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"Friends" Producer to Speak at Create Carolina Festival

Winthrop University

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"Friends" Producer to Speak at Create Carolina Festival

Quick Facts

- Kevin Bright, producer for "Friends," will be a visiting artist during the Create Carolina Arts Festival.
- Bright will co-teach a master class on May 26 in Johnson Studio Theatre.



Kevin Bright

ROCK HILL, S.C. - **Kevin Bright**, known as one of television's most talented producers for his work with NBC's "Friends," will be one of the visiting artists for the [Create Carolina festival](#) at Winthrop University.

He will join festival art director Charles Randolph-Wright for a Saturday, May 26, master class on their work. The 4:30 to 6 p.m. class is free and will be held in [Johnson Hall](#).

Bright, along with creators and fellow executive producers Marta Kauffman and David Crane, was one of the three original executive producers behind "Friends," the highest-rated comedy on television. During its 10-year run from 1994 to 2004, "Friends" received 44 Emmy Award nominations, winning for Outstanding Comedy Series in 2002. "Friends" also won the People's Choice Award as Favorite New Comedy Series in its first season, and won five times as Favorite Comedy Series. In addition to his work as producer, **Bright** directed over 50 episodes of "Friends," including the season finale of each year. Other directing credits for **Bright** include numerous pilots, along with episodes of "Veronica's Closet," "Jesse" and "Dream On" (for which he received a CableACE nomination as Best Director).

The native New Yorker has worked in show business all of his life. His father, Jackie Bright, was a vaudeville comedian and later became president of the American Guild of Variety Artists. After earning a degree at Emerson College, **Bright** began his career at the Joseph Cates Company where he later produced the first six David Copperfield Magic Specials, as well as specials starring Johnny Cash, Bill Cosby and George Burns.

In 2004, after the completion of "Friends," **Bright** signed on as executive producer of the spinoff, "Joey," directing the pilot and nine episodes. In January 2005, "Joey" received the People's Choice Award for Favorite New TV Comedy. During the second season of "Joey," **Bright** directed 10 episodes, including the final episode. He is now president of Bright-san Productions, Inc. and lives in Los Angeles.

Bright is one of several professionals from New York and Los Angeles who are appearing in classes or performances during [Create Carolina](#). The inaugural festival is taking place on the Winthrop campus from May 14-June 2.

The [Create Carolina Arts Festival](#) is a three-week festival of college classes, master classes, film screenings and performances.

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