

I'M ★ BRIGHT KID

FOUNDATION

presents

imagine

©2024 IABK

Summer Program Showcase

July 26-28, 2024

Palikū Theater, Windward Community College

*We love and miss you so much,
Aunty Jade*



'Til Another Day

I'M ★ BRIGHT KID FOUNDATION

2024

Summer Musical Theatre Arts Education Program

presents



Directed by David James Boyd

Show Concept by Jade Stice and David James Boyd

Staging & Choreography by IABK 2024 Summer Staff

Rights to perform all songs cleared through
Easy Song Licensing, LLC

**The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this
production is strictly prohibited. Please no flash photography.**



David James Boyd

Artistic Director & Morning Program Director

When you decorate a Christmas tree, you cover it with beautiful twinkling ornaments and lights. How nonsensical would it be to leave a patch of tree undecorated? For you see, each Bright Kid is a gleaming ornament, all leading up to a shining star.

As we honor the legacy once again of Mr. Bright, we remember that he was a man who wanted each kid to understand that they are essential to telling the story, no matter how big of an ornament they are. The bigger picture is not complete without each stroke, the puzzle is not solved unless you have every piece.

And as we honor the legacy of Jade Stice, a Bright Kid herself, I must tell you that I am broken. My best friend of decades is no longer here and my heart hurts immeasurably. And here I am, thrust into the difficult but blessed situation of realizing and expanding her vision with the show she began to create in her head, "Imagine."

We were on the phone for exactly a year discussing the possibilities of this show, for that was our favorite thing to do each summer — create a musical piece together for the Bright Kids. I looked forward to a much-needed break from New York, where my new career as a Teaching Artist at Lincoln Center Theater and Queens Theater was taking off. Three years ago Jade told me that I could do it, to "believe in yourself," as Mr. Bright taught so many people to do. I did, and I will be forever grateful to Jade for seeing in me what I couldn't see in myself. That is the kind of person she was — beautiful, talented and empathetic; a shimmering star whenever she entered any room.

Again, so much of "Imagine" comes from the brilliant mind of Jade Stice. Speaking of Christmas, Jade and I both loved Christmas. We called ourselves "Christmas Junkies," and in the many holidays I spent with or without her, we always listened to Natalie Cole's Christmas album, "The Holly And The Ivy" as we trimmed our trees. Hers was a kooky upside down tree, which she vehemently insisted on taking down the very day after Christmas. Mine stayed up until February because I didn't want the twinkling lights to go away. She always said her reasoning was that she just wanted to move forward.

As hard as it is, that is what we must do with the I'm A Bright Kid Program. I am honored and humbled to help move this beautiful program forward. This year, The Morning Program has doubled in size from previous years, joining the Afternoon Program in more fun, games, story development, acting, singing, dancing, and creative

writing. None of it was possible without the warm support of our committed and fabulous Teaching Assistants, most of them former Bright Kids themselves. And of course, our Teaching Staff who jumped in wherever was needed when the weight of emotions sometimes became too heavy.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the support of the beautiful Stice Family: Gary, Apolonia, Ligaya, Paraluman and all of you — thank you for welcoming me into your hearts and home. I am forever grateful for all the gifts you've given me, including the gift of Jade Stice.

This tree is for you, Jade. I hope you enjoy it.



Allan Lau

IABK Program Director

Exactly 41 years ago, I had the opportunity to be a dancer in Mr. Bright's production of "Flower Drum Song." My friends said he needed men who could dance and were Chinese. I guess I fit the bill on all three points! My life has never been the same since then and I can't imagine where I would be if that had not happened. In that show, the lead female sings of "a hundred million miracles," taking time to notice the countless things that happen that we sometimes forget about and take for granted. That has never been more true than in the last few months in my life, both personally and professionally.

What you are about to hear and see are 41 miracles that I have had the pleasure of watching grow in the mere 4 ½ weeks we have been together. I am so proud for all the growth that they have experienced with us, thanks to the guidance and support of our teachers — Uncle Boyd, Aunt Lisa, Aunt Annie, Uncle Moku, Aunt Kristi, Uncle Miguel, and Timbo — plus our multi-talented and eager interns: Madi, Faith, Moana, Taylor, and Vernie. I am so thankful for our village that carries on Mr. Bright's legacy. Thank you, families, for entrusting us with them this summer. Mahalo to Aunt Ligaya for her steady and focused leadership, even in times of personal stress. Words are not enough to thank Aunt Mo and the Bright 'ohana.

And this year, I am eternally grateful for another miracle that is and was Aunt Jade. Who would have imagined that we would be here 41 years later? Somehow, we will find our way back and will continue to believe.



"Pure Imagination"

Performed by "Imagine" Company

Staged by Timothy Bright

*Soloists: Mila Hamm, Knox Omo, Jaron Riegel,
Alex Kimura, Kiana Cameros*

"We Didn't Start the Fire"

Staged by Madi Duren, Taylor Sunouchi & Moana Simmons

*Soloists: Charlie Barnhill, Caleb Vereze-Silva, Ezekiel Suzuki,
Mila Hamm, Jaron Riegel, Noah Akagi, Brooklyn Koki,
Kamakea Wright, Trent Yamagata, Knox Omo, Alex Kimura,
Ivy Won, Mahina Witherspoon, Lily Dayao*

"The Rainbow Connection"

Performed by Lehua Group

Staged by Faith Kawai

*Soloists: Aria Kuboyama, Bliss Tengan, Alana French, Noah Akagi,
Kiana Cameros, Kira Witlarge, Mikayla Witlarge, Andi Trowbridge,
Brooklyn Koki, Blayke Sumida, Knox Omo, Bailey Fujita*

"Zombie"

Performed by Pikake Group

Staged by Taylor Sunouchi & Vernie Ritkes

*Soloists: Mahina Witherspoon, Zoë Naso, Svea Atterbom,
La'akea Loo, Kimi Lum Kee, Mila Hamm, Kayla Reis, Ivy Won*

"What's Going On"

Staged by David James Boyd & Vernie Ritkes

Featuring Kamakea Wright & Tobi Tengan

"Kids in America"

Performed by Maile Group

Choreographed & Staged by Lisa Herlinger-Thompson

"How Far I'll Go"

Staged by Lisa Herlinger-Thompson

Choreographed by Sean Jandoc

*Soloists: Alex Kimura, Kiana Cameros, Brooklyn Koki, Bailey Fujita,
Jaron Riegel, Kayla Reis, Zoë Naso, Mila Hamm*

Featured Dancers: Aria Zych & Kimi Lum Kee

"Run the World"

Choreographed & Staged by Annie Yoshida

"Imagine"

ASL Interpretation by Michelle Williams

Staged by Lisa Herlinger-Thompson

"No One"

Featuring Vernie Ritkes, Faith Kawai, Taylor Sunouchi, Madi Duren

Staged by Timothy Bright

"Be the Change"

Written, Choreographed, & Staged by David James Boyd

Featuring Trent Yamagata

Soloists: Charlie Barnhill, Kiana Cameros,

Henna Yen, Kamakea Wright

Dance Soloists: Mikayla Witlarge, Kira Witlarge, Rylie Sumida,

Aria Zych, Mahina Witherspoon, Noah Akagi,

Brooklyn Koki, Ivy Wong, Callia Joy Malczon

"You Can't Stop the Beat"

Choreographed by Lisa Herlinger-Thompson

Staged by Summer 2024 Staff

*Soloists: Zoë Naso, Aria Zych, Bailey Fujita, Mila Hamm,
Kamakea Wright, Tobi Tengan*



Lehua Group

Row 1: Brooklyn Koki, Noah Akagi, Knox Omo, Alana French,
Andi Trowbridge, Bliss Tengan, Kamryn Neste
Row 2: Blayke Sumida, Kiana Cameros, Alex Kimura, Aria Kuboyama,
Kooper Neste, Bailey Fujita (Missing: Kira Witlarge, Mikayla Witlarge)



Maile Group

Row 1: Callia Joy Malczon, Caleb Vereze-Silva, Henna Yen, Lily Dayao,
Marley Loo, Ezekiel Suzuki, Rylie Sumida
Row 2: Melia Kishinami, Aria Zych, Zoe Schais, Annabelle Maisu, Olivia Lee



Pikake Group

Row 1: Mila Hamm, Jaron Riegel, Trent Yamagata, Kamakea Wright,
Charles Barnhill, Mahina Witherspoon
Row 2: Tobi Tengan, Svea Atterbom, Kimi Lum Kee, Zoe Naso, Ivy Won, La'akea Loo



Teaching Assistants

Row 1: Faith Kawai, Taylor Sunouchi, Moana Simmons

Row 2: Madison Duren, Vernie Ritkes



Teachers

Row 1: Timothy Bright, David James Boyd

Row 2: Allan Lau, Lisa Herlinger-Thompson, Annie Yoshida



SCAN ME

**Scan here for a digital copy of our program booklet,
plus biographies and photos of our teaching staff and interns.**

Production Staff

Director.....David James Boyd

Music/Vocal Directors.....David James Boyd,
Miguel Cadoy, III, Kristi Higuchi,
Moku Durant, Faith Kawai, Vernie Ritkes

Choreographers.....Lisa Herlinger-Thompson,
Annie Yoshida

Special Guest Teacher.....Timothy Bright

Guest Speakers.....Alex Durrant, Kimee Balmilero,
Sean-Joseph Choo

Teaching Assistants.....Madi Duren, Faith Kawai, Vernie Ritkes,
Moana Simmons, Taylor Sunouchi

Piano Accompanist.....So Jin Kimura

Production Manager.....Allan Lau

Stage Manager.....Annie Yoshida

Set Design.....DeAnne Kennedy

Lighting Design.....Janine Myers

Projection Design.....David James Boyd, Allan Lau, Hope Taketa

Props.....Allan Lau, Taylor Sunouchi, Annie Yoshida

Sound.....MJ Cenido, Brandon Chu

Storyboard.....Faith Kawai

Script.....David James Boyd, Faith Kawai,
Vernie Ritkes, Moana Simmons, Taylor Sunouchi

Set Construction.....Jack Mink

Tickets/Box Office.....Heather Feeley, Ligaya Stice

Photography.....Aubrey Lee Staley

Programs.....Dar Nakagawa, Allan Lau

Logo.....Scott Thompson

Publicity.....Poi Planet, Tracy Larrua

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

BY
MR. B



Mr. Bright loved the theatre, and he demonstrated this passion not just by showing us how to sing and dance and act, but also by teaching us how to respect the art form and the physical space that we experience it in. He wanted everyone to have an equal opportunity to enjoy what was happening on stage, and he emphasized the importance of being a good audience member.

We wanted to share with you, our audience, some of the things that he taught us, and what we in turn have passed along to this next generation of Bright Kids.

Respect the art form and the performers

- Give your full attention to what is happening on stage. Put away cell phones and other devices.
- Refrain from talking during the performance.
- Clap to show your appreciation for the hours of work that the performers have put in.

Respect your fellow audience members

- Arrive on time to find your seat. If you arrive late, an usher will let you know when it is okay to be seated.
- If you need to leave your seat during the show, try to do so at the end of a scene or song.
- Follow the instructions and requests of the ushers.
- Active children should be taken to our third floor lobby where the show can be viewed on a monitor.

Respect the building

- Food and drinks are not allowed in the theatre.
- Keep feet off of the chairs in front of you.
- Clean up around you when you leave. Don't leave trash or program books behind.

Congratulations to the 2024 Recipients of the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation Education and Performing Arts Awards

Mr. Bright cared deeply about encouraging young people to further their education. We are proud to be able to support these deserving students as they pursue studies in the fields that Mr. B. was especially passionate about - education and the performing arts.



Jenelle Wong
Performing Arts
Kalani HS
U of Southern California



Cleonice Hamm
Performing Arts
Castle HS
UH Manoa



Jamie Kasadate
Performing Arts
Castle HS
Manhattanville College



Carly Omori-Kealoha
Performing Arts
Castle HS
Long Island U



Shaynie Ogawa
Education
Mililani HS
Grand Canyon U

imabrightkid.org/scholarship

MAHALO



**Congratulations to the
brightest kids on the planet.**



poi planet

PR / MarCom / Special Events
www.poiplanet.com

MAHALO

for making our program a success!

Lloyd S. Riford, III

Dr. Thomas and Mi Kosasa

Honolulu Cookie Company

Makana Tani, WCC Facilities

Palikū Theatre

Nicole Tessier, Andrew Doan, Phillip Foster,

Hope Taketa, Garrett Taketa

Evan McCarty, 'Iolani School

Marcelo Pacleb, 24-VII Danceforce

Jamie and Jeremy McOuat

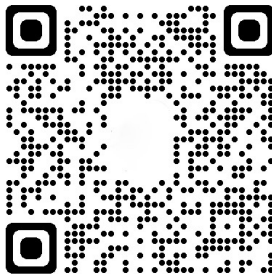
Nolan and Jamie Hong

Apolonia Stice and Moira Bright

IABK Members, Donors and Supporters

SUPPORT FUTURE PROGRAMS

Please scan the QR code below to help support
IABK and our mission to perpetuate the performing arts
in our community. Mahalo!!



imabrightkid.org/donate

What We Believe

Ronald E. Bright left an indelible mark on the education and theater landscape of Hawai'i and on the lives of those that he mentored. The vision of the **I'm A Bright Kid Foundation** is to support the educational endeavors of those that are inspired to teach and to ensure that his gift of live theater continues to thrive in our community.

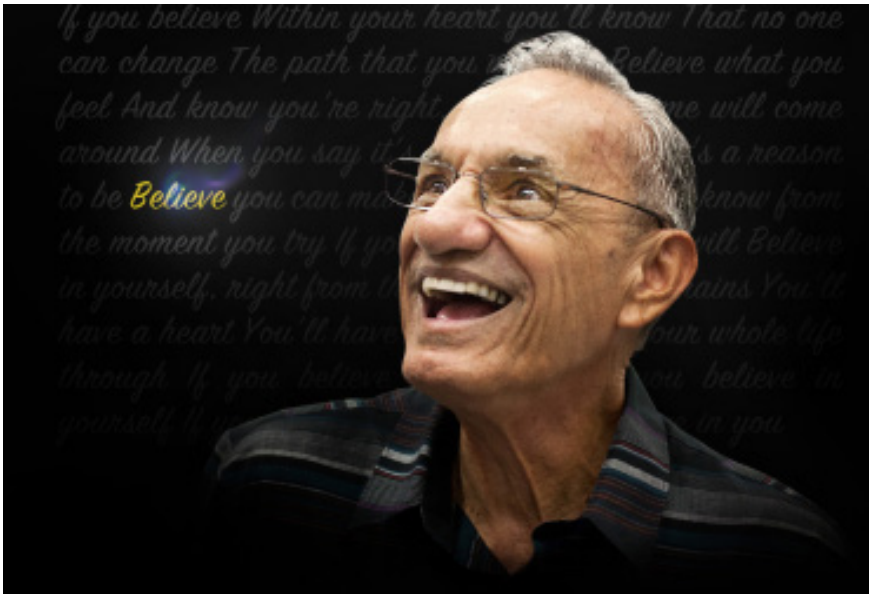
Our mission is to perpetuate the teachings and legacy of Ronald E. Bright by supporting the performing arts and education.

If You Believe

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation to support our scholarship awards, our summer musical theatre education program, and our commitment to quality live theatre.

Membership and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please see our representative in the second floor lobby, or visit:

www.imabrightkid.org



I'm A Bright Kid Foundation

Allan J N Lau, President

Clarke Bright and Malia Espinda, Vice Presidents

Malia Espinda, Acting Secretary

Mark Murakami, Treasurer

Board of Directors - Moira Bright, Erik DeRyke, Wayne Harada, Jodi Leong
Ligaya Stice, Executive Director



Honolulu Cookie
COMPANY®

proudly supports

the **I'm A Bright Kid Foundation's** dedication
to the performing arts and education.



honolulucookie.com     1-866-333-5800