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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"If you knew my story, you'd have a good story to tell." I love a good story. My favorites are stories about people. When you can ask someone about their past, it's like opening up a book to another era, only you don't just read it. It's more like an interactive audio book where you can listen and learn, and ask questions as different layers are peeled back and exposed, discovered, presented and examined. I love to tell a good story, for sure, but even more I love to listen. I love to strike up conversations with people and just find out about them... what makes them tick, where they've lived, their relationships, the things in their lives that are important and meaningful... because as long as there are people on this earth, there will be stories to tell.

Bright Star is based on true events (the Iron Mountain baby), embellished to bring you the musical you are seeing today. It is ALL of the things: it is gut-wrenching, heart-warming, spine-tingling, stunningly beautiful! It's "a sweeping tale of pain and redemption", as Alice says in one of the scenes. What I like most about it is that it is a simple tale, not some fantastical thing. Then you add in the music, which is life-changing... so, so beautiful, so much fun to sing and learn, so much joy comes from just belting it out and sharing it with others... it has given me goosebumps at every rehearsal.

In this show, we get to peek through a window at this young woman's life... indeed, several years of her life... and witness all of her joys and sorrows, and everything in between. And we get to feel all of her feelings right along with her, which is such an amazing privilege. When you add in the bluegrass/Americana score, it really pieces together the fabric of her story, like a beautiful quilt that takes all the intricate pieces and parts to become one incredible work of art.

It is my hope that all of you will walk away with those goosebumps, and those thoughts and feelings that are provoked in me every time I hear it or watch it. This will be a hard one to let go. It has become a part of me, of the fabric that makes up my story. May it wrap you in warmth and poignant beauty!

~Jodi Prosser-Muller, Director

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Choreographer/Costumer...Jodi Prosser-Muller
Vocal Director.....Lucinda Lawrence
Orchestra Director.....Chris Huffman
Rehearsal Accompanists..Jennifer Lewis, Chris Huffman
Producer.....Heather Miyagi
Stage Crew.....Chris Davis, Katie Smith, Will Sandusky
Swing Choreography workshop.....Emily Venezia
Props Mistress.....Laura Arwine
Set.....Gary Lickfett, with Heather Miyagi,
Eric France, Cameron Sheets, Rich Goben,
Jean Faw, Teri Sturdyvin, Chris Thorpe
Lighting Design.....Tom Fricke, Eric France, Paul Strain
Spot Op.....Luke Ahring
Sound.....Austin Faulkner
Show Photographer.....Mackenzie Kizer
Program Design.....Jenny Taylor
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ORCHESTRA

Piano.....Jennifer Lewis
Keyboard.....Chris Huffman
Banjo.....Blake Martin
Percussion.....Josh Compton
Guitar.....Jim Cyr
Fiddle.....Eli Nardoni
Viola.....George Sooley
Cello.....Ben Nardoni
Bass.....Aaron Smothers
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MUSICAL NUMBERS

Setting: North Carolina, shifting between 1923-1924 and 1945-1946

ACT 1

If You Knew My Story.....Alice, Billy, Company

1945

She's Gone.....Billy, Daddy Cane
Bright Star.....Billy, Company
Way Back in the Day.....Alice, Company

1923

Whoa Mama.....Jimmy Ray, Alice, Company
Do Right.....Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Alice, Company
A Man's Gotta Do.....Mayor, Jimmy Ray

1945

Asheville.....Margo

1923

Picnic Dance.....Stanford
What Could Be Better.....Jimmy Ray, Alice, Company
I Can't Wait.....Alice, Spirits
I Can't Wait.....Alice, Jimmy Ray, Company
Please Don't Take Him....Alice, Mayor, Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy
A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise).....Mayor, Company

15-minute Intermission

ACT 2

Entr'acte

Sun Is Gonna Shine.....Alice, Mama Murphy,
Daddy Cane, Margo, Florence, Edna, Company

1924

Heartbreaker.....Jimmy Ray

1946

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

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We apologize for any names omitted from this list.
Please see the Thank You list in the foyer.

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THE CAST

Alice Murphy.....	Angie Rouley
Mama Murphy.....	Nancy Keener
Daddy Murphy.....	Eric France
Jimmy Ray Dobbs.....	Cameron Sheets
Mayor Josiah Dobbs.....	Rodney Woodworth
Stanford.....	Joe Sandusky
Billy Cane.....	Bryan Goode
Daddy Cane.....	Aaron Martin
Margo Crawford.....	Ruey Sandusky
Lucy Grant.....	Sidnee Davis
Daryl Ames.....	Craig Krukewitt
Edna.....	Sydney Smith
Florence.....	Kelli Carlton
Max.....	Sebastian Skinner
Dr. Norquist.....	Mark Muller
Government Clerk.....	Suzy Goben
Stationmaster.....	Peter Barrett
Well-Dressed Woman.....	Aubrey Falconio
Liam.....	Lorenzo Skinner
Mary.....	Emma France
Spirits.....	Kelli Carlton, Amanda Coutant, Aubrey Falconio, Heather Miyagi, Sydney Smith, Teri Sturdyvin
Ensemble.....	Zach Carlson, Jean Faw, Anne Kinate, Lucinda Lawrence, Gary Lickfett, Robin Romack, Lorenzo Skinner, Sarah Stahl

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CAST & CREW



Pete Barrett (Stationmaster)

is thrilled to be doing his first show with DLO and at the Fischer Theatre. Most recently he played Bill Austin (a good guy!) in the Station Theatre's *Mamma Mia!*, Mr. Simmons (a bad guy!) in Parkland's *Memphis*, a tap dancer (an exhausted guy!) in Parkland's *Anything Goes*, and in various radio dramas, music reviews, and a web series. Thanks to Sheila, who supports this craziness, and to the cast, who welcomed this latecomer with open arms.

Zach Carlson (Ensemble)

This is Zach's 3rd show with DLO, having previously performed in *Sister Act* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Zach most recently performed in *Evil Dead The Musical* with Darkhorse Theatre Company. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he's enjoyed being a part of it.



Kelli Carlton (Florence, Spirit)

would like to take a moment to thank the entire community for all of the amazing musical and theatrical opportunities that have come her way. Our township is so blessed to have so many people hungry for the arts and it is wonderful to be able to celebrate that together in this historic Fischer Theatre.

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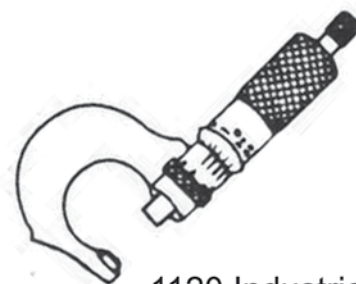
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CAST & CREW



Sebastian Skinner (Max)

is thrilled to be a part of *Bright Star*. "It's always a pleasure to work with Jodi and I'd like to share a huge thanks to the entire cast for being supportive. This show has helped me come out of my shell when it comes to singing and I am finally more comfortable with my voice. *Bright Star* is some kind of wonderful and I enjoyed every step we took to make it come to life as DLO's first production at the historical Fisher Theatre."

Sydney Smith (Edna, Spirit)

is 16 and a sophomore in high school. She is the oldest of 4 girls ("none of us were thrown from a train thankfully"). This is her second musical with DLO. She has loved singing for a long time, and the music in this show is amazing and so much fun.



Sarah Stahl (Ensemble)

Bright Star is Sarah's first musical. In the past, she has helped backstage. Her sons have been encouraging her for years to join them in their love of theater.



Teri Sturdyvin (Spirit)

has a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from EIU. This is her second show with DLO—she got to be a dancing plate in *Beauty and the Beast* last year. She has enjoyed getting to know the theatre community in Danville.



Rodney Woodworth (Mayor)

is excited to make his DLO debut in *Bright Star*. After retiring last year, he traveled to theatre conferences across the country. He was seen as the Professor in CUTC's *Our Town*, and La Quadra in *Farinelli and the King* at the Station Theatre. Rodney also directed and narrated the Award Winning, World Premiere Radio Drama, *The Goblins and The Gravedigger*, a retelling of an early Dickens story by Kenny Chumbley, which was performed live! "Thanks to the *Bright Star* cast and crew for being so friendly and wonderful to work with! Break a leg!"



CAST & CREW



Amanda Coutant (Spirit)

is excited to once again perform with DLO Musical Theater! Amanda was in her first production in 1995 as a youth, and has been involved since. Amanda has a fondness for directing as well as acting, and will be Directing DLO's upcoming *Mamma Mia!*. Amanda would like to thank her fiancé, Eric, and their children Tayte, Emma, and Elliot for allowing her to pursue her passion and hobby of being on the stage.

Sidnee Davis (Lucy Grant)

is ecstatic to join the DLO family again to bring to life this wonderful show here at the beautiful Fischer Theater! She has played many roles in her lifetime. Some of her favorites are Babette from *Beauty and the Beast* and Michelle Mahoney from *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She would like to thank her (growing) family for always supporting her in all she does. They are her Bright Star.



Aubrey Falconio (Spirit, Well-Dressed Woman)

is happy to be back with DLO once again. She is a registered nurse and kid at heart. She was last seen as Annie in *Evil Dead The Musical*. She hopes you enjoy the beautiful story that is *Bright Star*.

*Wishing DLO Musical Theatre
a Successful Season!*

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CAST & CREW



Jean Faw (Ensemble)

This is Jean's third DLO production, having previously been a part of *Sister Act* and *Beauty and the Beast*. She is grateful for the opportunity to perform with such talented people.

Emma France (Mary)

This is Emma's second show of the season with DLO. She loves being around the entire process and was honored when asked to do a minor role for this show with her father, Eric, and soon to be stepmom, Amanda Coutant. Theater is in her blood and she makes the most of it every chance she gets!



Eric France (Daddy Murphy)

Eric has been involved in the community and professional production world for 25 years. While he spends the majority of his time behind the scenes, this show called him to join the cast as well as the crew. He appreciates the opportunity to work with the entire cast and crew of this amazing show. Joining his fiancée (Amanda Coutant) and daughter (Emma France) in this production make this an even better experience.



CAST & CREW



Ruey Sandusky (Margo Crawford)

is relatively new to the stage. In 2018, she auditioned for *Anne of Green Gables* with her son, who was already active in community theater. She enjoyed it so much she has since been in *A Few Good Men*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *It's a Wonderful Life, Radio Show*. She also enjoyed directing *The Enchanted Book Shop*, a children's production, and stage managing *A Christmas Carol*. She is very excited to be working with this talented cast and to be performing at the iconic Fischer Theatre. She would like to thank her husband Joe for being willing to share this experience with her!

Joe Sandusky (Stanford)

This is Joe's first DLO production. He was in several plays during his elementary and high school years but that was several years ago. His main motivation for getting involved in this production was because his wife strongly suggested it, but he has really enjoyed getting to know this amazing group of people. Who knew that so much work and skill went into a production like this? He would also like to thank all of the directors for their hard work and dedication.



Cameron Sheets (Jimmy Ray Dobbs)

is extremely proud to be joining the cast of *Bright Star*. Cameron's musical theater experience with DLO includes the role of Enjolras in *Les Misérables*, the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, playing guitar in the pit for *Next to Normal*, and the role of the guard in *The Wizard of Oz*. Cameron is a passionate musician; he plays many instruments and is working on several music projects including writing and recording for his band Electric Mood (find them on Spotify!).

Lorenzo Skinner (Liam, Ensemble)

This is Lorenzo's third show directed by Jodi and he has enjoyed every moment of it. This has been one of Lorenzo's favorite productions. Everyone in the cast has been amazing. He is looking forward to all his future roles in many more musicals with DLO.



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HONDA HYUNDAI

CAST & CREW



Suzy Goben (Government Clerk, Ensemble)
has been involved in local community theater for the last 16 years, and is thrilled to be on stage again! Some of her favorite shows she has performed in have been: *Mamma Mia!*, *August Osage County*, *The 39 Steps*, *Great American Trailer Park*, *Best Little Whorehouse*, and *Nunsense*. Being on stage performing is her much-loved hobby. Thanks to her husband Rich for always supporting her, and she means ALWAYS!

Bryan Goode (Billy Cane)

is an Actor-Singer from the Champaign area who made his debut with DLO Musical Theatre with *Curtains* in 2018. He has since performed as Dan in *Next to Normal*, and will be reprising that role at the Fischer at the end of March. When he isn't acting, he spends his free time reading, writing, and worrying about climate change.



Chris Huffman

(Orchestra Director, Rehearsal Accompanist)

is a professional musician and teacher. She has played for countless gigs and events, including DSO and local bands. She has directed music for several DLO productions, and worked as producer, actor, rehearsal pianist and pit musician. Her last shows as music director were *The Last Five Years* at the Station Theatre in Urbana, and *Evil Dead the Musical* for the Darkhorse Theatre Company. She also teaches piano at B&J Music. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Nancy Keener (Mama Murphy)

Nancy works out her theatre addiction with DLO, Red Mask, and the Station Theatre. Last seen on stage as Sister Mary Lazarus in *Sister Act*, she is thrilled to be in this show. It's a particular joy to be performing on the Fischer Theater stage. Many thanks to Jodi for the opportunity, and to this cast and crew for their dedication. Thanks also to Memphis for enduring scheduling irregularities. #TheSunIsGonnaShineAgain



CAST & CREW



Anne Kinate (Ensemble)

is pleased to join the incredibly talented cast of *Bright Star* in her first DLO production. She has sung with several community choruses through the years, including the Danville Sweet Adelines, the Vermilion Festival Chorus, and the Danville Symphony Adult Chorus; and she has found it to be extremely rewarding performing in musical theater. Anne sends out a heartfelt thank you to her wonderful family for their unwavering love and support.

Craig Krukewitt (Daryl Ames)

has Sirius affection for *Bright Star*. You may well recognize his face, as his previous appearances with DLO, in their multitude, are scarce to be counted... although he'd like to mention *Big, the Musical* many years ago, in which he sang a song about constellations. He lives in Fithian with his beloved Canis Major and Canis Minor. Pleiades enjoy the show.



Lucinda Lawrence (Vocal Director)

Pursuing her passion for 'community' through theatre, Lucinda music directs and performs with several area groups, is Co-Founder of Community Theatre Illinois, and serves on the Board of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT), advocating for underserved rural populations. She is co-writer of *1787 the Musical*, and her one-act play, *Back When* (derived from another musical in progress), received 3rd place in a national short play contest (2019). "I dearly LOVE this group!"



Jennifer Lewis (Rehearsal Accompanist)

is excited to be the rehearsal accompanist and pianist for *Bright Star*. Jennifer is the accompanist for the Westville school district choirs and pianist at Fairview United Methodist Church. This is Jennifer's first show with DLO, but she has accompanied musicals for Westville High School since 2012.



CAST & CREW



Aaron Martin (Daddy Cane)

Aaron hopes you enjoy the show. Embrace the action and live these moments with us. Open your heart to the messages and feel it all with us.

Heather Miyagi (Spirit)

fell in love with *Bright Star* almost a year ago ("thank you, Jodi!") and is utterly thrilled to be involved in bringing it to life on this stage, though still quite surprised to find that she is onstage rather than in the workshop and running around backstage. "Love and gratitude to all, for endless patience and so much help!"



Mark Muller (Dr. Norquist)

has been doing DLO shows since *Sweeney Todd* in 2011, and once again finds himself with an incredible group of people, having fun and putting on a show! He hopes you enjoy it, and invites you to audition for one of our productions ("I'm looking at you guys out there!"). Mark would like to thank the pups for listening to him rehearse (and only occasionally joining in)!

Angie Rouley (Alice Murphy)

Bright Star is Angie's first DLO production, and her first stage appearance since 1997. She is married to Josh and has three children, three cats, and one dog: (in no particular order) London, Lincoln, Scout, Mabel, Thalia, Huck, and Cat. Performing in this show, loosely based on her own life (except for the baby part and hooch drinking), has been a cathartic experience, because if you knew her story, you'd have a good one to tell.

