

BOOK & STORY BY
STEVE MARTIN

MUSIC, LYRICS & STORY BY
EDIE BRICKELL

PURSUED BY BEAR PRESENTS

BRIGHT STAR

CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL: 25 OCT - 3 NOV



if you knew her story...

Inspired by a real event 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. Propelled by an ensemble of onstage musicians and dancers, the story unfolds as a rich tapestry of deep emotion, beautiful melodies and powerfully moving performances. An uplifting theatrical journey that holds you tight in its grasp, Bright Star is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful.



SONG LIST

ACT 1

If You Knew My Story
She's Gone
Bright Star
Way Back in the Day
Whoa, Mama
Firmer Hand/Do Right
A Man's Gotta Do
Asheville
What Could Be Better
I Can't Wait
Please, Don't Take Him
A Man's Gotta Do [Reprise]

ACT 2

Entr'acte
Sun's Gonna Shine
Heartbreaker
Another Round
I Had a Vision
Always Will
I Can't Wait [Reprise]
So Familiar
At Long Last
Finale



Welcome to Bright Star...

Some things just find you, they slip into your life somewhere along the road and they stay with you. We don't have a cute story about how Bright Star found us, one day it was just there, amongst the lists of dream shows, being hummed under our breaths.

Edie Brickell and Steve Martin were sat next to each other at a dinner party and a musical was born - some things are just meant to be. Maybe we can say Bright Star came into our lives like the train that inspired it, it rocked up with a banjo and an autoharp and asked us to jump on for the ride. And what a joyous ride it's been.

Bright Star is imbued with hope and resilience, it's a story of humanity - all the disaster and silliness and longing that entails. At first blush it is a bit of an anomaly from our catalogue of works - it's big for starters, a cast and band twenty-eight strong, and our first period piece. But it has been the perfect return show for us; there's a heart to this piece that beats and breaks and rebuilds, and it turns out to have been exactly what we needed.

We have had the pleasure this season of working with our biggest creative team yet, of being surrounded by inspiring and talented Artists at a time when musical theatre is so slim on the ground. We have had the delight of working with A_tistic to overthrow some barriers that present roadblocks for audiences engaging with our work. And, as a cast member recently informed us, we finally had a role for a baritone. So, winning all round.

Bright Star gave us something to celebrate, stories and characters who were flawed and totally fallible but who persevered regardless, who instilled faith in us anyway. Bright Star is a celebration of community, of legacy, of that sense of coming home.

We're glad to be back at our theatrical home with the support of Chapel Off Chapel and City of Stonnington behind this piece. We're glad for the community this show has given us and the communities it has introduced us to. And we're glad for you, dear audience member. Thanks for jumping on our bluegrass train, for supporting independent work and the troupe of creatives involved in this project. We hope you enjoy the ride, and that we give you a good story to tell*.

*yep, still quoting song lyrics

Pursued By Bear

Pursued By Bear is an independent company producing high-quality musical theatre works with a lot of heart. Established in 2013 to challenge and inspire audiences through inventive and thought-provoking theatre, Pursued By Bear has grown to be at the forefront of independent musical theatre in Melbourne.

Their catalogue of work includes *Next To Normal* (2013), the Australian premiere of *High Fidelity: The Musical* (2014), *John & Jen* (2015), Green Room Award nominated *tick, tick...BOOM!* (2016), the Australian professional premiere of *First Date: The Musical* (2016), *21 Chump Street* (2017), Green Room Award winning *Ordinary Days* (2017), and *Carols by Chapel-Light: a Very Beary Christmas* (2017).

Helmed by three young creatives, Pursued By Bear focuses on fostering supportive and collaborative experiences that provide opportunity for Artists to extend their skills and provide audiences a unique chance to see rarely-performed pieces.

We are very excited to be bringing this story to you.

PRODUCING TEAM



Natasha Milton
Company Manager

With a background in stage and production management, Natasha has worked across a range of theatrical productions and events including Melbourne Food & Wine Festival's A Picnic in the Park, Open House Melbourne, and Stonnington's GLOW Winter Arts Festival. A founding member of Pursued By Bear, Natasha is immensely proud of the hardworking and ambitious theatre collaboration they have established and the outcomes they have achieved. She would like to offer a sincere thank you to everyone who has supported Pursued By Bear and to all the incredible individuals she has had the opportunity to work beside.



Kyle Smith
Business Manager

No stranger to the Australian theatre scene, having worked for many years across Melbourne. Kyle Smith is the business and technical manager at Pursued By Bear. PBB provides a unique opportunity for Kyle to work closely with so many amazing creative and ambitious people with a common and shared vision of challenging the theatre industry. It is an incredible experience to be part of and he hopes that you will enjoy the result.



Sarah Tulloch
Artistic Manager / Set Designer

Upon graduating with a BA in Interior Architecture (Hons) from Monash University, Sarah moved quickly into the colourful world of theatre. Her passion for visualising story through environment has led to work both internationally and across Australia. Sarah is so very proud of the work that the Pursued By Bear team produce. Bright Star has been a dream show for the team and now it's here for all to experience. She would like to thank the wonderful and vast collective of creatives that have gathered to prepare this show, it's been a joy to work with every single person.

A little note from...

the Director Mark Taylor

I first read the term Post Traumatic Growth earlier this year in Leigh Sales' extraordinary 'Any Ordinary Day'. The term refers to the unexpected positive outcomes that can result from a life-changing crisis. The idea that a traumatic life event doesn't have to define you but instead presents an opportunity for growth really struck me - and I'm sure is something that most of us would happily cling to.

It was around that same time that Tash, Sarah and Kyle introduced me to this wonderful story by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell and I couldn't help but find the parallels between what I had just read and the story of Alice Murphy. Bright Star introduces us to a number of curious, flawed and complicated characters who at one point in their lives have been touched by some form of trauma.

Interrogating those moments which exist between a traumatic event and the opportunity for growth has been a thrilling part of this rehearsal process. What may initially seem like quite a dark premise has actually exposed us to so much joy and playfulness and has served as a reminder that whatever life throws at us, we all have the capacity to learn from our very worst moments.

the Musical Director Nathan Firmin

Describing the music for Bright Star should be simple - Bright Star is the bluegrass musical...

Well, that is not quiet true. It is not quite bluegrass. It is not quiet country. It is not traditional Broadway. Somehow Steve Martin and Edie Brickell have crafted a score that instantly feels familiar, honest and real. There is an energy to the score, the vocal arrangements and orchestrations that always serve the story - whether it is the simplicity of "I Can't Wait", the optimism of "Bright Star" or the despair of "Heartbreaker".

It has been a thrill discovering this score, this story.

the Choreographer Freya List

The music of Bright Star will make you want to tap your feet and slap your leg. That innate sense of movement is exactly what was felt in North Carolina when bluegrass music was coming alive. In all the intertwining stories of Bright Star, there is a need for connection, which is often only felt through dance. In times of celebration, and in the face of tragedy, it is music and dance that unites the community.

Bright Star lives between multiple worlds and time periods, which are highlighted through contrasting styles of choreography and apple crate movement. Working on this show has reinforced to me the cultural importance of music and dance. Especially if it involves clogging. A big thank-you to the creative & stage management team for making this production a dream to work on, Mark Taylor and Nathan Firman for their inspiring collaboration, Pursued By Bear for providing a platform for this story to be told, the ridiculously talented cast, Liam Roodhouse, Jarryd Bryne, Transit Dance, Joe Bourke for his talents and support, and of course my assistant choreographer Leah Hamlet.

It has been a joy to work with this cast to bring the story of Bright Star to life through movement.

CREATIVE TEAM



Mark Taylor
Director

Mark is a Melbourne based creative with a background in theatre, film and advertising. Theatre directing credits include **Rent** (James Terry Collective), **John & Jen**, **Next to Normal** and **First Date** (Pursued By Bear), **The History Boys** (Purely Pensive Productions) and **Plastic Pacific** (Melbourne Fringe 2013) and cabarets **Age of Stephen** (Melbourne Fringe 2018, Adelaide Fringe 2019) and **La Vie Broheme**. A graduate of Swinburne University's School of Theatre Arts, Mark is co-founder of Hucklebuck Productions; a company committed to staging original Australian works, with the company's first production **SELF** (Melbourne Fringe 2017) earning an Australian Dance Award nomination. Mark has produced and directed music videos for artists including Kimbra, Vera Blue, Thundamentals and Alfie Arcuri. As an actor Mark has appeared on stage in **Playing Rock Hudson** (The Old Fitz), **Cheek to Cheek** (Dir: Tyran Parke), Alex Broun's one-man-show **Half a Person: My life as told by The Smiths** (Fly on the Wall), **Of Monopoly and Women** (Brave New Word) and on screen in **Neighbours**, **Underbelly**, **The Pacific** and the Australian feature film **Damned by Dawn**.



Nathan Firmin
Musical Director

Originally from New Zealand, Nathan moved to Australia to study Music Theatre Performance at the Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts. He has worked both in New Zealand as a performer, Director, Choreographer and Musical Director. Credits include Musical Direction for **The Phantom of the Opera** (MTGV Award) and **Les Miserables** for PLOS, **The Full Monty**, **Memphis** and **Nine** for StageArt. Nathan operates patched keyboards, providing keyboard programming for musicals in Australia and around the world. Most recently, Nathan was the Australian Keyboard Programmer for **Come From Away**.



Freya List
Choreographer

Freya List is an innovative Australian choreographer with a unique approach to story telling. Freya has been creatively involved with many festivals, music launches, charity events, corporate performances & creative projects with choreography most recently seen in **The Children** (Dir. Sarah Goodes, Melbourne Theatre Company & Sydney Theatre Company), **RENT** (Dir. Mark Taylor, James Terry Collective), **A View From The Bridge** (Dir. Iain Sinclair, Melbourne Theatre Company), **Kabaret Dietrich** (Dir. Natalie Gamsu), **Wooles Tour**, Melbourne Spring Fashion Week, Chelsea Wilson Album Launch & the premier of her own show **Half Full** (Collaboration The Project). Freya's screen choreography and credits include: **Utopia** (Dir. Rob Sitch, ABC), **The Doctor Blake Mysteries** (ABC/ Seven Network), **Good Morning America**, **The Pacific** (Dreamworks) the Australian Dance feature film **UP HERE** (Project Y), **Neighbours** (Network Ten), and music videos for Hopium, Sex on Toast, Thelma Plum, Dustin Tebbutt and Braille Face. Freya is thrilled to be working on this beautiful production of **Bright Star**.



CREATIVE TEAM



Jodi Hope
Costume Design

Jodi Hope is a costume and textile designer based in Melbourne. Nominated for a 2019 Green Room Award for Best Costume in Musical Theatre for *Bare* (StageArt), Jodi's approach to design is expressed through her particular eye across colour, composition and character. With a professional background in fine art, fashion, textile design and costume and Bachelors degrees in Fine Art and Textile Design she brings diverse design experience and a unique perspective to her design practice. Costume Design credits include *Strawberry* (WLT), *Side Show* (WMTC), *Under Milkwood* (WLT), *Gilligans Island* (Humdrum Comedy + Left Bauer Productions), *Bare* (StageArt), *The Memory of Water* (3 Big Men Productions), *Rent* (WMTC), *The Full Monty* (StageArt), *City of Angels* (WMTC) and *Catch Me if You Can* (WMTC). Other 2019 projects include wardrobe assistant *Glenridge Secondary College* (Aunty Donna), costume commission *Mad World* (David Butler Studios); Costumier *Sweeney Todd* (LifeLike Company) and Costume Supervisor *Bring it On* (David Venn Enterprises).



Mungo Trumble
Lighting Design

Mungo Trumble is a Melbourne based lighting designer and programmer. After completing a BFA (Production) at the Victorian College of the Arts, focusing on lighting design, he now works within the corporate and theatrical lighting and theatrical automation industries as a designer and technician. Design credits include: *Side Show* (Williamstown Music Theatre Company), *The Crucible* (Victorian College of the Arts), *Gloria* (Melbourne Conservatorium of Music & VCA), *Chicago* (Wonthaggi Theatre Group), *Diary of Anne Frank* (Wonthaggi Theatre Group).

Joel Peters
Sound Design

Joel is an up and coming sound designer, technician and composer based in Melbourne. A current student at the Victorian College of the Arts, his design and production practice is geared towards abstract, original and subversive performance styles, mixing theatrical experiences with site-specific and digital installations. Recent theatrical credits include *Mirror Mirror* (2019) and *Fucking A* (2019) as part of the VCA performance season, as well as *Disposable* (2019), a commission from the Melbourne Science Gallery.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Emma Gough
Assistant Director

Emma Gough is an emerging Melbourne based director who has trained at RADA, NIDA, Exeter University and Showfit, and has recently finished with first-class Honours at Monash University. Emma enjoys using theatre as a catalyst for change and growth and has facilitated workshops for primary school students, at-risk youth and halfway house residents. She acted as the safe practices consultant on *Mocha is not coffee!* (Normandy Productions), following her research of the psychological effects of performing violence, and she hopes to extend this research in a PhD next year. She has written and performed her own cabaret, *Amanda Tucks*, which had multiple seasons including the Short and Sweet festival at Chapel off Chapel. Her directing credits include *Fran and Leni* (Seemingly Wholesome Productions, Melbourne and Sydney Fringe), *Transfer Station* (Melbourne Fringe), *Into The Woods* (Fab Nobs), *Helter Skelter* (PLANK), as well as shadowing director Anne-Louise Sarks on *Blasted* (Malthouse Theatre).



Leah Hamlet
Assistant Choreographer

Leah is a performer and emerging choreographer whose versatility and leadership has seen her naturally progress into working in creative teams. Choreographically, Leah has worked with brands such as lululemon, and on music videos for artists such as Essie Holt and Kira Puru. Her work has been awarded 'Most Outstanding Choreography' at Melbourne's 'Grounded'. Leah has assisted on *The Footy Show* (Channel Nine), and has been rehearsal assistant for productions *Shake, Flash and Night at the Fandango* (Transit Dance). This is Leah's first time working with the Pursued By Bear team. She would like to thank Freya for having her on board the creative team, and for her continuous support and encouragement.



Ashleigh Walwyn
Stage Manager

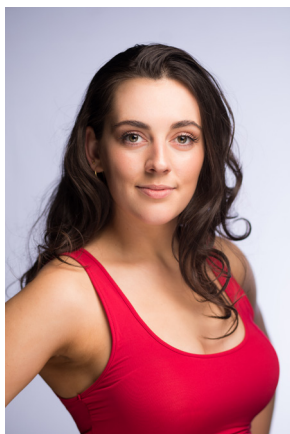
Originally from the UK, Ashleigh grew up in Malaysia, where she found her love for theatre in school and community productions. Ashleigh graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Production) – Stage Management in 2018. At VCA, she worked as a member of the Stage Management department for music theatre, dance, and theatre. Ashleigh's Professional Debut was Stage Managing **Fire Monkey** (Darebin Arts Speakeasy, Arts Fission, and Victoria Chiu). Other credits include **Melbourne International Comedy Festival**, Assistant Stage Manager for **Mr Burns**, a post-electric play; **The Return Season** (Lighting Jar Theatre Inc.), and Senior Stage Manager/Back of House Caller for **The Victorian State Schools Spectacular** (Dir. Neill Gladwin). At the end of this year, She's looking forward to Stage Managing **Punk Rock** with Patalog Theatre. Ashleigh's excited and grateful for the opportunity from Pursued By Bear to work alongside the incredible cast and team on this beautiful production of **Bright Star**.



Brittany McVicar
Assistant Stage Manager

Brittany McVicar is a recent graduate of the Queensland University of Technology, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Technical Production. At QUT, she was a Deputy Stage Manager on **Good People** in 2018, Assistant Stage Manager on **Anna Karenina** in 2017 and **Spike Heels** and **Pygmalion** in 2018. Last year she participated in multiple stage management secondments on the **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony** by Jack Morton Ceremonies, **School of Rock the Musical** by GWB Entertainment and **A Christmas Carol** by Shake and Stir Theatre Company. Since graduating, she has been an Assistant Stage Manager on **Romeo and Juliet** with La Boite Theatre Company, and is excited to join the Pursued By Bear company on **Bright Star**.

CAST



Kala Gare
Alice Murphy

Kala Gare is a Melbourne born singer, actor, musician and song writer with a BFA in Music Theatre from the Victorian College of the Arts. Kala's theatre credits include Sophie De Palma in the touring production of **Master Class** (Andrew Kay Productions); Maureen in **Rent** (Chapel Off Chapel); Olivia in **Twelfth Night** (Melbourne Shakespeare); Anastasia Steele in **50 Shades! The Musical Parody** (David Venn Enterprises), and Alice/Ensemble in **Thoroughly Modern Millie** (The Production Company). Kala is a proud member of Equity, and is represented by Mark Gogoll. A huge thank you to all of Kala's family, friends and mentors who have given her support, guidance and love. "This story is powerful and heart filled, and it is a gift to be sharing it with you."



Matthew Prime
Jimmy Ray Dobbs

Hailing from Adelaide, Matthew graduated from the VCA in 2018. While at VCA, Matthew was a featured soloist in VCA's **Morning Melodies** for 2017 and 2018 presented by Arts Centre Melbourne at Hamer Hall. Other credits while at VCA include Mike in **A Chorus Line** and John Proctor in **The Crucible**. In 2018, Matthew made his professional debut with **Jersey Boys**. Matthew recently finished the season of **Thoroughly Modern Millie** performed at the Arts Centre with The Production Company.



Callum O'Malley
Billy Cane

Callum is a performer, writer and instrumentalist (guitar). Prior to commencing his studies at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), Callum completed a short course in screen acting at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) in 2015. While studying at the VCA, Callum has performed as a member of the ensemble for **Morning Melodies** at Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne (dir. Margot Fenley, 2017), and was an ensemble member of **Vivid White** with the Melbourne Theatre Company (dir. Dean Bryant, 2017). In his final year, Callum played Zach in **A Chorus Line** (dir. Tyran Parke) and Cinderella's Father in **Into the Woods** (dir. Gary Young), covering Cinderella's Prince. Most recently, Callum played Mark in a new original play **Open Heart** (writer. Dean Robinson).



Sarah Krndija
Margo Crawford

After studying screen acting, theatre and violin from a young age, Sarah combined her skills as an actor and musician to pursue her formal studies at the Victorian College of the Arts, graduating with a BFA in Music Theatre in 2018. During her time at the VCA, Sarah played the coveted roles of Baker's Wife in *Into The Woods* (dir. Gary Young), Sheila in *A Chorus Line* (dir. Tyran Parke) and Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* (dir. Danielle Carter). Sarah was in the ensemble of MTC's *Vivid White* (dir. Dean Bryant), as well as featuring in the short film, *Paper Cut* (dir. Virginia Gay), and Assistant Dir. to Tyran Parke on *Ordinary Days* (Pursued By Bear). Most recently, Sarah appeared as Celeste #1/Elaine in *Sunday In The Park With George* for Watch This Inc, as well as originating the role of Patsy in *Beautiful Girls* (Gasworks Arts Park). Sarah recently played the role of Olesya (lead) in the film, *Something Has Died In the Forrest* (dir. Eva Torkkola), currently in post production. Sarah is represented by Mark Gogoll and is a member of Actor's Equity.



Ellie Nunan
Lucy Grant

Ellie Nunan is a Melbourne based, Sunshine Coast-born actress, who found her passion for the arts from a very young age in the Buderim Youth Theatre of Excellence, in which she was involved for 12 years. Ellie then went on to study and graduate from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre in 2016. Her credits include *Cats* (GWB Entertainment), *The Beautiful Game* (Manilla Street Productions), *Love's Labours' Lost* (Melbourne Shakespeare Company), *On Broadway* (Flourish Productions) and *Disenchanted* (MadAbout Theatre). Ellie is also the co-creator of the political cabaret *Julie & Julia: An Evening with the Great Women of Australian Politics*, in which she plays Julie Bishop. The show enjoyed a sell-out premiere season at The Butterfly Club, and was also featured on Myf Warhurst's program on ABC Radio. Ellie would like to thank her family and friends for their unrelenting support.



Lachlan Hewson
Daryl Ames

Lachie is stoked to be making his *Pursued By Bear* debut. Lachie is a trained Actor Singer and Dancer, having graduated from the VCA's BFA of Musical Theatre. At VCA Lachie performed leading roles in many productions, most notably; Pat Denning in *42nd Street* (Dir. Gary Young), Jackie in *The Wild Party* (Dir. Trent Baker) and Senator Flipp in *Urinetown* (Dir. Alistair Smith). Since graduation Lachie has also featured in a variety of productions including Phillip Lenard in the World Premiere of *Einstein: Master of the Universe* (RL Productions), *Fair Dinkum! & Super Duper* (Echelon Productions) and *People of The Sun*, an immersive theatre piece performed in both Melbourne and Sydney, as well as Lysander in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. Lachie also starred as Sgt. Bailey in short film *Friend or Foe?* and debuted the role of Angus in the new Aussie play *Open Heart* (Dir, Stephen Amos).

CAST



Mike Gardiner
Mayor Dobbs

After more than 30 years occupying the stage in rock bands, musicals and plays, Mike is slowly coming to terms with the fact that he is now politely referred to as a “seasoned performer”. Stage 5 is acceptance. Mike’s theatre debut was as Lank Hawkins in the NZ premiere of *Crazy for You* (Harlequin). He won a Lyrebird Award for *Thenardier Les Miserables* (Babirra) and was Guild nominated for his portrayal of Henry Jekyll & Edward Hyde *Jekyll & Hyde* (Nova). Other favourites include: *Javert Les Miserables* (PRTC); *Benny Rent* (Stella); *Dentist Little Shop Of Horrors* (Fab Nobs); *Beast Beauty And The Beast* (PLOS); *Pooh-Bah Hot Mikado* (ACT); *Old Deuteronomy / Bustopher Jones Cats* (PLOS); *Julian Marsh 42nd Street* (Nova); *Sweeney Todd Sweeney Todd* (Nova); and *The Narrator Blood Brothers* (Mornington Players). When not on stage Mike fills his days house-husbanding, kid-wrangling, officework-ing and Xbox-ing (not in order of preference).



Anthony Craig
Banjo / Max / Ensemble

Since graduating from Musical Theatre at the Qld Con in 2014, Anthony has been performing nationally and internationally in a ‘big ol’ bunch of different stage shows, feature films, TVCs, and musical theatre productions. Some credits include *Scooby-Doo Live!* (Lifelike Touring), *Carnival of Lost Souls* (Platonic Music), *Le Corsaire* (Victorian State Ballet), *Mad World* (David Butler Studios), *Alice in Wonderland* (Rapidfire International), *Romeo & Juliet/Twelfth Night* (Melbourne Shakespeare Company), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Watch This), and soon to be released feature film *Lone Wolf* (Jonathan Ogilvie). Most recently he starred in the Melbourne premier of the one man show *Private Peaceful* (Moving Light Productions). He’s having a ‘pluckin’ good time playing the banjo and working alongside the great people in the cast and creative team of *Bright Star*.



Ruby Clark
Violin / Edna / Ensemble

Ruby is a Melbourne based actor, singer, dancer and musician. She has been working in the arts for the last four years, and in that time has had the opportunity to play leading roles including *Rizzo: Grease the musical* (Harvest Rain), *Maureen Johnson: RENT* (QPAC & MW Entertainment), and *Velma Von Tussle: Hairspray the musical* (Harvest Rain). This year she was nominated for a Matilda Award for Best Emerging Artist for her body of work in Queensland Theatre, including her roles in *Rent*, *Spring Awakening*, *Boy and Girl*, and *Wheel of Fortune*. In addition to theatre, she is also an accomplished violinist and has worked professionally in bands, cabarets and shows. Ruby trained in musical theatre at Griffith University, and up until a few months ago was based in Brisbane. She has now relocated down to Melbourne and is thrilled to make her Melbourne independent theatre debut in *Bright Star* with *Pursued By Bear*.



Lindy Yeates
Mama Murphy

Lindy has indulged her love of Theatre and Musical Theatre for many years playing roles such as Nancy in *Oliver!* (NOVA Music Theatre Inc), Mame in *Mame* (NOVA), Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* (CLOC Musical Theatre), Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma*, Mrs Medlock in *The Secret Garden* (PLOS Musical Productions) and Rosie Brice in *Funny Girl* (Mountain District Musical Society). This year Lindy performed as Grandma Kurnitz in *Lost in Yonkers* (Heidelberg Theatre Company). In 2017/18 she played Kate in *Sylvia*, Marge in *Absent Friends* (Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company) and Julius Caesar in *Julius Caesar* with the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, UK, where she studied last year. Lindy is a member of the Howard Fine Actors Studio in Melbourne and when not on the stage, works as a visual artist in her Donvale studio.



Tref Gare
Daddy Murphy

Tref Gare trained in physical theatre somewhere in Europe, sometime last century. Dabbled in musical theatre, puppetry, visual theatre, mime and physical theatre, a selection of increasingly silly television ads. Has toured some very strange and far flung places with his solo works under the banner of Eclectic Pelican. Is NOT actually Kala Gare's dad.



Tom Blair
Daddy Cane

A graduate of VCA School of Drama (Acting) Tom has appeared as Dickon in *The Secret Garden* (GFO), The Choreographer in *Sunset Boulevard* (Really Useful), Sam in *Crazy for You* (GFO), Mendel in *Fiddler on the Roof* with Topol (Legin), Cascada in *The Merry Widow* (Essgee) , Lea Sonia/ Lana in *Only Heaven Knows* (Dir:Adrian Barnes) and Charlie Cameron in *Brigadoon*. He began his career aged 19 in The Broadway version of *The Pirates of Penzance* (VSO/AETT) and appeared in *HMS Pinafore*, *My Fair Lady* (VSO), *Anything Goes*, *Me and My Girl* (Dir: Nigel West) and *Born Yesterday* (STC). He has played various roles in children's theatre for Garry Ginivan Attractions and was a member of the VSO Chorus. Concerts include two *A One Night Stands* (Aids Council), the grand re-opening of the Regent Theatre and *Follies in Concert* (Melb. Festival). Recordings include *Anything Goes* and *The Secret Garden*.

CAST



Nathan Fernandez
Stanford / Ensemble

Nathan moved to Melbourne from Canberra in 2013 to study a Diploma of Musical Theatre, and an Advanced Diploma of Dance at APO Arts Academy/DanceWorld. After completing his studies in 2015, he has been involved in many musicals around Melbourne. He most recently played Mark in *Altar Boyz* (PEP Productions) and was a member of the Ensemble in *Rent* (James Terry Presents) at Chapel Off Chapel. Prior to that, his theatre credits include the Dance Ensemble for *Strictly Ballroom* (CLOC), Bobby in *A Chorus Line* (CLOC), Otto in *Spring Awakening* (StageArt), and an Apostle in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (CLOC). Nathan is very excited to work with this fantastic production team and very talented cast to bring the beautiful story of *Bright Star* to life.



Teagan Nowicki
Florence / Ensemble

Originally from the Gold Coast, Teagan moved to Melbourne to train at The Victorian College of the Arts graduating with a BFA in Music Theatre in 2017. During her time at the VCA she played Emmaline Pankhurst in *Oh What A Lovely War, Mate!* (dir. Maude Davey) Jenny in *Company* (dir. Roger Hodgman) and was Dance Captain/Ensemble in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (dir. Alister Smith). Teagan was a featured vocalist in *Morning Melodies: Best of Broadway and Movie Musicals* (dir. Margot Fenley) presented by Arts Centre Melbourne. Last year she made her professional theatre debut as a Swing and Skylar, Kylar and Eva Cover in *Bring It On* (dir. Alister Smith, David Venn Enterprises) and followed with two seasons as Berthe in *Mad World* (dir. James Cutler and Lauren McKenna), an immersive theatrical production.



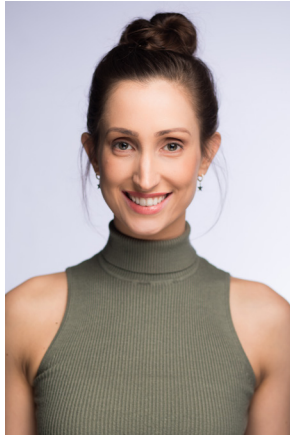
Shay Debney
Dr Norquist / Ensemble

Born in Brisbane, Shay relocated to Melbourne to study ballet full-time at The Australian Ballet School, where he danced for two years. Shay then went on to study musical theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in the class of 2015. The following year Shay appeared in Queensland Ballet's production of *Strictly Gershwin* as a guest tap dancer. In 2017 he was selected as one of six Australian professional dancers to perform with Sir Matthew Bourne's Company in the Australian premiere of their dance production *Lord of the Flies*, playing the role of Eric. He has also performed in *Mack & Mabel* (Hayes Theatre), *Sweet Charity* (Understudy Productions), *Just a Couple of Song and Dance Men* and the Australian tour of *The Wizard of Oz* (GFO).



Bradley Beard
Ensemble

Bradley started his training at Spectrum Dance and graduated with a Diploma in Musical Theatre and Cert IV in Dance. He has since continued his acting training at Howard Fine Acting Studio Australia. During his time at Spectrum Dance, Bradley played Carlos in *Legally Blonde* (Dir. Stephen Wheat). He appeared in the *AFL Grand Final Footy Show: Players Review* 2015 & 2016 as a dancer and has worked as a singer/dancer for corporate functions at Crown Casino. He performed as a featured dancer in the French cabaret *French Twist* in 2018 (dir. Robert Sturrock) and made his debut as a choreographer in the musical *Ace of Hearts* at the Midsummer Festival in 2019. He currently is a backing vocalist for *Broadway Unplugged* (Be You Inc).



Lauren Jimmieson
Katie / Ensemble / Dance Captain

Lauren graduated from The Queensland Con in 2014 with a Bachelor of Musical Theatre. Lauren has worked extensively in Children's Theatre with Pen2Stage productions and Perform! Educational Musicals. Lauren choreographed the Australian premiere of *On the Docks* (Bayliss and Ablett) and *First World White Girls* (Judy Hainsworth). Performance credits include *Spark* (Joymas Creative), *Xanadu* (Harvest Rain), *Singin' in the Rain* (Michael Cassel / Dainty Group) and *Gilligan's Island the Musical* (Hum Drum Comedy). Commencing March 2018, Lauren began touring internationally with Nickelodeon's *Paw Patrol Live* (Life Like Touring) as Dance Captain, and recently as Deputy Associate Choreographer. In 2019, she joined the cast of *Impromptunes - The Completely Improvised Musical* and was Dance Captain and ensemble for *Sweeney Todd* (Life Like Company). Lauren has launched her business *The Sideshow Factory* with her fiancé Anthony Craig (who also features in *Bright Star!*). Thanks to *Pursued By Bear* for the opportunity to be a part of this beautiful story!



Daisy Calnin
Ensemble

Daisy is excited to return to Chapel Off Chapel after previously performing in *Nine the musical* (dir. Michael Ralph, StageArt). In 2015 she graduated from the dance program at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS). Following this, she completed two years of full-time music theatre training at Showfit (dir. Scott Johnson and Mathew Frank). Whilst at Showfit, Daisy co-created the collaborative performance piece, *Like a Girl* in order to raise money for SisterWorks. Daisy has continued her work in social change through performance as a co-producer of the fundraising event, *Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Fundraiser by Artists* which brought together creatives from various backgrounds to raise money for the ASRC. She has recently returned from her adventure to India with CERES Global where she explored her passion for sustainability and dance. Daisy would like to thank the production team for including her in the beautiful *Pursued By Bear* family!

CREDITS

BAND

Fiddle : Ruby Clark
Viola/Fiddle : Evangeline Victoria
Cello : Deb McLeod
Bass : Mitchell Roberts
Banjo : Anthony Craig
Mandolin : Aaron Searle
Guitar : Rowan Pattison
Piano : Ned Wright-Smith
Keyboard/Autoharp/Accordion : Nathan Firmin
Drums : Andy Rousch

AUDITION PIANISTS

Samuel Loomes
Kathryn Leonard
Robyn Cole

REHEARSAL PIANISTS

Ned Wright-Smith
Robyn Cole
Ashlee Dalton
Owen James
Joseph Bourke

ONSTAGE PIANO

Courtesy of Pianos Recycled

KEYBOARD PATCHING

patched keyboards, Nathan Firmin

THANKYOU

City of Stonnington. Chapel Off Chapel. St Martins Youth Theatre. The entire WHAM team from Victoria University, staff and students. PBS Melbourne. Noel Brown. Ivan Stevanovic. Josh Mattielli. Mahalia Brown. Bethany Young. Penny Larkins. Kate Hood.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director : Mark Taylor
Musical Director : Nathan Firmin
Choreographer : Freya List
Costume Design : Jodi Hope
Lighting Design : Mungo Trumble
Sound Design : Joel Peters
Set Design : Sarah Tulloch
Asst. Director : Emma Gough
Asst. Choreographer : Leah Hamlet
Stage Manager : Ashleigh Walwyn
Asst. Stage Manager : Brittany McVicar
Lighting Operator : Justin Gardam
WHAM Supervisor : Mary Garret-Bond

A_tistic Liason : Hannah Aroni

PROMOTIONAL PHOTOSHOOT

Direction : Mark Taylor
Photography : Jacinta Moore
MHUA : Madeline Stuart
Costume : Jodi Hope
Accommodation : The Barn Owl, Malmsbury

PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Ben Fon

HEADSHOT PHOTOGRAPHY

Elissa Simone from Lissa & Laz

PROMOTIONAL FILMING & EDITING

George Martin

COSTUME INTERNS

Taryn Wheatley
Amy Crowe
Stephanie Wickham

ASST. COSTUMIER

Paula Morgan



chapel
off chapel

JAMES TERRY
COLLECTIVE

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