, Jamie deRoy/Catherine Adler/Cricket JiraneKIn Association With Rodger Hess, A.C. Orange International, Broadway Across America, Sally Jacobs & Warren Baker, Diana DiMenna, Exeter Capital, Agnes Gund, True Love Productions, and The Old Globe. *Bright Star* is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide. 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. [www.theatricalrights.com](http://www.theatricalrights.com)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We offer our sincere gratitude to those who helped us with this show. Many hands and kind hearts help us to do our work:

Colorado Comfort

Community Foundation Serving

SW Colorado

Deborah Heath

Durango Herald

George Gross

Jennie and Luke Albert

Parents of Students and Families/Friends/Significant Others for providing support and love to those on our team

LeAnn Brubaker

Margy Dudley/KDUR Radio

Selena Trujillo

Stillwater Music



DURANGO FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

Raising funds for performing and visual artists who provide educational and cultural benefits to the Durango Area since 1991.

Become a member!

<http://www.durangofriends.org>

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE:

If You Knew My Story

She's Gone

Bright Star

Way Back in the Day

Whoa, Mama

Firmer Hand/Do Right

Alice, Ensemble

A Man's Gotta Do

Bright Star Underscore

Asheville

Picnic Dance

What Could Be Better

I Can't Wait

Please Don't Take Him

Murphy, Mayor,

Alice, Ensemble

Daddy Cane, Billy

Billy, Ensemble

Alice, Ensemble

Jimmy Ray, Alice, Ensemble

Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy,

Mayor, Jimmy Ray

Ensemble

Margo, Ensemble

Stanford, Ensemble

Jimmy Ray, Alice, Ensemble

Alice, Jimmy Ray, Ensemble

Alice, Mama Murphy, Daddy

Dr. Norquist, Stanford

Mayor, Ensemble

A Man's Gotta Do Reprise

### ACT TWO:

Sun's Gonna Shine

Heartbreaker

Shiny Penny/Another Round

I Had a Vision

Always Will

So Familiar/At Long Last

Finale/Bows

Alice, Mama Murphy, Ensemble

Jimmy Ray

Lucy, Daryl, Billy, Ensemble

Alice, Jimmy Ray

Billy, Margo

Alice, Ensemble

Company

## WHO'S WHO

This program is getting really long and expensive to print, so we've made an online version of it as well. On that version, you can see the bios of everyone involved, so scan this QR code to get better acquainted with our fantastic team.

