



# **‘Bright Star’ cashes in with Buddy Awards**

Olathe Civic Theatre Association (OCTA) celebrated the 2020 Buddy Awards with a live virtual event to announce outstanding performance and production awards from the shortened season.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, only three of the five slated shows completed their runs. Competitors derived from “Bright Star,” “The Haunting of Hill House,” “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” Postponed until next season, “The God Committee,” and “Big Fish” await their turn on the boards next season.

To no surprise, the musical, “Bright Star” captured the most attention, nominations, and winners in The 2020 Buddy Awards. The awards are named for screen legend Buddy Rodgers, originally from Olathe, KS, and a founder of the theatre group.

Interruption the tidal wave of winners, Michael Juncker claimed the sole win for “The Merry Wives of Windsor” with his larger-than-life performance as Falstaff in the Shakespearean comedy. Other than his win, “Bright Star” swept the other 15 award categories.

**The Buddy Award Nominees and winners are:**

**Leading Actor**

Nathan Bills as Billy Cane – Bright Star  
Austin Stang as Jimmy Ray Dobbs – Bright Star  
Scott Shaw as Ford – Merry Wives of Windsor  
\*Michael Juncker as Falstaff – Merry Wives of Windsor

#### Leading Actress

\*Ashton Botts as Alice Murphy – Bright Star  
Venus Leung as Eleanor – Haunting of Hill House  
Tracy Fox as Mistress Ford – Merry Wives of Windsor  
Ellie DeShon as Mistress Page – Merry Wives of Windsor

#### Supporting Actor

\*Reed Uthe as Mayor Josiah Dobbs – Bright Star  
Jefferson Harwood as Luke – Haunting of Hill House  
David Nickol as Dr. Montague – Haunting of Hill House  
Ken Schmidt as Page – Merry Wives of Windsor  
Aaron Roose as Hugh Evans – Merry Wives of Windsor  
Richard J Burt as Dr. Caius – Merry Wives of Windsor

#### Supporting Actress

\*Willa Walberg as Margo Crawford – Bright Star  
Charlotte Gilman as Theodora – Haunting of Hill House  
Sally Schmucker as Mrs. Montague – Haunting of Hill House  
Charlotte Gilman as Slender – Merry Wives of Windsor  
Meghann Deveroux Mistress as Quickly – Merry Wives of Windsor

#### Featured Actor

Tyler Hileman as Darryl Ames – Bright Star  
Charles Christesson Jr as Daddy Murphy – Bright Star  
\*Matt Walberg as Daddy Cane – Bright Star  
John Grow as Arthur – Haunting of Hill House  
Quinn North as Pistol/Jack Rugby/John – Merry Wives of Windsor  
Austin Cable as Fenton – Merry Wives of Windsor  
Charles Christesson Jr as Shallow – Merry Wives of

## Windsor

### Featured Actress

Patty Whitlock as Lucy Grant – Bright Star

\*Peggy Mall as Mama Murphy – Bright Star

Victoria Hoffman as Mrs. Dudley – Haunting of Hill House

Darcy Russel as Ann Page – Merry Wives of Windsor

Chelsea Pyle as Simple – Merry Wives of Windsor

Jo Bledsoe Collins as Host of the Garter Inn – Merry Wives of Windsor

Jessica Franz Martin as Nym/Sylvia – Merry Wives of Windsor

### Ensemble

Valerie Knott as Government Clerk – Bright Star

Kelli Mattison as Well Dressed Woman – Bright Star

Sharon Johnson as Florence – Bright Star

Jonathan Arnold as Stanford – Bright Star

Cassandra Pettigrew as Edna – Bright Star

Andrew Ramaley a Dr. Norquist – Bright Star

\*Christopher Morgan as Max – Bright Star

### Costume Design

\*Heather Stewart – Bright Star

Meaghan Deveroux – Haunting of Hill House

Alison Nickel – Merry Wives of Windsor

### Lighting Design

\*Philip Leonard – Bright Star

Chuck Cline – Haunting of Hill House

Chuck Cline – Merry Wives of Windsor

### Musical Achievement

Carolyn Braverman – Choreography/Bright Star

\*Ashley Jones – Music Direction/Bright Star

### Properties Design

**\*Alisha Morris – Bright Star**  
**Kayle Flory – Haunting of Hill House**  
**Valerie Martin – Merry Wives of Windsor**

**Set Design**

**\*Ken Schmidt – Bright Star**  
**Richard J Burt – Haunting of Hill House**  
**Kate Sanders – Merry Wives of Windsor**

**Sound Design**

**\*Josh Finch – Bright Star**  
**Michael Bunn – Haunting of Hill House**  
**David Martin – Merry Wives of Windsor**

**Stage Management**

**\*Matt Pollock – Bright Star**  
**D. K. Evenson – Haunting of Hill House**  
**DK Evenson – Merry Wives of Windsor**

**Direction**

**\*Julie Ewing – Bright Star**  
**Derrick Freeman – Haunting of Hill House**  
**David Martin – Merry Wives of Windsor**

**Overall Production**

**\*Bright Star**  
**Haunting of Hill House**  
**Merry Wives of Windsor**