



# BRIGHT STAR

BOOK BY **STEVE MARTIN**

MUSIC BY **STEVE MARTIN & EDIE BRICKELL**

LYRICS BY **EDIE BRICKELL**



Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

# Edward Jones

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UTA Department of Theatre Arts and Dance  
presents

# BRIGHT STAR

Book By  
STEVE MARTIN

Music By  
STEVE MARTIN & EDIE BRICKELL

Lyrics By  
EDIE BRICKELL

Scenic Design  
DJ BADON

Costume Design  
TABITHA THOMPSON

Lighting Design  
JARED LAND & LAURIE LAND

Sound Design  
BILL EICKENLOFF

Music Director  
VICKY NOOE

Choreographer  
SARAH FAGAN

Director  
ANNE HEALY

BRIGHT STAR  
Inspired By A True Story

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.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UTA respectfully acknowledges the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes upon whose historical homelands this University is located. Their ancestors resided here for generations before being forcibly displaced by U.S. settlers and soldiers in the mid-1800s. We recognize the historical presence of the Caddo Nation and other Tribal Nations in the region; the ongoing presence and achievements of many people who moved to the area due to the Indian Relocation program of the 1950s and 1960s; and the vital presence and accomplishments of our Native students, faculty, and staff.

***Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.***

***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)***

This playbill is a production of **PERFORMING ADS** 

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the Theatre!

We are delighted that you are here at UTA as we present *BRIGHT STAR*, a musical that takes us on a journey of discovery, young love, heartbreak, and redemption set upon the backdrop of North Carolina in the first half of the 20th century.

The show's themes of resilience and perseverance, along with a stunning (and award winning) score, was everything this director could hope for in a project. I hoped that the story could and would serve as a reminder that even in the darkest of times a light can appear to lead us forward.

The *BRIGHT STAR* creative team began work last April to devise a space appropriate for this unique storytelling opportunity. This is the first time that our department has reconfigured our mainstage theatre space as an intimate performance venue, and we are inspired by the new configuration used to tell this story. Our actors, crew, and musicians have been exploring this piece since August and hope that this show will resonate with you as much as it has touched all of us.

A special thanks to our team, cast, crew, and musicians who make the collaborative process of theatre a great joy. I am humbled with all that has been shared in the journey. We hope that you enjoy the show!

Anne Healy  
October 2023

## DRAMATURGY NOTE

When *BRIGHT STAR* premiered in New York City on Thursday, March 10, 2016, reviewer Christopher Isherwood wrote: "Bluegrass on Broadway? Yes sirree. The warming sounds of banjos, fiddles and even an accordion are filling the Cort Theater, [ . . . ] bringing a fresh breeze from the South to the spring theater season." The show's writers—folk rock singer Edie Brickell and actor/musician Steve Martin—are Texans, from Dallas and Waco, respectively. This is only one reason we are proud to include *BRIGHT STAR* in our season. We are also excited to showcase our BFA musical theatre majors' performances, original BFA student designs in sets and costumes, and our BA Theatre Studies stage management team.

Our students shine due to the efforts of their instructors and faculty mentors, all of whom have worked joyfully on this intimate stage to bring you what Isherwood described as a thrilling story, "gracefully" told.

-Jeanmarie Higgins, Chair and Professor, Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

### Sources

Christopher Isherwood. "Review: Bright Star Beams Nostalgia Underscored by Fiddles and Banjos." New York Times 16 March 2016.



## CAST

Alice Murphy .....	Allison Crabtree
Billy Cane .....	Lane Benham
Daddy Cane .....	Caleb Fisher
Margo Crawford .....	Jalyn Roberson
Max .....	Nick Harrison
Florence .....	Ambar Acosta
Edna .....	Nicole Giddens
Daryl Ames .....	Landon Blanton
Lucy Grant .....	Jolie Lambert
Mama Murphy .....	Jacqueline Castillo
Daddy Murphy .....	Sean Solis
Mayor Josiah Dobbs .....	Robert Twaddell
Jimmy Ray Dobbs .....	Steven Rios
Stanford .....	Nathan Talamantez
Dr. Norquist .....	Caiden Garcia
Government Clerk .....	Hannah Lovato-Swaim
Well-Dressed Woman .....	Allison Bradshaw
ENSEMBLE .....	Ambar Acosta, Allison Bradshaw, Caiden Garcia, Nicole Giddens, Nick Harrison, Lexi Lawrence, Hannah Lovato-Swaim, Nathan Talamantez.
SWINGS .....	Axel Patino, Sylvia Schulte
UNDERSTUDIES .....	Alice: Hannah Lovato-Swaim, Billy: Nick Harrison, Daddy Cane/Daddy Murphy/Mayor: Caiden Garcia, Margo: Ambar Acosta, Lucy: Nicole Giddens, Mama Murphy: Allison Bradshaw

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .....	Anne Healy
Asst. Director .....	Robert Twaddell
Stage Manager .....	Harmony Conner
Asst. Stage Manager .....	Laz Jarrell
Asst. Stage Manager .....	Leah Rettig
Music Director .....	Vicky Nooe
Dance Choreographer .....	Sarah Fagan
Scenic Designer .....	DJ Badon
Asst. Scenic Designer .....	Gabrielle Malbrough
Properties Designer .....	Phillip Schroeder
Lighting Designer .....	Jared Land
Lighting Designer .....	Laurie Land
Sound Designer .....	Bill Eickenloff
Costume Designer .....	Tabitha Thompson
Costume Design Mentor .....	Margaret Monostory
Production Manager/Technical Director .....	DJ Badon
Producer .....	Jeanmarie Higgins
Light Board Op .....	Ash Wilson
Mic Tech .....	Aliyah Vialdores
Mic Tech .....	Ryan Terry
Wardrobe Crew (H) .....	Kierra Powers
Wardrobe Crew .....	Toni Colbert
Backstage Crew (H) .....	Genesis Hill
Backstage Crew .....	Jayla Greer, Madison Jackson, Malik Giles
Dance Captain .....	Lexi Lawrence
Vocal Coach .....	Jocelyn Hansen

## ORCHESTRA

Piano/Conductor.....	Vicky Nooe
Banjo/Mandolin/Lap Steel/Guitar.....	Maristella Feustle
Guitar/Mandolin.....	Dennis Langevin
Fiddle .....	Bethany Hardwick
Viola.....	Brian Eaton
Cello .....	Nic Buck
Bass.....	Benjamin Brown
Drums/Percussion.....	Michael Ptacin
Keyboard.....	Cody Dry

## SETTING

The Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina in 1945–46 with flashbacks to 1923.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

If You Knew My Story .....	Alice and Ensemble
She's Gone .....	Daddy Cane and Billy
Bright Star.....	Billy and Ensemble
Way Back in the Day .....	Alice and Ensemble
Whoa, Mama- Jimmy.....	Alice, and Ensemble
Firmer Hand/Do Right.....	Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Alice, and Ensemble
A Man's Gotta Do .....	Mayor Dobbs and Jimmy
Asheville .....	Margo and Ensemble
*Picnic Dance.....	Stanford, Ensemble
What Could Be Better.....	Jimmy, Alice, and Ensemble
I Can't Wait .....	Alice, Jimmy, and Ensemble
Please, Don't Take Him .....	Mayor Dobbs, Alice, Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Stanford Adams, and Ensemble
A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise).....	Mayor Dobbs and Ensemble

### ACT TWO

Entr'acte.....	Orchestra
Sun's Gonna Shine .....	Alice, Mama Murphy, Margo, Daddy Cane, Edna, Florence, and Ensemble
Heartbreaker .....	Jimmy
*Another Round .....	Lucy, Darryl, Billy, and Ensemble
I Had a Vision .....	Alice and Jimmy
Always Will .....	Billy, Margo, and Ensemble
I Can't Wait (Reprise).....	Ensemble
So Familiar .....	Alice and Ensemble
At Long Last .....	Alice and Ensemble
Finale.....	Ensemble

# CAST

## AMBAR ACOSTA

Ambar Acosta is a senior studying musical theatre at UTA. You may have seen her previously in UTA's production of *Sweeney Todd*. Ambar would like to thank her friends and family, especially her mom, for all of their support!

## LANE BENHAM

Lane Benham is a BFA Musical Theatre junior at UTA. He was last seen in *Sweeney Todd* on the mainstage. He is very excited to do *Bright Star* with so many friends.

## LANDON BLANTON

Landon Blanton is a Junior BFA musical theatre Major at UTA, he was last seen in *Sweeney Todd* at UTA and *Cabaret* at UTA.

## ALLISON BRADSHAW

Allison Bradshaw is a BFA Musical Theater sophomore at UTA. She was previously seen in *Sweeney Todd* (ensemble) here at UTA and the Broadway Concert Series (Eponine, Velma Kelly) with Wagner Iovanna Studio Productions. She would like to thank her family for all their love and support!

## JACQUELINE CASTILLO

Jacqueline Castillo is a BFA Musical Theatre student at UTA. Jacqueline was last seen in *Boy on Billboard* with Wilson/Apple, *Sweeney Todd* at UTA, *Midsummer's Night Dream* at Genesis Children's Theatre, and *In The Heights* at NTPA-Rep.

## ALLI CRABTREE

Alli Crabtree is thrilled to be a part of *Bright Star*! Alli is a senior Musical Theatre major and Dance minor. Previous UTA credits include *9 to 5* and *Cabaret*. She would like to thank Team Star, her family, friends, professors, and God for their constant love and support.

## CALEB FISHER

Caleb Fisher is a sophomore BFA Musical Theater student. Caleb was last seen in the UTA production of *Sweeney Todd* and *The Stars and The Moon Cabaret* at Theatre Arlington. He's excited to perform another show and would like to thank his friends and family for all their support.

## CAIDEN GARCIA

Caiden Garcia is thrilled to be making his Mainstage debut. Recently graduating from Dallas College, Caiden is pursuing a BFA of Musical Theatre at UTA. He was last seen this summer as Enjolras in *Les Miserables*.

## NICOLE GIDDENS

Nicole Giddens is a BFA Musical Theatre sophomore at UTA. This will be her second mainstage show at UTA after last being in *Sweeney Todd*. She is so excited for everyone to come and see this wonderful show!

## NICHOLAS HARRISON

Nicholas Harrison is a junior pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre and a Minor in Dance. Nick was last seen in UTA's Production of *Sweeney Todd* as Anthony. He would like to dedicate this performance to his brother Lucas Harrison.

## JOLIE LAMBERT

Jolie Lambert is a BFA Musical Theatre junior at UTA. She is excited to make her Mainstage debut after transferring here! Jolie was last seen in *Music Man* at Garland Summer Musicals (teen ensemble). She would like to thank everyone who has impacted her journey in some way.

## LEXI LAWRENCE

Lexi Lawrence is a BFA Musical Theater Sophomore at UTA. Lexi was last seen in *Sweeney Todd* at UTA. Lexi is thrilled to have worked on this show with two of her roommates, Jolie and Nicole. From the music to the choreography, every aspect of this show is breathtaking.

## AXEL PATINO

Axel Patino is a BFA Musical Theatre major at UTA. He is part of the cast of *Bright Star* as one of two swings. This is his first ever production with UTA, and he is very excited to take part in this show.

## CAST

### STEVEN RIOS

Steven Rios is a First-Year transfer student at UTA majoring in Musical Theatre, and is excited to be making his Mainstage debut. He was last seen in *The Fantasticks* (Matt). Steven has worked with various theatres around the DFW area and is set to make his debut at WaterTower theatre later this year.

### JALYN ROBERSON

Jalyn Roberson is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major at UTA. She was last seen in *Sweeney Todd* last spring. She would like to thank her family, her friends, her cast mates, and God.

### SYLVIA SCHULTE

Sylvia Schulte is a sophomore Musical Theatre major with a Dance minor at UTA. She was previously in *Sweeney Todd* at UTA, and she is a member of RISE A Cappella. She thanks you for attending and hopes you enjoy the show!

### SEAN SOLIS

Sean Solis is a BFA Musical Theatre Senior at UTA. When he's not onstage, he's backstage working crew. Some of his credits onstage include *Sweeney Todd*, *A Muddle Of Mask*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. Crew credits include *Ragtime*, *Cabaret*, and *Dance in Flux*. He can't wait to see what's next.

### HANNAH LOVATO-SWAIM

Hannah Lovato-Swaim is a BFA Musical Theatre junior at UTA. Hannah was last seen in *Sweeney Todd* at UTA and has since participated in the MusikTheatre Bavaria summer intensive in Oberaudorf, Germany. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support.

### NATHAN TALAMANTEZ

Nathan Talamantez is a BFA musical theater major at UTA. This will be his Mainstage debut. He is currently a sophomore transfer from Lubbock Texas and is beyond excited to make memories with his new family!

### ROBERT TWADDELL

Robert Twaddell is a BFA Musical Theatre focus at UTA. Robert was last seen in *Cabaret* (Herr Schultz) and *Sweeney Todd* (Judge Turpin). Outside of school he teaches voice and acting in Granbury, Cleburne, and Arlington with his partner, Haley.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

### DR. ANNE HEALY - Director

Dr. Anne Healy comes to the Dallas/Fort Worth area from New York City where she worked for many years as a professional actress and musical theatre performer. Anne holds a Ph.D. in Humanities- Aesthetic Studies - Musical Theatre/Theatre from The University of Texas at Dallas, an M.F.A. in Musical Theatre, and is an Associate Professor of Academics in the Department of Theatre Arts at UTA. As a member of Actors Equity Association (AEA), Anne has worked both Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country, with local performances at Casa Manana and Amphibian Productions in Fort Worth. Anne is an associate member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Union (SDC) and was in their 2017-2018 observership class. Regional directing credits include serving as the Assistant Director for *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Tony Award-winning Dallas Theater Center, as well as joining Tony Award-winning director and choreographer Kathleen Marshall at Goodspeed Musicals in Connecticut as her directing observer. Currently, Anne is a resident director at Priscilla Beach Theatre in MA and a teaching artist for American Musical Theatre Live, Paris. At UTA, Anne has directed *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Dead Man Walking*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *As It Is In Heaven*, *West Side Story*, *Ragtime*, *The Music Man*, *Sweeney Todd*, the regional premier of *The Theory of Relativity*, and the world premiere of *Troupers: A Musical Vaudeville*, to name a few. Anne's research in the areas of vaudeville, musical theatre, and directing has led to multiple papers and panel discussions nationally and internationally regarding inter-disciplinary collaboration processes in the arts, as well as several creative works. Anne's recent book chapter on directing in musical theatre appeared in the Routledge Companion to Musical Theatre in December 2022.

# PRODUCTION TEAM

## **DJ BADON -Scenic Designer/Technical Director/Production Manager**

DJ joined the department in June of 2008. He has served as Technical Director since 2015 and became the Production Manager in 2018. He received Associate degrees in Construction and Design Drafting as well as a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Southeastern Louisiana University. He then attended Western Illinois University where he received an MFA in Scenic Design. As a scenic designer, his previous credits include *THE MISER*, *THE CLEAN HOUSE*, *THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE*, *PRINCESS MIA*, *SEE WHAT I WANNA SEE*, and most recently, *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD*.

## **GABRIELLE MALBROUGH - Assistant Scenic Designer**

Gabrielle is a BFA Theatrical Design junior. Making her Scenic Design debut, Gabrielle was last seen working as the Assistant Properties Designer for *Night of the living Dead* (Lori Allen Ohm) and *Sweeny Todd* (Stephen Sondheim) here at UTA and has since worked as a Charge Artists at Beaumont Community players in Beaumont, TX.

## **SARAH FAGAN - Choreographer**

Sara Fagan is a performer, choreographer, and dance educator. She is happy to join the UTA Dept. of Theatre Arts and Dance and create with the team of Bright Star! While based in New York she was on faculty at Molloy University/CAP21, taught and choreographed at Mile Square Theatre, and performed in numerous theater productions. Performance highlights include *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* (National Tour, Rhoda/u.s. Judy), *42nd Street* (National Tour, u.s. Annie), *The Will Rogers Follies* (Goodspeed Musicals), *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn* (Goodspeed Musicals World Premiere Swing/MUNY, Ensemble), *Crazy For You* (Riverside Theatre), *Anything Goes* (North Shore Music Theatre), and *Singin' In The Rain* (Music Theatre of Wichita, Woman in Green.) She is a member of AEA and earned a B.A. in Dance Performance from OKCU.

## **JARED LAND - Lighting Designer**

Jared is an Associate Professor of Practice teaches courses in lighting and sound design at UTA's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. He also serves as the resident lighting and sound designer for the program. In addition to his work at UTA, Jared is a freelance lighting designer in Dallas/Fort Worth area. His work has been seen throughout the DFW area, including: Stage West Theatre, Shakespeare Dallas, Water Tower Theatre, and Theatre Three.

## **LAURIE LAND - Lighting Designer**

Laurie is an Assistant Professor of Practice at UTA, and received her MFA in Theatrical Design with emphasis in Costume and Lighting Design from the University of Memphis. In addition to her work at UTA, Laurie is a freelance costume designer and makeup artist in Dallas. Her work has been seen at various DFW theatres including: StageWest, The Dallas Children's Theater (Mainstage Series, Teen Series and National Tours), Shakespeare Dallas, WaterTower Theatre, and Pegasus Theatre, where she has designed the "Red Dress" for their Living Black and White Series (since 2012). Outside of Dallas, Laurie has designed with Voices of the South and Hangar Theatre's Mainstage, National Tour and Lab Company.

## **BILL EICKENLOFF - Sound Designer**

Bill is the resident Sound Designer for Lyric Stage in Dallas and an adjunct professor here at UTA in the Theatre Dept.. He has sound designed and/or mixed over 100 productions over twenty years for Theatre TCU, Yale Rep, DTC, Casa Mañana, Jubilee Theatre, DBU, Mainstage Irving Las Colinas, Theatre Arlington, Brick Road Theatre, Wishing Star Productions, Prism Theatrics and the Trinity Shakespeare Festival. He is a proud graduate of Texas A&M University.

## **VICKY NOOE - Music Director**

Vicky is a sought-after music director in the DFW area and currently a Lecturer at University of Texas Arlington. She has worked with Dallas Theatre Center, Theatre Arlington, Lyric Stage, and more in the area. She previously taught at Dallas Baptist University (Department of Music) as an Adjunct Professor. She is a sought-after musical theatre pianist and music director in the DFW area. She has worked with talented young singers as a vocal coach at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute. She has also worked at Southern Methodist University, Boston Conservatory, Texas Christian University, Hebrew College, and the Upper Valley Music Center. She is a member of the American Federation of Musicians, Pi Kappa Lambda, Music Theatre Educators' Alliance, and the College Music Society.



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If you would like more information about The University of Texas at Arlington's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, please feel free to email our Academic Advisor, Miranda Marin at [miranda.marin@uta.edu](mailto:miranda.marin@uta.edu).

Professor Jeanmarie Higgins, Ph.D.....	Chair, Dramaturg
Assoc. Professor Anne Healy, MFA, Ph.D, AEA.....	Assoc. Chair, Director, Equity Actor, Musical Theatre
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Assistant Professor Austin Eyer, MFA, AEA, SAG/AFTRA.....	Director, Choreographer, Equity Actor, Musical Theatre
Assistant Professor Leah Mazur, MFA.....	Scenic, Lighting & Costume Designer
Assistant Professor Laurie Taylor, MFA.....	Associate Artistic Director: Dance
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Assistant Professor of Instruction Seraphina Nova Glass, MFA.....	Playwright in Residence, Director, Film Maker
Assistant Professor of Instruction Jocelyn Hansen.....	Musical Theatre Voice, Vocal Coaching
Assistant Professor of Instruction Megan Haratine, MFA.....	Acting, Voice and Articulation, Director
Associate Professor of Practice Jared Land, MFA.....	Lighting and Sound Designer
Associate Professor of Instruction Laurie Land, MFA.....	Costume Designer
Assistant Professor of Practice Phillip Schroeder, MFA.....	Paint & Props, Designer
Assistant Professor of Instruction Meredith Knight Treminio, MFA.....	Associate Artistic Director: MDC, Dance
Lecturer Vicky Nooe, MM.....	Music Director, Pianist, Musical Theatre
Distinguished Senior Lecturer Laurel Whitsett, MA, PhD Candidate.....	Actor, ASL Interpreter, Drama Text and Performance
DJ Badon, MFA.....	Production Manager, Technical Director, Designer
Kris O'Brien, MFA.....	Costume Studio Supervisor, Graphic Artist, Designer
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Adjunct Assistant Professor Ginny Wheeler, MFA.....	Dance
Adjunct Assistant Professor Sarah Fagan, BA.....	Dance
Adjunct Assistant Professor Ashleigh Christian, BA.....	Dance

## PLEASE...

- Be sure to turn off all cellular phones or similar electronics prior to the show beginning.
- Avoid the temptation to send text messages during the performance!
- If your child becomes restless, please step into the lobby to avoid disrupting the performance.
- For your and the performers' safety, we ask that you remain in your seats and keep all personal items out of the aisles.
- No photography or recording of the performance is permitted.
- Please do not bring food or drinks into the theatre.

**THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE SHOW!**

## BENEFACTORS

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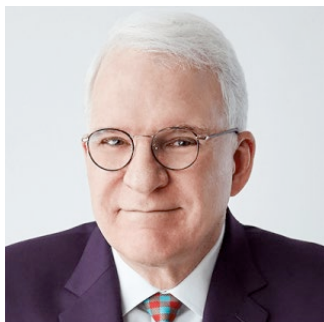
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## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS



### **STEVE MARTIN** - *Book, Music*

Stephen Martin is one of the most well-known and pervasive talents in entertainment. His work has earned him an Academy Award, five Grammy Awards (two for comedy, three for music), an Emmy, the Mark Twain Award and the Kennedy Center Honor. As an author, Martin's work includes the plays *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Underpants*, and *Meteor Shower*. Also an accomplished banjoist, Martin created the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, an award established to reward artistry and bring greater visibility to bluegrass performers.



### **EDIE BRICKELL** - *Music, Lyrics*

Edie Brickell released the debut multiplatinum album *SHOOTING RUBBER BANDS AT THE STARS* with New Bohemians in 1988. Her recent works include a 13-track collaboration with Steve Martin titled *LOVE HAS COME FOR YOU*. The album won a Grammy for Best American Roots Song and inspired the musical *Bright Star*. Their second album, *SO FAMILIAR*, is out now.

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