

# Welcome to the Department of Theatre & Dance 2023-2024 Season!

The UWSP Department of Theatre & Dance is fully accredited by the  
National Association of Schools of Theatre and the  
National Association of Schools of Dance.

## 2023-2024 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

**Amy Beversdorf**  
Associate Lecturer, Dance

**Austin Bomkamp**  
Visiting Lecturer, Theatre

**Emily Bustamante**  
Assistant Professor, Theatre  
BFA Design and Technology  
Program Coordinator

**Dana Dancho**  
Assistant Professor, Theatre

**Michael Estanich**  
Professor, Dance  
Dept. of Theatre and Dance Chair

**Sonia Grimsled**  
Associate Lecturer, Theatre

**Mark Hanson**  
Associate Professor, Theatre  
BFA Musical Theatre  
Program Coordinator

**Jeannie Hill**  
Professor, Dance

**Pamela Luedtke**  
Associate Lecturer, Dance

**Tyler Marchant**  
Professor, Theatre  
BFA Acting Program Coordinator

**Jim O'Connell**  
Associate Professor, Arts Mgmt  
Arts Management  
Program Coordinator

**Sarah Olson**  
Assistant Professor, Dance

**Greg Prugel**  
Lecturer, Theatre

**Sarah E. Ross**  
Assistant Professor, Theatre

**Laurie Schmeling**  
Lecturer, Theatre  
BA Drama Program Coordinator

**CeCe Sickler**  
Costume Shop Manager

**Ann Warren**  
Technical Director

**Dani Wyatt**  
Administrative Assistant II  
School of Performing Arts



## **Indigenous Peoples Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point exists upon land inhabited by the original indigenous people of this area, including the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and the many other nations and groups that predate colonial borders.

We acknowledge that with colonization Native American people have been dispossessed of their lands and irreparably changed by the actions of individuals and institutions. We acknowledge our responsibility to understand and respond to those actions. In partnership with the Native American Center, we commit to working together to honor the past, be intentional in the present, and to build our future with truth.

## **A Note from the Choreographers**

Thank you all so much for coming to our production of Bright Star! This show has been such a wonderful exploration in telling a story through movement, language, and music. When we first met with our director, Mark Hanson, about our thoughts for this show, we were buzzing with anticipation to bring these ideas to life. We knew we wanted the choreography and ensemble to be more integrated in the show's journey and propelling the story forward.

While Bright Star is based in realism, we utilized the choreography to tell the story through the abstract, using modern movement styles to offer a physical representation of what these characters may be experiencing in the scenes. This show, being rich with human emotion and connection, allowed us to uncover a movement vocabulary that was really enjoyable to create, teach, and perform. Through our rehearsals, the entire cast dove deep into how they contributed to the greater human narrative and they embraced the opportunities to be creative and specific in order to achieve that. Based on the true story of the "Iron Mountain Baby", Bright Star was written and composed by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, with its world premiere in 2014. It follows the story of Alice Murphy, jumping back and forth from her life as a 16-year-old in 1923, to 19 years later in 1945. We meet characters such as Jimmy Ray, Alice's childhood sweetheart; Lucy and Daryl, her employees at the Asheville Southern Journal; and Billy Cane, an aspiring young writer. Through Alice's journey, we see stories of love, loss, growing up, and discovering who you really are.

A huge thank you to our faculty, fellow students, designers, technicians, and stage managers for all their incredible hard work and energy that they brought to this production. This show simply could not have happened without each and every one of you.

A special thank you to Mark Hanson, for giving us the space and artistic agency to dream big in our creativity. In collaboration, we were able to dive deep into our visions, while upholding the integrity of this show. We'll miss all the laughs, discussing which "bubbl'r" flavor is best, and you shaking your head at us from behind the piano.

Thank you for supporting live theatre and please enjoy the show!

### **Arista Detter**

BFA Musical Theatre &  
BA Dance Senior

### **Jordan Linton**

BFA Musical Theatre &  
BA Dance Junior

Co-Choreographers, Bright Star

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Department of Theatre & Dance  
Presents

# Bright Star

Inspired by a True Story

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

**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 Jiranek

**In 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)

# Bright Star

Cast (In Order of Appearance)

<b>Alice Murphy</b>	Madeline Miner
<b>Billy Cane</b>	Joshua Verish
<b>Daddy Cane</b>	Ryan Niedenthal
<b>Margo Crawford</b>	Micah Friedman
<b>Max</b>	Jacob Massart
<b>Florence</b>	Janae Owens
<b>Edna</b>	Stephanie Skemp
<b>Daryl Ames</b>	Aidan Sternberg
<b>Lucy Grant</b>	Maxine Danni
<b>Jimmy Ray Dobbs</b>	Hayden Hoffman
<b>Daddy Murphy</b>	Sam Thompson
<b>Mama Murphy</b>	Cara Langhauser
<b>Mayor Josiah Dobbs</b>	Evan Smolik
<b>Stanford Adams</b>	Nolan Limones
<b>Dr. Norquist</b>	Ryan Niedenthal
<b>Stationmaster</b>	Cody Smogoleski
<b>County Clerk</b>	Vanessa Guillen
<b>Ensemble</b>	Ryan Bouchard, Tierney Detter, Amelia Gibbons, Vanessa Guillen, Emily Hoepfner, Nolan Limones, Jacob Massart, Noah Matthew, Ryan Niedenthal, Erin O'Neil, Janae Owens, Olivia Rosenberg, Zaden Scheer, Stephanie Skemp, Cody Smogoleski

# Bright Star

## Creative Team

<b>Director/Music Director</b> .....	Mark Hanson*
<b>Assistant Director</b> .....	Arista Detter
<b>Co-Choreographers</b> .....	Arista Detter, Jordan Linton
<b>Stage Manager</b> .....	Rachel Weber
<b>Assistant Stage Managers</b> .....	Bastien Howard, Emily Molloy
<b>Intimacy Director</b> .....	Greg Prugel*
<b>Costume Designer</b> .....	Emily Bustamante*
<b>Assistant Costume Designers</b> .....	Rory Eigenberger, Kristy LaCount
<b>Scenic Designer</b> .....	Ann Warren*
<b>Assistant Scenic Designer</b> .....	Martha Ruona
<b>Scenic Charge</b> .....	Kayla Price
<b>Sound Designer</b> .....	Mark Dulac**
<b>Assistant Sound Designer</b> .....	Paul Been
<b>Properties Coordinator</b> .....	Sarah E. Ross*
<b>Technical Director</b> .....	Ann Warren*
<b>Lighting Designer</b> .....	Viviana Campos
<b>Assistant Lighting Designer</b> .....	Logan Godfrey

*\*UWSP Faculty/Staff*

*\*\*Guest Artist*

**Guest Artist**  
**Paula Filseth**



Fiddler Paula Filseth is thrilled to join UWSP's production of "Bright Star" from the San Francisco Bay Area, where she's been a regular on the regional music theater scene for 17 years. Her violin/viola performances span genres from classical (symphony, chamber, and opera) to bluegrass, country, Americana, and pop/rock.

In addition to her many Bay Area theatre credits (from Broadway by the Bay, Palo Alto Players, Coastal Rep, City Lights Theatre, Hillbarn Theatre, Los Altos Stage Company, Foothill Musical Theatre, Children's Musical Theatre of San Jose, and more), Paula performs and records regularly with a number of working bands on the West Coast, including Seattle's Steel River Junction, Goodnight Suzie, and The Side Project. She's especially excited to reunite for this "Bright Star" with Music Director Mark Hanson, with whom she first worked on Broadway by the Bay's acclaimed 2006 production of "Miss Saigon."

# Musical Numbers

## 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, Company
Fimer 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
Please, Don't Take Him.....	Mayor Dobbs, Alice, Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Stanford, Ensemble
A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise).....	Mayor Dobbs, Ensemble

## ACT II

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

## Orchestra

Fiddle.....	Paula Filseth**
Keyboard I.....	Mark Hanson*
Keyboard II.....	Stephanie Pacey**
Bass.....	Paul Bannach**
Percussion.....	Isa Wagner

**\*UWSP Faculty/Staff**

**\*\*Guest Artist**



## 2023-24 Season Production Staff

**Costume Design Mentor**.....Emily Bustamante\*

**Costume Shop Assistants**.....Sam Baxter, Tierney Detter,  
Sarah Dickinson, Cali Grant, Nessa Grant,  
Stephanie Hogan, Sophie Pitsch, Martha Ruona,  
Emily Ruth, Kelli Wonsmos

**Deck Crew**..... Spencer Czajka, Ryleigh Guelig,  
Sami Hill, Damien Liriano, Katie Kloth

**House Manager**.....Ellie Paynter

**Light/Sound Shop Mentor**.....Austin Bomkamp\*

**Light/Sound Shop Assistants**.....Alexia Ulrich, Chou Yang

**Scenic/Paint/Props Mentor/Prop Shop Manager**.....Sarah E. Ross\*

**Scene Shop Assistants**.....Serena Alexander, Paul Been,  
Cali Grant, Mark Radtke, Ike Smith

**Stage Manager**.....Rachel Weber

**Paint Shop Manager**.....Mic Frommelt

**Prop Shop Manager**.....Kayla Price

**Theatre & Dance Student Office Assistants**.....Erin Clementich,  
Ryan Niedenthal

**Wardrobe Crew**.....Erin Clementich, Grace Hassett,  
Justin Lewis, Olivia Weyenberg

*\*UWSP Faculty/Staff*

## Meet the Company

- Bouchard, Ryan** (*Ensemble, He/Him*) First-year Musical Theatre and Philosophy major from Pulaski, WI.
- Campos, Viviana** (*Lighting Designer, She/Her*) Senior Theatre Design & Technology major from Sparta, WI. Recipient of the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship.
- Danni, Maxine** (*Lucy Grant, She/Her*) Junior Musical Theatre major from Naples, FL.
- Detter, Arista** (*Assistant Director/Co-Choreographer, She/Her*) Fifth-year Musical Theatre and Dance major from Prairie Du Sac, WI. Recipient of the Sentry Scholarship and the Backstage Scholarship in Musical Theatre.
- Detter, Tierney** (*Ensemble, She/Her*) Senior Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Sauk Prairie, WI. Recipient of the Peet Faust Drama Scholarship.
- Eigenberger, Rory** (*Assistant Costume Designer, They/Them*) Sophomore Theatre Design & Technology major from Oconomowoc, WI.
- Friedman, Micah** (*Margo Crawford, She/Her*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major and Arts Management minor from Sun Prairie, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship and the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.
- Gibbons, Amelia** (*Ensemble, She/Her*) First-year Musical Theatre major from Green Bay, WI.
- Godfrey, Logan** (*Assistant Lighting Designer, He/Him*) First-year Theatre Design & Technology major from St. Michael, MN.
- Guillen, Vanessa** (*Coutny Clerk/Ensemble, She/Her*) Senior Musical Theatre major and Race & Ethnicity Studies minor from Kewaunee, WI. Recipient of the Stages to Equity Scholarship.
- Hoepfner, Emily** (*Ensemble, She/Her*) First-year Musical Theatre and Dance major from De Pere, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.
- Hoffman, Hayden** (*Jimmy Ray Dobbs, He/Him*) Senior Musical Theatre major from Sister Bay, WI. Recipient of the Miller Family Music Education Scholarship.

## Meet the Company

**Howard, Bastien** (*Assistant Stage Manager, He/Him*) First-year Theatre Design & Technology major and Art minor from Fond du Lac, WI.

**LaCount, Kristy** (*Assistant Costume Designer/Wardrobe Head, She/Her*) Senior Drama major and Marts Management minor from Verona, WI. Recipient of the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship.

**Langhauser, Cara** (*Mama Murphy, She/Her*) Senior Musical Theatre major and Arts Management minor from St. Louis, MO. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre, the Anne Gilfry Schierl Fine Arts Award in Musical Theatre, and the Theatre in London Scholarship.

**Limones, Nolan** (*Stanford Adams/Ensemble, He/Him*) Junior Musical Theatre major from Janesville, WI. Recipient of the Nigbor Family First Nighters Scholarship.

**Linton, Jordan** (*Co-Choreographer, He/Him*) Junior Musical Theatre and Dance major from Daytona Beach, FL. Recipient of the After the Flags Scholarship and the Barch/Bridgeman Outstanding Player Award.

**Massart, Jacob** (*Max/Ensemble, He/They*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Green Bay, WI.

**Matthew, Noah** (*Ensemble, He/Him*) Senior Musical Theatre major from Appleton, WI.

**Miner, Madeline** (*Alice Murphy, She/Her*) Senior Musical Theatre major and Political Science minor from Ashwaubenon, WI. Recipient of the Theatre in London Scholarship and the McKelvie Public Service & Government Scholarship.

**Molloy, Emily** (*Assistant Stage Manager, She/Her*) Junior Musical Theatre major from Germantown, WI.

**Niedenthal, Ryan** (*Daddy Cane/Dr. Norquist/Ensemble, He/Him*) Senior Musical Theatre and Political Science major from Apple Valley, MN. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre, the Arts Bash Scholarship, and the Theatre in London Scholarship.

## Meet the Company

**O'Neil, Erin** (*Ensemble, She/They*) Junior Musical Theatre major and Communications minor from Milwaukee, WI.

**Owens, Janae** (*Florence/Ensemble, She/They*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major from Neenah, WI.

**Rosenberg, Olivia** (*Ensemble, She/Her*) Sophomore Musical Theatre and Dance major from Lake Mills, WI.

**Price, Kayla** (*Scenic Charge, She/They/He*) Junior Theatre Design & Technology major from Sullivan, WI.

**Ruona, Martha** (*Assistant Scenic Designer, They/She*) Sophomore Theatre Design & Technology major and Creative Writing minor from Sheboygan, WI.

**Thompson, Sam** (*Daddy Murphy, They/Them*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major from Cambridge, WI.

**Scheer, Zaden** (*Ensemble, They/Them*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major and Dance minor from Wausau, WI.

**Skemp, Stephanie** (*Edna/Ensemble, She/Her*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major and Arts Management and Dance minor from La Crosse, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship and the Presidential Purple Scholarship.

**Smogoleski, Cody** (*Stationmaster/Ensemble, He/They*) Sophomore Musical Theatre major from Two Rivers, WI.

**Smolik, Evan** (*Mayor Josiah Dobbs, He/Him*) Junior Musical Theatre major from Menomonee Falls, WI.

**Sternberg, Aidan** (*Daryl Ames, He/Him*) Junior Musical Theatre major from Williams Bay, WI. Recipient of the Arts Bash Scholarship.

**Verish, Joshua** (*Billy Cane, He/Him*) Senior Musical Theatre major from Milwaukee, WI.

**Weber, Rachel** (*Stage Manager, She/Her*) Senior Drama and Professional Communication Major and Media Studies minor from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the James Mueller Award and the Presidential Gold Scholarship.

# CONTRIBUTE TO BACKSTAGE

The Department of Theatre & Dance welcomes financial support for educational and artistic activities through a variety of programs, including existing scholarships and endowments, special projects support, bequests and planned gifts. For more information about contributing to the Department of Theatre & Dance, please contact Jennifer Tubbs, Major Gifts Officer, at [jtubbs@uwsp.edu](mailto:jtubbs@uwsp.edu) or 715-846-3056. You may also donate online at <https://give.uwsp.edu/give-backstage> or by scanning the QR code found on the bottom of this page.

## 2023-2024 Backstage Donations

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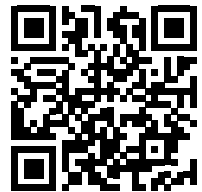
Department of Theatre & Dance  
School of Performing Arts  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

The mission of the [Department of Theatre and Dance](#) is to serve:

- Its majors and minors through curricular offerings and performance/production activities that heighten intellectual, artistic, cultural, and humane sensitivities.
- The general student population through curricular offerings and stage productions that engender an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and their contribution to the cultural and aesthetic enrichment of life.
- The university community and general central Wisconsin population through the production of quality stage performances.

## STAGES TO EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP

In an ongoing effort to broaden and enrich our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity practices in the Department of Theatre & Dance, we've established the new *Stages to Equity Scholarship*. This award supports students who come from historically under-represented populations within the theatre, dance, and arts management student body at UW-Stevens Point. This academic year, we hope to grow the Stages to Equity endowment to support two annual scholarships for our students. We hope you might consider a gift to the endowment today! Scan the QR code with your mobile device, or visit [give.uwsp.edu/stages-to-equity](https://give.uwsp.edu/stages-to-equity). If you are interested in receiving more information about the scholarship, you can reach out to Professor Tyler Marchant at [tmarchan@uwsp.edu](mailto:tmarchan@uwsp.edu) or at 715.252.8012 and he will be happy to assist you.



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