

52nd Season



192nd Production

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proudly presents

BRIGHT STAR

Music, Book, and Story by
Steve Martin

Music, Lyrics, and Story by
Edie Brickell

Inspired by a True Story



Sep. 25 – 27, 2026



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Neuse Little Theatre
presents

BRIGHT STAR

Inspired by a True Story

Music, Book & Story by
Steve Martin

Music, Lyrics & Story by
Edie Brickell

with

Mark Anderson

Zen Kelly

Tyler Pinkowski

Shaun Braswell

Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan

Theressa Rose

Patrick Brown

Madison Lee

Ali Sepulveda

Ava Dalton

Dominic MacAulay

David Sepulveda

Kirk Davidson

Hannah MacAulay

Jorge Sepulveda

Sarah Goforth

Jake MacAulay

Kaitlyn Tarley

Randy Jordan

Shelby Nix

Molly Wells

Debbie Hines

Mohammad Williams

Choreographer
Patsy Castellano

Directed by
Meta Toole

Music Director
Kathi Nixon

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
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And

The Old Globe

A workshop production of BRIGHT STAR was presented by New York Stage and Film & Vassar
College at the Powerhouse Theatre, Summer 2013.

World premiere at the Old Globe, San Diego, CA on September 28, 2014. Barry Edelstein,
Artistic Director Michael G. Murphy, Managing Director.

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Songs

ACT ONE

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, Ensemble
Firmer Hand / Do Right.....	Daddy Murphy, Mama Murphy, Alice, Ensemble
A Man's Gotta Do	Mayor Dobbs, Jimmy Ray
Asheville.....	Margo, Ensemble
Picnic Dance	Ensemble
What Could Be Better	Jimmy Ray, Alice, Ensemble
I Can't Wait.....	Alice, Jimmy Ray, Ensemble
Please Don't Take Him.....	Alice, Mayor Dobbs, Mama Murphy, Daddy Murphy, Stanford
A Man's Gotta Do (Reprise).....	Mayor Dobbs, Ensemble

~Intermission~

ACT TWO

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

Setting: North Carolina - Asheville, Zebulon, Hays Creek
1923-24 and 1946

The Cast

Alice Murphy	Madison Lee
Billy Cane	Dominic MacAulay
Jimmy Ray Dobbs	Shaun Braswell
Daddy Cane	Jake MacAulay
Margo Crawford	Hannah MacAulay
Daryl Ames	Patrick Brown
Lucy Grant	Molly Wells
Mama Murphy	Theresa Rose
Daddy Murphy	Mark Anderson
Mayor Josiah Dobbs	Randy Jordan
Florence	Kaitlyn Tarley
Edna	Ava Dalton
Max	Zen Kelly
Stanford	Tyler Pinkowski
Doctor Norquist	Kirk Davidson
Government Clerk	Debbie Hines
Well-Dressed Woman	Sarah Goforth
Ensemble	Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan
	Shelby Nix
	Ali Sepulveda
	David Sepulveda
	Jorge Sepulveda
	Mohammad Williams

The Band

Banjo	Michael Booze
Bass	Rick Lassiter
Piano/Keyboard	Jerrold Godwin
Fiddle	Levi Ennis
Madolin, Viola, Percussion	Hinton Edgerton
Guitar	Kathi Nixon
Conductor	Rob Goodwin

The Crew

Director	Meta Toole
Music Director	Kathi Nixon
Choreographer	Patsy Castellano
Dance Captain	Sarah Goforth
Stage Manager	Stephen Roberts
Assistant Stage Manager	Nondi Boggs
Lighting Design	Nate Camp
Sound Technician	Izzy Moose
Backstage Crew	Nondi Boggs, Mary Boggs, Shannon Webster, David Sepulveda, Ali Sepulveda, Daniel Sepulveda
Set Construction	Stephen Roberts, Shaun Braswell, Wyatt Braswell, Jorge Sepulveda, David Sepulveda, Daniel Sepulveda, Ali Sepulveda, Mya Sepulveda, Keith Davis, Shannon Webster, Nondi Boggs, Mary Boggs, Madi Lee, Nate Camp, Susan Knop
Scenic Painters	Natalie Davis, Anita Liverman, Julz McCallister
Costumes	Cast
Props	Mary Boggs, Nondi Boggs
Publicity	Theresa Rose
Box Office	Johnston Community College Paul A Johnston Auditorium
Ushers & Sales	Christie Donaldson, Abbie Claire Donaldson, Brenda Hartley, Martha Heyward, Cindy Johnson, Florence Kreacic, Susan Knop, Pat Naab, Nancy Stevens, Stephanie Veren, Emily Woolard, Kristi Woolard,
Cast Photo Board	Meta Toole
Poster & Program Design	Noah Denton
Poster Distribution	Brenda Hartley, Cast & Crew

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Who's Who On the Stage



Mark Anderson (Daddy Murphy) is glad to be back on stage with NLT for the first time in a decade, last seen as Charlie (*Death of a Salesman*). He was recently seen here on the JCC stage in June with Clayton Theatricals as John Hancock (*1776*). He has performed for the last 30+ years throughout the greater Triangle area, primarily with Cary Players, but also other community theaters. Favorite roles include Jesus (*Godspell*), Oliver Warbucks (*Annie*), Elwood P. Dowd (*Harvey*), Arvide Abernathy (*Guys & Dolls*), Editor Webb (*Our Town*), Clarence (*It's A Wonderful Life*). Thanks to Meta and Kathi for the opportunity, and the whole cast and crew for this great experience. In memory of Mom, for the love of theater!



Michael Booze (Banjo) is a Carrboro, North Carolina-based musician and scientist. Raised in East Tennessee, Michael grew up playing classical clarinet before shifting his focus to piano and vocal performance at Duke University, where he earned a Bachelor's in Biology and Music. A course in ethnomusicology during his final semester inspired him to pick up the banjo, launching a versatile performance career that spans acoustic bluegrass ensembles to orchestral guest appearances, including *Porgy and Bess* with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the film music of Hanns Eisler with the UNC Wind Ensemble. He also holds a Master's in Physiology from NC State. When he isn't performing with various Bluegrass and Americana ensembles across North Carolina, Michael works at the UNC School of Medicine.

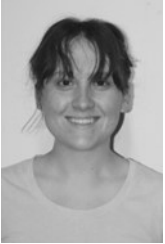


Shaun Braswell (Jimmy Ray Dobbs) is excited to be on stage with NLT once again, with the added bonus of performing again on the PAJA stage. Shaun is the Director of Performing Arts at JCC and lives in Pine Level with his amazing wife Nichole, and his wonderful kids David, Wyatt and Lydia. Thank you to everyone for supporting the arts in JoCo.

Who's Who On the Stage



Patrick Brown (Daryl Ames) is thrilled to make his Neuse Little Theatre and JCC stage debut! While he has spent plenty of time behind the scenes helping with props and backstage crew, his past productions include *White Christmas*, *Barefoot in the Park*, and *Puffs* at Benson Little Theater. Patrick first stepped into theater in high school, and he is so glad to have found his way back to the stage after meeting his wonderful boyfriend, Mo, who is also in this production. He is deeply grateful to the friends and family who showed him the ropes and continue to support him. Patrick dedicates the passion in his performance to his incredible friend, Chris—thank you for always being there! Enjoy the show!



Ava Dalton (Edna) is thrilled to play Edna in her first show with Neuse Little Theatre. Ava is relatively new to performing in Johnston County and has previously played Snow White in a production of *Snow White and the Seven Endings* with the Unsanctioned Rehearsals Society. Ava would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew of *Bright Star* for making this production possible.

We welcome the audience to meet the cast and crew after the production. They will be available in the lobby to talk with anyone who wishes to speak with them.

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Who's Who On the Stage



Kirk Davidson (Doctor Norquist/Ensemble) returns to the NLT stage for the sixth time for *Bright Star*. Previous roles include Inspector Rough (*Angel Street*) and Henry Mitchell (*Sex Please, We're Sixty*). He was nominated for "Best Supporting Actor" for both of those roles. Other roles include Ozzian Number One (*The Wizard of Oz*), Townsperson (*The Foreigner*), and Matthew Cuthbert (*Anne of Green Gables*), for which he was awarded "Best Actor in a Leading Role." Davidson also appeared as the Apostle Thomas for two seasons of "*The Promise*," an outdoor drama on the life of Christ, way back in the 1900's, and as The Huntsman in a recent production of "*Snow White and the Seven Endings*," a children's play produced by The Unsanctioned Rehearsal Society, a theater company from Clayton, NC.

He would like to thank Meta Toole, Patsy Castellano, and Kathi Nixon for casting him in this production. He also thanks his wife, Karen for her patience in allowing him to indulge his hankering for acting.



Levi Ennis (Fiddle) is a dedicated violinist who is proud to join this production of *Bright Star*. Currently studying at the Dunn School of Music under Corrie Tew, Levi has honed his technique and ensemble skills through his school orchestra program, playing in his church's band, and a variety of prestigious musical performances. His performance background includes participating in the UNCG Summer Music Camp, the UNCG Honors Festival, and the NCMEA Eastern Regional Orchestra. Recently, he was selected to play for the Triangle Youth Philharmonic for the 2026-2027 season. While the violin is his primary instrument, he also plays the guitar, piano, and double bass.



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add your name to our email list.

Who's Who On the Stage



Sarah Goforth (Well-Dressed Woman/Ensemble) has been involved both onstage and behind-the-scenes in community theatre for many years and was most recently seen in the dance ensemble of *White Christmas* at Benson Little Theatre. Other favorite past productions include *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), *Mary Poppins* (Winifred Banks), and *Matilda* (Miss Honey) at Harnett Regional Theatre. Sarah is delighted to be making her first appearance on the NLT stage in this production of *Bright Star*.



Jerrod Godwin (Piano/Keyboard) As no stranger to the stage, Jerrod is thrilled to be at the keyboard for this production of *Bright Star* at Neuse Little Theatre. Jerrod is an attorney and avid musician, and is involved in several arts organizations across the Triangle including Harnett Regional Theatre, Raleigh Little Theatre, and the North Carolina Master Chorale. Past music credits include *Shrek*, *Good Ol' Girls*, *Seussical*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Into the Woods* (Harnett Regional Theatre) and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Theatre Raleigh). Get ready to tap your feet and enjoy this outstanding bluegrass musical!

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Who's Who On the Stage



Debbie Hines (Government Worker/Ensemble) I was immediately drawn to *Bright Star's* bluegrass music and Alice Murphy's story set in North Carolina. I am especially grateful to my family for encouraging me to audition. What a joy to be part of such a talented cast and crew! Thank you to my family and friends who have shared in my excitement at being included in this production. "You never know what life will bring, only what you bring to life. Hopes and dreams and fine imaginings, they happen in their own good time." - *Bright Star*



Randy Jordan (Mayor Josiah Dobbs) Thank you for supporting local theatre! Randy is pleased to be back on stage for Neuse Little Theatre. Randy has acted in 45+ Triangle area productions including 11 for NLT. He has directed productions for Neuse Little Theatre, Cary Players, Forest Moon Theater, the Fuquay Varina/Holly Springs Arts Centers, and Fellowship Christian Players. Randy thought he had retired from the stage after February 2025, but the love of the art... and the opportunity to be a part of the genius writing of Steve Martin, and this great story of love & loss, grief & pain, and then.... Love & Redemption was just too strong to deny because... "Truth walks beside us like a shadow, and one day it merges with us. Until it does, we are not truly whole." Randy thanks Mary his best supporting wife and co-producer of 54 years!



Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of the production. She was introduced to *Bright Star* more than ten years ago, attending a performance at the Kennedy Center. She feels everyone who attends this show will appreciate the beautiful music and the touching story. Thanks to all the talented cast, crew and musicians.

Who's Who On the Stage



Zen Kelly (Max/Ensemble) is thrilled to have been given the role of Max in the Neuse Little Theatre's production of *Bright Star!* She is a 2026 graduate of Corinth Holders High School, where she was in Chorus and Theatre throughout all four years of her enrollment. A few of her previous roles include Christopher Wren in *The Mousetrap* and The Minstrel in *Once Upon A Mattress*. More recently, Zen has been helping out backstage at The Neuse Little Theatre as a stagehand in *The Odd Couple* and Assistant Stage Manager in *Alice in Wonderland*. Zen would like to dedicate her performance to Kathi Nixon; Thank you for always being a great Teacher, Director, and Friend!



Rick Lassiter (Bass) is a bassist from Raleigh, NC.



Madison Lee (Alice Murphy) is thrilled to return to Neuse Little Theatre! She was last seen on the NLT stage as Customer/Ensemble in *She Loves Me*. Other recent credits include Catherine Simms in *The Foreigner*, Tessie/Dance Ensemble in *White Christmas* (BLT), and Pinocchio in *Shrek the Musical* (HRT). Madi would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of her friend, Chris Barnes. His love for this show and the magic he found in theatre will forever inspire me, both onstage and beyond. Madison is incredibly grateful to the cast and crew for bringing this beautiful story to life and thanks everyone who continues to support local theatre.

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Who's Who On the Stage



Dominic MacAulay (Billy Cane) is having a blast coming back to Neuse Little Theatre for another musical. Having just played the leading man, Georg, in *She Loves Me* with NLT, he is happy to be co-starring yet again with his lovely wife, Hannah, and friends, Shaun and Maddie. Cheering from home are his two Australian Shepherds, Pepper and Moose, and his hungry cat, Apollo. He hopes to one day be as agreeable as his best friend, Alex, and hopes you enjoy the show. Christ is Lord.



Hannah MacAulay (Margo Crawford) is thrilled to be playing Margo in *Bright Star!* Her other notable roles with Neuse Little Theatre include Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me* and Marcy/Marvalyn in *Almost, Maine*. She has also appeared in numerous productions around the Triangle, including 2024 *Divas* at Raleigh Little Theatre. When she's not onstage, Hannah can usually be found behind the chair at her salon, Beneath the Surface Beauty, curled up with a good book, gaming, or spending time with her husband, Dom, their dogs, and their very spoiled cat. Hannah is incredibly grateful to God for giving her a love for theatre and the opportunity to use the gifts He has given her to tell stories and bring characters to life. She is equally thankful for her family and friends, whose constant love, encouragement, and support make it possible for her to continue pursuing something she loves so dearly. She hopes you enjoy *Bright Star* and have as much fun watching it as she has had bringing Margo to life!



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— Joey Millard-Edwards —

Who's Who On the Stage



Jake MacAulay (Daddy Cane) was a competitive drama student in high school and went on to work in the ministry as a public speaker for over 20 years. Jake had the privilege to speak in front of audiences all over the country.

Currently, he is enjoying his time sharing the stage with his son and daughter-in-law, Dominic and Hannah MacAulay.



Shelby Nix (Ensemble) is excited to return to the stage with Neuse Little Theatre in *Bright Star*, joining the cast as a member of the ensemble. After taking a decade-long break from performing, they're thrilled to reconnect with a part of themselves they've always loved. Shelby performed throughout grade school and high school and is grateful for the opportunity to return to singing and acting. Outside of the theater, they enjoy spending time in their community and connecting with the people around them. They're excited to be back onstage and hope you enjoy *Bright Star*!



Tyler Pinkowski (Stanford) is thrilled to be back on stage in his first musical! Tyler has been acting since his freshman year of high school, starring in productions like *Clue*, *You Can't Take it With You*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*. His time with the Neuse Little Theatre has included productions such as *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Tyler spends most of his free time studying hard at NC State University, and spending time with family. He would like to thank the cast, crew, and directors for all of their hard work to make this show a success!



Who's Who On the Stage



Theressa Rose (Mama Murphy) is thrilled to be back on stage and working with such a talented & dedicated cast & crew. She'd like to thank Meta Toole for the opportunity to be in such a beautiful play. Last appearing on the NLT stage in *Steel Magnolias* (April 2025), a few other stage credits for Theressa include roles in: *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Sex Please, We're 60*, *Welcome to Mitford*, *The Music Man*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Something's Afoot*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Good Ol' Girls*, *Savannah Sipping Society*, *Angel Street* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She resides in Smithfield with her husband Darius and "furbaby" Maggie Mae, and is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Choir of Smithfield. She also serves on the NLT Board of Directors as Vice President & as the Advertising & Publicity Coordinator. Theressa would especially like to thank her husband Darius for his support and encouragement. She would also like to dedicate her performances in loving memory of her sister, Jennifer McDaniels, a proud daughter of Appalachia whose voice, work & spirit reflected the strength and beauty of the Kentucky mountains she loved so dearly.



Ali Sepulveda (Ensemble) This "Tigger in human form" began working with his family at NLT in 2025 on sets, which led to a speaking role in their summer children's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. He is excited to be on the big stage this time and looks forward to many shows to come.



David Sepulveda (Ensemble) This marks David's 13th production with NLT but the first one in front of the stage. He can normally be found backstage helping to direct traffic and reset props during shows, or beforehand helping to build the sets but he's now ready for his close up. When he's not with the theater, he can be found strumming one of his guitars, drawing, on the baseball field for GBI.

Who's Who On the Stage



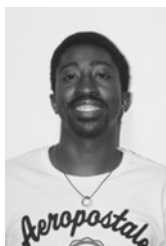
Jorge Sepulveda (Ensemble) This is Jorge's 4th season with NLT. He can found on stage in productions such as *Unnecessary Farce*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Wizard of Oz* and *The Foreigner*. There is no role too big or too small-he's just happy to get to play with his friends. You can find him most Saturdays working alongside his kids to help put together the sets that bring these shows to life. In his spare time, he's rooting on his beloved Chicago Cubs, making recipes he saw online, or doing projects around the house.



Kaityln Tarley (Florence/Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of another, Neuse Little Theatre, show. She just completed a show with Clayton Theatricals, *1776, the Musical*. Her previous roles with NLT were in *One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Outside of the theatre, you can catch her out at JCC's Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center, where she works as their educator and administrator. Kaitlyn wants to thank her friends and family, especially Brandi who is always her greatest support.



Molly Wells (Lucy Grant) is thrilled to be making her Neuse Little Theatre debut! Some of her favorite previous credits include, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Janet Weiss), *The Addams Family* (Ensemble), *Matilda* (Miss Trunchbull), and *Men on Boats* (Mr. Asa, Puppeteer). Molly would like to thank the cast and creative team for making this experience so special. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Mo Williams (Ensemble) is glad to finally be on stage at NLT. He is also a Board member of Benson Foundation of the Arts (Benson Little Theater) He has been in shows such as *Guys & Dolls*, *Annie*, *Putnam County Spelling Bee* he also has been backstage in recent shows such as *Puffs* and *Barefoot in the Park*. He has helped out as a Costumer/Asst. Stage Manager/Asst. Director. He is also happy to be sharing the stage with his wonderful boyfriend. These performances go out to a very special friend Chris, you are truly a Bright Star.

Who's Who Behind the Scenes



Edie Brickell (Music, Lyrics & Story) 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.



Steve Martin (Music, Book & Story) 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.



Meta Toole (Director) is delighted to bring this production to the local stage for Neuse Little Theatre. A longtime admirer of the show, she has seen it eight times and finds that its themes of love, choices, and redemption resonate deeply with her. The story's rich Southern culture speaks to her heritage, and she hopes audiences feel the same meaningful connection that has inspired her for so many years. Meta extends heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated cast and crew, whose countless hours of work and creativity have shaped this production with care. She also offers a special thank you to Stephen, her steadfast travel companion for every previous staging of the show — a true supporter, bless his Yankee heart. She is grateful to her parents for instilling in her a lifelong love of music and history, passions that continue to guide her artistic work. Meta also thanks the NLT audiences for their unwavering support across 52 remarkable seasons. Their enthusiasm and commitment make it possible for this community theatre to thrive. Enjoy the show.

Who's Who Behind the Scenes



Kathi Nixon (Music Director) has thoroughly enjoyed leading this amazing cast in musical numbers and organizing this talented group of musicians, especially since she's very newly retired from teaching and has all the time in the world! Besides helping to bring the music together for this production, Kathi is having a blast playing the guitar for the show. (Looking for guitar lessons? Look no further!) Thanks to cast, crew, and fellow band members for their time and dedication to this show ... especially thanks to her son Hinton who came down from Asheville to help out his mom. Enjoy the show!



Patsy Castellano (Choreographer) is so happy to once again be choreographing for a Neuse Little Theater musical. As a bonus, this production is on the beautiful, big stage at Johnston Community College. Many thanks to Meta Toole, Kathi Nixon, Shaun Braswell and Patsy's amazing grandson-in-law, Rob Goodwin (music conductor) for a fantastic collaboration to bring this production to life.

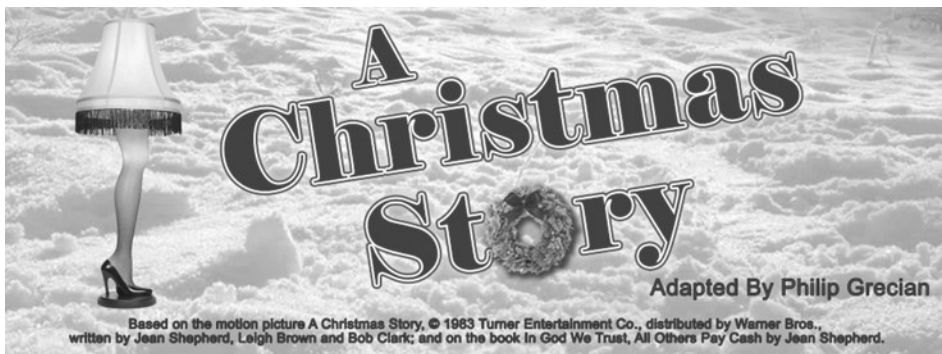


Stephen Roberts (Stage Manager) has worked with NLT for years now, usually as our stage manager (but he is happy to step aside for new talent). He has appeared on stage a few times but is much more comfortable behind the scenes. He has been on the big stage at Johnston Auditorium a couple times going all the way back to 1993 and *Lil' Abner*. He lives in Selma with his cat Casper, and is a member of St Ann's Catholic Church. Thank you for supporting our community theatre.



Izzy Moose (Lighting/Sound) is thrilled to be working with the Neuse Little Theatre. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support in this new technical endeavor.

AUDITIONS



Directed by Patsy Castellano

Monday & Tuesday,
September 28 & 29, 2026 - 7pm
at the Hut (Corner of Front & Market Streets, Smithfield, NC)

CAST: 4w+/7+m (11+ total)

All listed roles are open - Casting is open to everyone and newcomers are especially welcomed and encouraged. Crew volunteers are also needed. Auditions will consist of cold reading from the script. Please come prepared to tell of any conflict dates you have from auditions to week before show opens (no conflicts allowed week of show opening). Rehearsals will likely be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursdays 7pm-9pm. We encourage all performers to submit for any role regardless of experience, race, ethnicity, sexuality, neurodiversity, and similarity to the source material or original cast. Ages are relative, and should not discourage anyone from auditioning. For more information, you may contact the director at jcastellano1@nc.rr.com.

Narrator/Ralph Parker (male, 30+)

Ralphie Parker (male, 9-12)

The Old Man (male, 30-50)

Mother (female, 30-40)

Randy Parker (male, 7-8)

Flick (male, 9-12)

Miss Shields (female, 20-50)

Schwartz (male, 9-12)

Scut Farkus (male, 10-13)

Esther Jane Alberry (female, 9-12)

Helen Weathers (female, 9-13)

Ensemble (various)

By Philip Grecian. Based on the motion picture A Christmas Story, © 1983 Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark; and on the book In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash by Jean Shepherd.

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker who wants only one thing for Christmas: a Red Ryder BB gun. Ralphie battles doubting adults, school bullies, and holiday chaos while clinging to his wish. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, only to be told: "You'll shoot your eye out!" All the elements from the beloved movie including the tongue on a lamppost; the decoder pin; a major award; Ralphie's fantasy scenarios and more.

December 4, 5, 11, & 12, 2026—8PM
December 6 & 13, 2026—3PM

Lifetime Members

Tony Onisko
Doris Cannon
Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan
Jean Marlow
Jim Abbott
Darius Rose
Mary George Narron
Don Johnston
Anita Liverman
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Bobby & Georgia Pilkington



Reservations

To purchase tickets, visit nlt.booktix.com and print your ticket at home (skip the box office). Or call (919) 934-1873 and leave a message to reserve—your call will be returned for payment. Paying at the door will be at the “at door” price. If you reserve without paying and aren't at the theatre 10 minutes before curtain, your seat may be released to standby. Hope you enjoy the show!!

Members

Brenda Abbott	Katherine Lassiter
Jan Ashley	Tony Liverman
Janice Augustine	Lori Lowery
Brenda Braswell	Didi Lucas
Cary Seniors on the Go	Doris Lybrand
Curtis & Cindy Brookshire	Doug & Candace May
Jane Kate Brown	Maxine McFadyen
Karen Berge Brown	Jill & Gregory Mills
Judy Langston Brown	Jim & Jane Morrison
Billy Carter	Rich & Kathi Nixon
Cathy Cartmill	Dawn Olive
Heidi Cooper	Frances P Parrish
Sandy Cordray	Phyllis Parrish
Jan Cowperthwaite	Banks Peacock
Eve S Creech	Sandy Perkinson
Kirk & Karen Davidson	Steven Persinger
Linda Davis	Faith Ragano
Randy & Rhonda Davis	Lori Richards
Joan Erickson	Richardson Family
Diane Every	Susan & David Sheppard
Dina Flowers	Cindy Ann Smith
Sandra Fritz	Diana Speas
Ester Garner	Danny Stancil
Beth Hamilton	Wanda Boykin Stancil
Darla Hamm	Russell & Patty Sutter
Brenda Haney	Mary Ann Sutton
Dan & Becky Harden	Mike Thomas & Donna Strallow
Kevin & Brenda Hartley	Gary R & Glenda M Underwood
Betty & Oliver Hartmann	Mary VanderWal
Norm Jameson	Barbara Wiggs
Sherri Johnson	Buster & Marcia Williamson
Tom, Ann, & Crystal Kreuzinger	Mavorine Willoughby



Season tickets don't reserve seats automatically—call or redeem online to claim yours. See you at the show!

Neuse Little Theatre Board of Directors

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The Neuse Little Theatre formed in 1974 as a community theatre group. John Wallace presided until the election of Richard Thayer as President of the Board of Directors in 1979. Those who later served as President of the Board of Directors of the Neuse Little Theatre are as follows:

Rebecca Ziady (1978-1979)
Janet Shallcross (1979-1981)
Judy Hannah (1982-1987)
Anita Liverman (1988-1990)
Donald Johnston (1990-1993)
Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan (1993-1995)

Darius Rose (1995-1997)
Susan Strickland (1996-1998)
Ken Mitchell, Jr. (1998-2000)
John Kolcum (2000-2002)
Ruth Mills (2002-2021)



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Please NO flash photography or video recording during performances.

Please silence all cell phones & electronic devices while in the theatre.

Neuse Little Theatre

52nd Season

2026 - 2027

The Neuse Little Theatre is excited to celebrate its 52nd season, and we invite you to become a season member and share in a year of unforgettable storytelling. This season features five diverse productions designed to appeal to every kind of theatre-lover.

We open with a moving tale of hope and redemption, brought to life through the soulful sound of bluegrass. Next comes a beloved holiday classic filled with the nostalgia and wonder of a child's Christmas. The new year brings a heartfelt comedy following three widows as they navigate friendship, change, and the unexpected turns of life. The tension rises with a gripping thriller about a group of people fighting for survival against a mysterious force. And to close the season, we present a madcap, whirlwind journey through the complete works of Shakespeare — all in just 90 minutes — offering a fast-paced, hilarious celebration of classic theatre.

Few small communities have enjoyed the caliber of local theatre that has flourished on Johnston County's stages. Since its founding more than 50 years ago, the Neuse Little Theatre has upheld a tradition of excellence — from Neil Simon to Rodgers & Hammerstein, from *Spoon River Anthology* to *The Wizard of Oz* — always striving to delight audiences young and old.

After years of performing wherever space could be found, NLT finally has a home to call its own. Affectionately known as “The Hut,” our theatre provides stability, creativity, and community. But maintaining this beloved space comes with significant responsibility. Now, more than ever, we rely on the support of patrons who believe in the power of the arts.

We invite you to become a member of the Neuse Little Theatre and help ensure that live, local theatre continues to thrive in our community. Your support keeps the lights shining, the stories unfolding, and the magic alive.

For the latest in show news, tickets,
and audition information please visit:

www.neuselittletheatre.org
