

*Coastal Repertory Theatre*  
*Presents*

MUSIC, BOOK & STORY  
BY STEVE MARTIN

MUSIC, LYRICS & STORY BY  
EDIE BRICKELL

B R I G H T  
★  
S T A R

DIRECTED BY  
BARBARA WILLIAMS

August 4 -27

Coastal  
Rep



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES...

When I first saw *Bright Star* at the Curran Theatre in SF, I remember jumping to my feet during the bows and shouting out, "I want to direct this show!" It had everything I love in a musical -- humor, suspense, poignant scenes, and great music with a new sound. So I pitched the show to the Artistic Committee at Coastal Rep, and I was chosen to direct it in 2020, the year when everything closed down for Covid.

Finally getting to direct *Bright Star* in 2023 is also a dream come true for me because I'm a huge fan of Steve Martin and have followed his career all my life. You see, "way back in the day," we both attended Garden Grove High School near Disneyland. In his memoir *Born Standing Up*, Steve Martin talks about how our wonderful high school theatre and his performing at Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm were the beginning of his storied career. My life also changed because that high school theatre was critical in my decisions to major in drama in college and become a high school drama teacher. When I was a drama teacher in Newark, CA, I produced Steve Martin's first play -- *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Now everything has come full circle for me.

I loved being on the stage as an actor when I was young -- my last acting role was at CRT in the 2005 production of *The Laramie Project*. However, these days I prefer the technical side of theatre, for it's the process of putting on a play, the collaborative efforts from numerous talented designers and theatre artists that make the production of a live play so enjoyable for me.

This group of designers, performers, and stage managers, have all created a feast for your eyes and ears, bringing to life the joy, the sadness, and the redemption that is in *Bright Star*. I owe a debt of gratitude to each and every person who is listed as Staff, Cast, and Crew -- especially Susan Savich, Mary Stadler, Doug McCurdy, Michele Parry, Matt Mattei, Emily Simpson, Valerie Clear, Jared Alexander, Ginger Cutter, and my great friend Kathryn Murdock. I love working in the dark with talented, creative people and making things go "Bump in the Night," as my dear friend Shannon Quinn used to say.

*Barbara Williams*

Coastal Repertory Theatre  
Proudly Presents

# BRIGHT STAR

Inspired By A True Story

Music, Book & Story by  
Steve Martin

Music, Book & Story by  
Edie Brickell

Directed by Barbara Williams

A Musical in Two Acts  
Set in North Carolina in 1944 with  
Flashbacks to 1923.

There will be a 15 minute intermission.



BRIGHT STAR is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized  
performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights

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any kind is strictly prohibited.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT I

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

### ACT II

Sun's Gonna Shine .....	Alice, Mama Murphy
Heartbreaker .....	Jimmy Ray
Another Round .....	Lucy, Darryl, Billy
I Had a Vision .....	Alice, Jimmy Ray
Always Will.....	Billy, Margo
So Familiar/At Long Last .....	Alice
Finale.....	Company

### MUSICIANS

Keyboard/Conductor - Matthew Mattei	
Fiddle - Paula Filseth	Banjo - Mark Ziegenfuss
Guitar - Michael LaGuardia	Bass - Mimi Hills

# CAST

(In order of appearance)

Alice Murphy.....	Kaylee Miltersen
Daddy Cane.....	Charles Evans.
Billy Cane.....	Kurt Winterhalter.
Margo.....	Lindsey Schulz.
Max.....	Zeph Lodwick.
Florence.....	Kristen Pearson
Edna.....	Noelle Rubenstein.
Daryl Ames.....	Jason Bustos
Lucy Grant.....	Erica Racz.
Jimmy Ray.....	Danny Martin.
Daddy Murphy.....	Louis Schilling
Mama Murphy.....	Ginger Cutter.
Mayor Dobbs.....	John Mannion
Stanford.....	Tom Poeschl
Dr. Norquist.....	Jeremy Judge
Government Clerk.....	Kim Seipel
Ensemble and Swing.....	William Rhea
Well-Dressed Woman.....	Erica Racz.



## CAST PROFILES

(In alphabetical order)

**Jason Bustos** (*Daryl Ames*) is happy to be back at Coastal Rep and a part of this production. His prior credits include: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (PSP), *Other Desert Cities* (PSP), and *Boxcar* (Teatro Vagon). He was last seen at Coastal Rep in *Noises Off*. He wants to thank his family for putting up with his theatrical shenanigans and his friends for supporting, and in many ways encouraging, his tomfoolery.

**Ginger Cutter** (*Mama Murphy*) is so excited to be back onstage with this fantastic cast of *Bright Star*. She was last seen on stage as Mildred in *The Cemetery Club*, but is mostly behind the scenes this year as Stage Manager (*Spamalot*, *Christmas in Oz*) and Producer (*The Importance of Being Earnest*). She has also worked in the booth as both light and sound tech. Her outside-the-theatre job is....inside the theatre as Director of Operations for CRT and Box Office Manager. Thanks to my wonderful husband and my son for their support in this crazy business!

# CAST PROFILES

(In alphabetical order)

**Charles Evans** (*Daddy Cane*) is happy to debut at Coastal Rep in this moving show. In the last year, he has been thrilled to return to live on stage theatre—most recently in *Kinky Boots* at Ray of Light as Mr. Price and as Mister Collins in *Pride and Prejudice, the Musical* at Ross Valley Players. Other favorite roles include Robert in *Proof*, Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, the Narrator/Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods*, Ismay in *Titanic*, Mitch in *Streetcar Named Desire*, the Adult Men in *Spring Awakening* (doing again next year in Pacifica) and Herr Schultz in *Cabaret*. Charles also performs in cabaret, most recently doing his cabaret show *Like it Was – Sondheim Memories* at the Provincetown Cabaret Festival. Charles thanks everyone involved in *Bright Star* and all his teachers and coaches over the years, especially Faith Prince and Marilyn Maye.

**Jeremy Judge** (*Dr. Norquist/Ensemble*) Many thanks to everyone for coming to see *Bright Star* and partaking in the journey. Thanks to Christian and Mollie for your love and support!

**Zeph Lodwick** (*Max/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be in his second show this year, *Bright Star*, alongside cast and crew he's known before and new people to him. Lodwick has been in many shows before at Coastal Rep, such as *On Golden Pond*, where he played Billy, and *Christmas in Oz*, where he was in the ensemble. When not in shows, he enjoys bike riding and making videos.

**John Mannion** (*Mayor Josiah Dobbs*) emerged in 2020 from a 20-year off-stage hiatus. And since resurfacing, he's been busy — Coastal Rep (*Rumors*), Hillbarn (*The Producers, Perfect Arrangement, Gypsy*), Tabard (*The Odd Couple*), Foothill (*Drood, Roe, Diary of Anne Frank*), Custom Made / Z Space (*Shoshana* in December), Palo Alto Players (*All Together Now*), and Sunnyvale (*Big Fish*). Decades ago, John was a musical theatre director (Stanford), improv/sketch performer (Mumblypeg, ComedySportz), and rock musician/vocalist. Huge thanks to his talented wife and daughters, mother, in-laws, Studio A.C.T., and Coastal Rep for their encouragement. Next up, *Sweeney Todd* (Judge Turpin) in Sunnyvale.

**Danny Martin** (*Jimmy Ray Dobbs*) - 2023 marks Danny's 20th year in Bay Area theatre. His first production was in May 2003 at Hillbarn Theatre and since then he has worked all over the Bay Area in over 70 productions as an actor, director, and most recently as a producer. He is proud to return to the CRT stage for show number 16! Previous shows at CRT include *The Importance of Being Earnest, Christmas in Oz, Angels in America, Love Letters, Dracula, The Fantastiks, Bus Stop, Run For Your Wife, The Lion in Winter, Death of a Salesman, Avenue Q, Wait Until Dark, Company, Hair, and Noises Off*. He has performed with Broadway By the Bay, Palo Alto Players, Los Altos Stage Company, Hillbarn, Foothill, Douglas Morrison Theatre, Chanticleers, West Valley Light Opera, Pacifica Spindrift, Woodside and Ray of Light. Danny has trained at A.C.T., Full Circle Productions, Dance Arts Center, Voice One, and the Ava Victoria Voice Studio. Danny can be seen this fall at Pacifica Spindrift in *The Boys in the Band*

# CAST PROFILES

(In alphabetical order)

**Kaylee Miltersen** (*Alice Murphy*) is excited to return to the Coastal Rep stage as Alice in *Bright Star!* (You might remember her from CRT's latest production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* as Gwendolyn Fairfax!) Originally from Alaska, she has been performing in theatres around the Bay Area for the past year as Violet (*Violet*) with FMT, Nikola (*Kinky Boots*) at Throckmorton Theatre, Luisa (*The Fantasticks*) SFCM, and will be returning to the Presidio Theatre as the iconic singing, dancing chicken, Cioppino! When not honing her skills on the stage, she is out trail running, rock climbing, and enjoying the immense beauty of California!

**Kristen Pearson** (*Florence*) is joining Coastal Rep for her third show on stage in many years. *Spamalot* and *Christmas in Oz* were such great shows to participate in, and she is excited to continue with *Bright Star*. Florence was the name of her Great Aunt who, along with Kristen's parents, have been great supporters of everything she does. So she is giving this show all she's got in their honor. She is very thankful for this wonderful cast and their welcoming spirit. She is grateful for their friendship and for the fun they've all had on stage this summer. She is grateful to Barbara, the wonderful director, for believing in the abilities of the cast. Kristen is thankful as well to her family for always being there for her.

**Tom Poeschl** (*Stanford*) is excited to be performing in his first musical. Tom extends his sincere thanks to Director Barbara Williams and other members of the CRT family who encouraged him to audition - as well as thanks to Music Director Matt and Choreographer Emily for their patience and encouraging senses of humor throughout the process. This is Tom's sixth show with CRT, most recently having appeared in *The Crucible*. Tom also appeared in CRT's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Native Gardens*, *Bus Stop*, and *Death of a Salesman*. He has also performed with Half Moon Bay Shakespeare Company. Long before returning to the stage, Tom appeared in various college and high school plays. He started his acting adventures at Hillbarn Theatre, where he was fortunate to have worked under the direction of its founder, Robert Brauns. Tom is blessed to have the backing and encouragement of his incredibly supportive wife, Laurie, their three adult children, son-in-law, and two granddaughters.

**Erica Racz** (*Lucy and Well-Dressed Woman*) grew up performing and teaching at CRT since the time it was called This Side of the Hill Players. Erica studied Teledramatic Arts and Technology at Cal- State University Monterey Bay, theatre at Monterey Peninsula College and musical theatre at the Univ. of Northern Colorado. For over 30 years she has worked in many aspects of the theatre including as an Actor, Teaching Artist, Stage Manager, Assistant Director, and Designer. She has performed in over 80 musicals and plays with several theatre companies on the Monterey and San Francisco Bay Peninsulas. Some of her favorite roles include Luisa in *The Fantasticks* (Pacific Repertory Theatre and CRT), Nancy in *Oliver!* (PRT), Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* (MPC) and Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* (MPC). She recently played the role of The Lion in *Christmas in Oz* (CRT). She would like to thank her mother, Reidun, for her love and support! Follow Erica on Instagram @EricaRacz

# CAST PROFILES

(In alphabetical order)

**William Rhea** (*Ensemble/Male Swing*) is honored to share this stage with an amazing line-up of talented performers. Some of his favorite past roles include 'The Man in the Chair' from *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Landmark Musical theatre), 'William Barfee' in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Pacifica Spindrift Players), Sami and Algernon Moncrieff in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (here at CRT)!

**Noelle Gabrielle Rubinstein** (*Edna*) is thrilled to make her theatrical comeback at Coastal Rep as Edna in *Bright Star*, marking her first performance since 2016. With a lifelong love for dance, singing, and acting since age 3, Noelle honed her skills while studying Entertainment Industry Studies at Belmont University. Noelle made her mark in the film and TV industry in Los Angeles, starting as a development producer's assistant before becoming a social media producer for film studios. Recently, she relocated to the Coastside, where she now focuses on mission-driven work as a Digital Communications Specialist at the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. Her favorite past roles include 'Penny' in *Hairspray*, 'Emily' in *Our Town*, 'Stepsister' in the *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, and Tinkerbell in *Peter Pan*.

**Louis Schilling** (*Daddy Murphy*) was last seen at Coastal Rep as Canon Pennefather in *Murder on the Nile*. Other roles at CRT include Norman Thayer, Jr. in *On Golden Pond*, Van Helsing in *Dracula* and Vanya in *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*. He recently chewed the scenery as Ira Drew in *It's Only a Play* at the Altarena Theatre. An accountant by day, Louis lets his artistic side come out at night and favorite roles include Lyman (*Other Desert Cities*), Mr. Banks (*Father of the Bride*), Barrymore (*I Hate Hamlet*), Jessup (*It Can't Happen Here*), Henry Saunders (*Lend Me a Tenor*), Father Flynn (*Doubt*), Henry Drummond (*Inherit the Wind*) and Sir Arthur Sullivan (*Sullivan & Gilbert*).

**Lindsay Schulz** (*Margo*) is pleased to be returning to the CRT stage in *Bright Star*. She performed at CRT previously as Marianne in *Sense & Sensibility*. Other favorite productions include Mary in *Mary Poppins* (PSP), Alice in *Addams Family* (RCCT), Logainne in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (PSP), Lauren in *Kinky Boots* (RCCT), and Deb in *Elf* (Hillbarn) among many others. She would like to send her deepest thanks to her friends and family for their love and support. Enjoy the show!

**Kim Seipel** (*Ensemble, Katie the Clerk*) is excited to make her Coastal Rep debut and be part of this heartfelt production of *Bright Star*! She recently played the role of Annie Cannon in *Silent Sky* at Pacifica Spindrift Players. Other favorite roles include 'The Millworker' in *Working: A Musical* (SCP: Sunnyvale Community Players), 'B' in *Three Tall Women* (Pear Theatre), and as part of the Teacher/Parent ensemble in *School of Rock* (SSPA). Kim is also looking forward to being in the iconic musical *Sweeney Todd* opening this



# CAST PROFILES

*(In alphabetical order)*

October at SCP. When not performing, she likes to binge watch time-period shows on Netflix and spend time with her family. She is so grateful for their support and encouragement. Love you guys and enjoy the show!

**Kurt Winterhalter** (*Billy Cane*) is a baritone who holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance degree from San Francisco Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor in Music degree from California State University Northridge. This proud Filipino-American is an active musician and actor in the performing fields of Los Angeles and San Francisco, with a diverse resumé in both opera and musical theatre. He has featured as a soloist with Santa Clarita Master Chorale and the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra. His latest appearances include Conte Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Prague Summer Nights and Pausanias in *Une éducation manquée* with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



**LOLS' DRINK OF THE DAY**  
**FOR THE PRODUCTION OF**  
**'BRIGHT STAR' IS...**

**GLOW IN  
THE GALAXY**

*With the help of your purchase of the special Drink of the Day our Little Old Ladies  
have raised enough money to buy a new refrigerator, build a 2 story  
wood shop, replace an aging water fountain, replace a rusting roll up door.  
This all sounds GREAT!*

*Oh! And speaking of SOUND... they have just upgraded  
the sound system in our theatre*

*The Glow in the Galaxy will be sold in our lobby before the show and during intermission.  
Thank you for your support!*

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Coastal  
Rep

SEPTEMBER 29 -  
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## Production Staff

Director .....	Barbara Williams
Assistant to the Director.....	Katie Murdock
Producer .....	Susan Savich
Music Director.....	Matt Mattei
Choreographer.....	Emily Simpson
Stage Managers .....	Susan Savich, Mary Stadler
Set Designer/Master Carpenter .....	Doug McCurdy
Light Designer .....	Valerie Clear
Light Tech.....	Blake Dardenelle
Sound Designer .....	Bob Mitton
Sound Effects.....	Jared Alexander
Sound Tech .....	Cameron Lane
Costumer.....	Michele Parry
Asst. Costumer.....	Sue Joswiak
Props Designer .....	Susan Savich, Jane Hansen
Stage Crew .....	Elena Dardenelle, Sara Ramos,
Set Build Crew.....	Brian Appel, Karen Christie, Ginger Cutter,
.....	Noel Enriquez, Beverly Garrity, Carl Goodfriend,
.....	Steve Goodfriend, Jack Hickey, Venora Hung, Greet Jaspaert,
.....	Dave Kezerle, Donna McCurdy, Kevin McCurdy, Kristen
.....	Pearson, Lina Pessa, Jane Seifert, Paul Smith, Warren Wolfeld



# PRODUCTION PROFILES

(In alphabetical order)

**Doug McCurdy** (*Set Designer and Master Carpenter*) had his first run-in with community theatre as a traveling salesman in *The Music Man* at the Honolulu Community theatre back in the '70's. After a long sojourn as a computer programmer with several now-defunct banks and software bureaus, he got back into theatre doing set construction and design as his son participated in the Coastside Young Actors Workshop and the Half Moon Bay High School spring musicals since 2006. For HMBHS he has been designer and master carpenter from 2011's *Beauty and the Beast* through 2022's *Little Shop of Horrors*. At Coastal Rep, he has designed and built forty shows; favorites include *The Underpants*, *Oliver!*, *August: Osage County* and *Enchanted April*. He thanks his family and friends on the 'A-team' for their terrific help in assembling our Blue Mountain paradise.

**Katie Murdock** (*Assistant to the Director*) After a ten-year hiatus, Katie is pleased to be back at CRT. Having done everything but tech and in it from the beginning, [a theatre by any other name], she is especially thrilled to be part of this bright and beautiful show. The talent of this cast in a brilliant piece of theatre will shine in your memories for a long time.

**Michèle Parry** (*Costumer*) has been involved with Coastal Rep's Theatre and Education Program for many years and served as a board chair/member, box office manager, set decorator, costumer, producer and stage manager. She is grateful to work with such talented, enthusiastic, and committed performers and volunteers who make excellent live theatre accessible on the coast. She encourages you to continue your support of Coastal Rep by being a season subscriber, a donor, a volunteer, and a patron.

**Susan Savich** (*Producer / Stage Manager / Props*) is honored to be part of this beautiful and moving production of *Bright Star*. Susan has enjoyed stage managing almost 30 shows at Coastal Rep since she moved to the Coastside in 2001, and *Bright Star* is certainly one of her favorites.

**Emily Simpson** (*Choreographer*) is beyond ecstatic to be choreographing her first show at Coastal Rep and working with such an amazing team on *Bright Star!* She most recently directed and choreographed *Descendants* and *Newsies!* with Bay Area eTc. She has been a choreographer in the Bay Area for over five years, as well as an active member onstage. Her favorite roles on stage include "Brooke Ashton" (*Noises Off!* at CRT), "Essie" (*You Can't Take It With You* at Pacifica Spindrift Players), "Donna/Dance Captain" (*The Brain from Planet X* at the Fair Oaks Theater Festival), and "Chorus Girl" (*42nd Street* at Runaway Stage Productions). Emily would like to give a huge thank you to Barbara Williams for trusting her with her vision, and the cast and crew for making such a special show come to life.

**Mary Stadler** (*Producer, Stage Manager*) has appeared as an actor, singer, and musician at CRT and has served in many roles behind the scenes for productions including *Avenue Q*, *Dracula*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Angels in America, Part 1*.

# PRODUCTION PROFILES

(In alphabetical order)

**Barbara Williams** (*Director*) After retiring in 2004 from 39 years of teaching high school acting and technical theatre classes in Newark CA, where she was affectionately known by her students as the "Drama Mama," Barbara moved to El Granada near Half Moon Bay. She continued to direct plays and volunteer in almost every technical capacity with various local community theatres like Coastal Repertory Theatre, Pacifica Spindrift Players, Crystal Springs Players, and Stage 1 Theater in Newark which she helped found. She served for many years on the PSP board and was their first Artistic Chairman after they revamped their business structure.

Along with *Bright Star*, some of her favorite shows she directed at CRT are: *The Foreigner*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Vagina Monologues*, and *The Fantasticks*. She also enjoyed being the producer and costumer for last year's *Noises Off*; the Stage Manager for *The Miracle Worker*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Dixie Swim Club*, and *Over the River and Through the Woods*; prop designer for *The New Odd Couple*; and she often reminisces about acting at CRT in *The Laramie Project* almost 20 years ago.

Barbara sends all her love and thanks to her dear Bill and Staci for their support and her gratitude to all her family, friends and audience members for attending this terrific Steve Martin musical. She knows you'll be glad you did!



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Student Scholarships underwrite an opportunity for students who need tuition assistance to participate in our Coastal Rep Kids' Theatre program – CRKT.

Our current CRKT programs include classes from K-8, with a musical production in May every year. Our fairly new teen program is able to put on a full-size musical in the fall.

For more information contact  
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volunteering for Front of House and Box Office positions  
during our production of *The Crucible*.**

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Sue Carmichael	Noelle Lane	Joanie Pugh Newman
Karen Christie	Sandy Lee	Ronda Quain
Ginger Cutter	Kathilynn Lehmer	Kelly Rogers
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Linda Galindo	Matthew Mattei	Fred Tatman
Carlean Gharpurey	Rich Mattiello	Joan Tatman
Vicky Graham	Hope May	Rosemary Trujillo
Jack Hickey	Julie Mell	Carlos Vargas
Venora Hung	Lea Morgan	Mary Vargas
Martin Iniguez	Caroline Naito	Barbara Weissman
Greet Jaspaert	Naomi Naito	Terry Weissman
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Michael Klass	Frances Nelson	Victoria Yu

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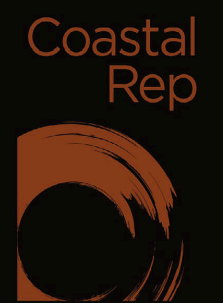
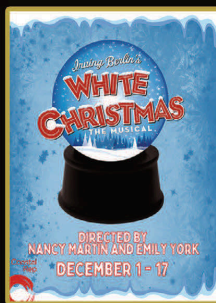
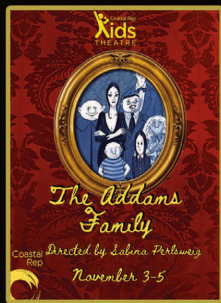
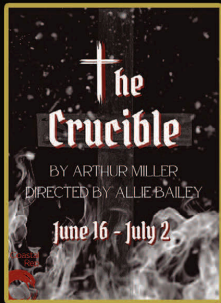
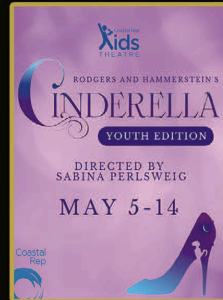
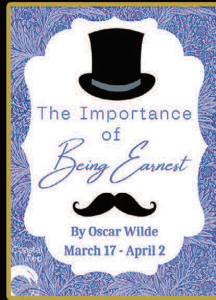
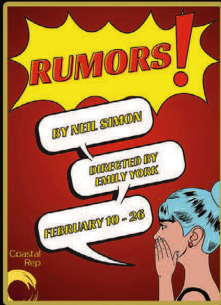
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