

I'M ★ BRIGHT KID

FOUNDATION

presents



July 24-26, 2026

Tenney Theater

The Cathedral of St. Andrew



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to the performing arts and education.

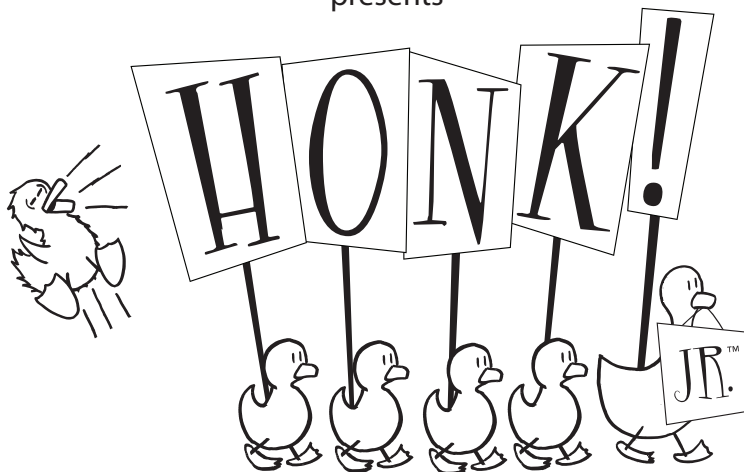


I'M ★ BRIGHT KID FOUNDATION

2026

Summer Musical Theatre Arts Education Program

presents



Music by **George Stiles**
Book and Lyrics by **Anthony Drew**

Director - Vernie Ritkes
Music Director - Moku Durant
Vocal Director - Sarahlea Kekuna
Choreographer - Annie Yoshida

Set Design - DeAnne Kennedy
Lighting Design - Janine Myers
Sound Design - Brandon Chu
Costume and Prop Design - Dian Mahina Hermes

HONK! JR. is presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



Vernie Ritkes - *Honk! Jr.* Director

Welcome to *Honk! Jr.*

At its heart, *Honk! Jr.* is the timeless story of the Ugly Duckling—a story about being different, searching for belonging, and discovering that our uniqueness is something to celebrate rather than hide. It's a story that resonates with all of us because, at one point or another, we've all felt like we didn't quite fit in.

Throughout our six weeks together, this cast embraced these themes with incredible courage and compassion. We didn't just rehearse songs, choreography, and scenes—we had meaningful conversations about what it means to be different. We examined topics like bullying, discrimination, racism, sexism, and ableism, and discussed how our words and actions affect those around us. It was inspiring to watch these young performers approach these conversations with empathy, curiosity, and open hearts, then bring those lessons into every rehearsal and performance.

For me, this production is about so much more than putting on a musical. It's about creating a space where every student feels seen, valued, and celebrated for exactly who they are. Theatre has the unique ability to build confidence, foster empathy, and remind us that everyone deserves a place where they belong. Watching these students grow over the past six weeks has been one of the greatest rewards of my career. Seeing them fully step into the world of the farm, embrace their characters, support one another, and grow in confidence has been a beautiful reminder of what this program is truly about.

To our incredible teachers, staff, volunteers, and families—thank you for your unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in these young artists. This production would not have been possible without your time, dedication, and love.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the I'm A Bright Kid Foundation. Thank you for taking a chance on me—a recent graduate navigating the uncertainty of an acting career—and for welcoming me into more than just a program. You welcomed me into a family. Being part of an organization that leads with a beautiful big heart has been an incredible gift, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to grow alongside these remarkable students.

Thank you for joining us today. We hope *Honk! Jr.* reminds you that our differences are not our weaknesses—they are our greatest strengths. May we all leave here a little kinder, a little more compassionate, and a little more willing to celebrate what makes each of us wonderfully unique.

Enjoy the show!



Allan Lau - Program Director

Flashback about 11 years ago: Malia Espinda, Ligaya Stice, Jade Stice, and I were huddled together in the parking lot of the Ronald Bright Theater as the sun set over the Ko'olau range. We were admiring the hard work of the dozens of Bright Kids that had volunteered to help clean, scrub, power wash, and polish the building that we had spent many evenings and weekends at with our director and mentor. We were still in shock at Mr. B's unexpected passing, wondering about the future of the legacy that he had lovingly built. "It can't end here" was the consensus, but how to continue was the burning question in our hearts and minds.

Who could have imagined that impromptu meeting would have led to the continuation of that legacy in a new generation of Bright Kids? This year marks a personal turning point in my history with the organization as I passed along much of my responsibility as program director to a group of incredibly capable young people. I am so proud of the teaching staff, interns, and especially the cast of *Honk! Jr.*

Mr. B and Auntie Jade are definitely smiling at all of you as you bring this story of finding your "flock" and discovering your self-worth - themes that are the heart of many of Mr. B's favorite shows. Mahalo for your support these past ten years and we look forward to many, many more. The future of IABK definitely is bright!



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Scenes & Musical Numbers

A Poultry Tale

The Joy Of Motherhood

Different (Pre-Reprise)

Hold Your Head Up High

Look At Him

Different

Play With Your Food

Every Tear A Mother Cries

The Wild Goose Chase

The Joy Of Motherhood (Reprise Part 1)

The Joy Of Motherhood (Reprise Part 2)

Warts And All

The Blizzard

Transformation

Look At Him (Reprise)

Warts And All (Reprise)

Members of the Duckyard

Ida, Maureen

Ida

Ida, Ugly

Ducklings, Ida, Drake, Ugly,

Cat, Henrietta, Maureen,

Grace, Turkey,

Members of the Duckyard

Ugly

Cat, Ugly

Ida

Greylag, Dot, Goose

Squadron, Ugly, Cat

Drake

Drake

Bullfrogs, Froglets, Ugly

Blizzard Soloist, Company

Ida, Ugly, Company

Company

Company

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Drake	Kekoa Tyler
Turkey	Caleb Kaun
Henrietta	Kalea Tyler
Maureen	Bliss Tengan
Ida	Tobi Tengan
Cat	Kiamalu Kahahawai
Grace	Kendall Palmer
Billy	Keila Florian
Beaky	Noah Akagi
Downy	Asa Tom
Fluff	Kiana Cameros
Ugly	Nolan Koo
Jay Bird	Elis Arasawa
Greylag	Lily Dayao
Dot	Selena Lebeste
Barnacles	Carli Phillips
Pink Foot	Jasmine Dayao
Snowy	Kaori Chu-Tenjou
Penny	Liana Richey
Mother Swan	Mia Rogers
Bewick the Swan	Aria Kuboyama
Bob the Bullfrog	Alex Kimura
Billy the Bullfrog	Brooklyn Koki
Leaper the Froglet Soloist	Kai Masalleras
Father Swan	Caleb Vereze-Silva
Charlotte the Spider/ Offstage voice	Sachi Tonda-Vogel
Holy Cow	Carolina Tonda-Vogel
Sophi the Pig/ Offstage voice	Kamryn Neste
Mr. Mutton the Sheep	Mila Lei Masagatani
Old Gray Mare/Dog Bark	Ivy Won
Scabbers the Mouse	Mari Nakamura
Maya the Mouse	Sonya Tsukayama-Hirakawa
Mini the Mouse	Andi Trowbridge
Ribbon the Mouse	Kimberly Fujimura
Farmer/Mouse	Nedra Dwyer
Frogia the Froglet	Bernadette Beasley
Lilly the Froglet	Kooper Neste
Kaitlyn the Froglet	Hi'ilani Van Winkle



Lehua Group

Back: Kiana Cameros, Hi'ilani Van Winkle, Kooper Neste, Mila Lei Masagatani, Keila Florian, Alex Kimura; Front: Kai Masalleras, Bernadette Beasley, Kaori Chu-Tenjou, Carolina Tonda-Vogel, Asa Tom



Maile Group

Back: Noah Akagi, Brooklyn Koki, Caleb Kaun, Kalea Tyler, Nedra Dwyer, Liana Richey, Nolan Koo; Front: Andi Trowbridge, Sonja Tsukayama-Hirakawa, Kendall Palmer, Aria Kuboyama, Bliss Tengan, Kamryn Neste, Jasmine Dayao



Pikake Group

Back: Caleb Vereze-Silva, Elis Arasawa, Kekoa Tyler, Kiamalu Kahahawai, Sachi Tonda-Vogel; Front: Kimberly Fujimura, Mia Rogers, Selena Lebeste, Tobi Tengan, Lily Dayao, Mari Nakamura; Not pictured: Ivy Won



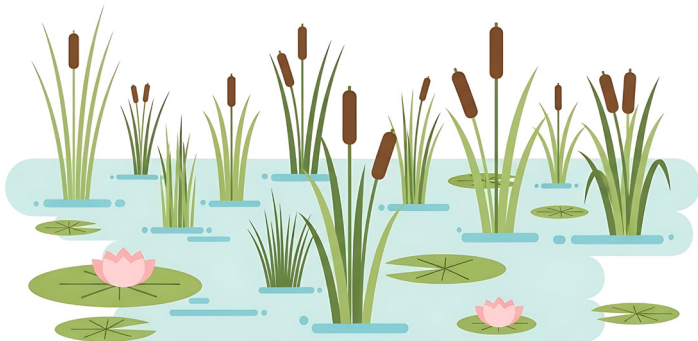
Teachers

Dian Mahina Hermes, Sarahlea Kekuna, Vernie Ritkes, Annie Yoshida, Moku Durant

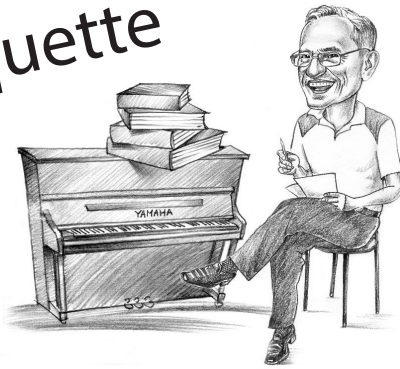


Teaching Assistants

Front: Taylor Sunouchi, Damian Mendez, Faith Morrow
Back: Nephi Hikila, Moana Simmons, Chase Lau



Theatre Etiquette by Mr. B



Mr. Bright loved the theatre, and he demonstrated this passion not just by showing his students how to sing and dance and act, but also by teaching them to respect the art form and the physical space that it is experienced 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 may need some time outside until they are ready to sit for the show.

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 2026 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.



Maya Yoshida - Education
Le Jardin Academy
Pacific University



Damian Mendez - Performing Arts
Castle High School
Pace University



Qobi Damaso
Kamehameha Kapalama
California Institute for the Arts

IABK is committed to supporting our foundation scholarship awardees throughout their college years. This year, IABK is proud to be able to award renewal scholarships to the following individuals:

Faith Button
Elaine Hicks
Faith Morrow
Camryn Murakami
Jenelle Wong

imabrightkid.org/scholarship

The Dragonfly Awards



IABK is proud to announce the recipients of our Dragonfly Awards. These scholarships are provided by the family of Jade Stice, IABK co-founder and former artistic director of our summer musical theatre arts education program. These awards provide tuition assistance for our core program.

Jade was Mr. Bright's first student to land a role in a Broadway production, when she was cast in the original Broadway company of *Miss Saigon* in 1991. She directed the very first full-length musical production for IABK and our summer program, *On Dragonfly Wings* in 2017. Jade passed away suddenly in June 2024.

On Dragonfly Wings is a story of transformation and self-realization – goals that Jade and our program staff aim for every summer, with every student. The summer program was Jade's mark on IABK and she viewed it as the most effective way to continue her mentor's legacy into the next generation. She loved this program and these students so much.

Congratulations to:

Kiana Cameros
Lily Dayao
Jasmine Dayao
Alex Kimura
Kai Masalleras
Kalea Tyler
Kekoa Tyler
Caleb Verese-Silva



The Bright Lights Scholarship

IABK is also fortunate to have Castle Performing Arts Alumni Kimee Balmilero support a selected student for her Bright Lights Scholarship. This year we congratulate Castle High School rising 9th grader **Selena Lebeste**. This award is a full tuition grant for the core afternoon IABK summer program.

MAHALO

for making our program a success!

Lloyd S. Riford, III
Dr. Thomas and Mi Kosasa
Atherton Family Foundation
Honolulu Cookie Company
Kamehameha Schools Grade 5 Teachers and Students
Palikū Theatre Staff - Lock Lynch, Brian Shevelenko, Nicole Tessier
HTY/Tenney Theater - Eric Johnson, Sarah Danvers, Eric West
New Hope O'ahu - Fred Alcain, MJ Cenido, Brandon Chu
Mark Merriam, Aloha Graphics
Moirā Bright and the Bright 'Ōhāna
Gary and Apolonia Stice 'Ōhāna Foundation
IABK Board of Directors, Donors and Supporters
IABK Summer Program Parents

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



Production Staff

Program Director	Allan Lau
<i>Honk! Jr.</i> Director	Vernie Ritkes
Music Director	Moku Durant
Vocal Director	Sarahlea Kekuna
Choreographer	Annie Yoshida
Teaching Assistants	Nephi Hikila, Chase Lau, Damian Mendez, Faith Morrow, Moana Simmons, Taylor Sunouchi
Morning Workshop Teachers	Jennifer Brooks, Alex Durrant, Susan Hawes, Dian Mahina Hermes, Mary Hicks, Junior Tesoro
Guest Teacher	Timothy Bright
Production Assistant	Maya Yoshida
Production Manager	Allan Lau
Stage Manager	Taylor Sunouchi
Set Design	DeAnne Kennedy
Lighting Design	Janine Myers
Costume and Prop Design	Dian Mahina Hermes
Scenic Artist	DeAnne Kennedy
Sound Engineer	Brandon Chu
Prop Construction	Robert Durkin, Dian Mahina Hermes, Brian Nedved, Vernie Ritkes, Paraluman Stice-Durkin, AM program students
Set Construction	Wade Wise, Allan Lau, Taylor Sunouchi, Annie Yoshida
Load In Volunteers	Kainalu Durkin, Ezekiel Kekuna, Ezra Kekuna
Tickets/Box Office	Ligaya Stice
Photography	Nephi Hikila
Graphics	Faith Morrow

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 quality live theater continues to thrive in our community.

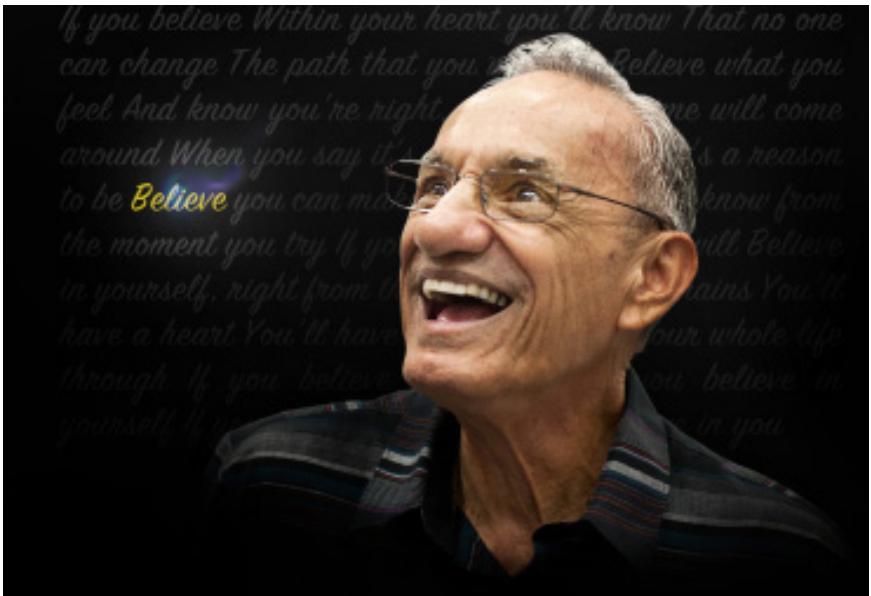
Our mission is to perpetuate the teachings and legacy of Ronald E. Bright by supporting the performing arts and education.

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.

Sponsorship opportunities and legacy planning are also available. Please visit:

www.imabrightkid.org



I'm A Bright Kid Foundation

Allan Lau, President and Secretary

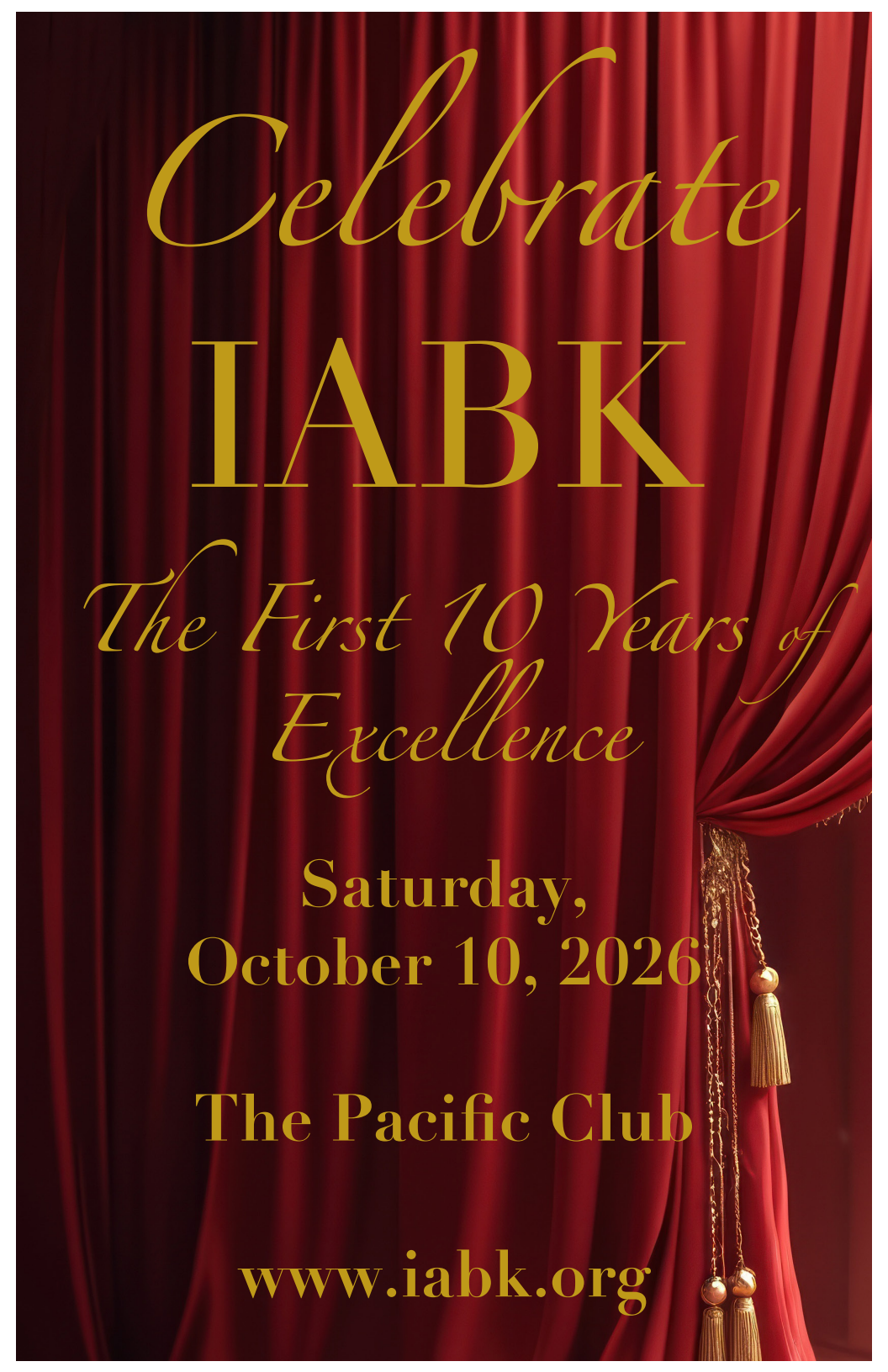
Clarke Bright and Malia Espinda, Vice Presidents

Mark Murakami, Treasurer

Board of Directors - Moira Bright, Erik DeRyke, Wayne Harada, Nolan Hong,

Devon Nekoba, Jodi Leong, Jill Tengan

Ligaya Stice, Executive Director



Celebrate

IABK

*The First 10 Years of
Excellence*

Saturday,
October 10, 2026

The Pacific Club

www.iabk.org