



The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE



October 22 - 25, 7:30 p.m.

October 26, 2 p.m.

Johnson Theatre, Winthrop University

Music and Lyrics by WILLIAM FINN, Book by RACHEL SHEINKIN

Conceived by REBECCA FELDMAN

Additional Material by JAY REISS

Originally Directed on Broadway by JAMES LAPINE



#artswinthrop

FALL 2025

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics by William Finn

Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Additional Material by Jay Reiss

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

Originally produced on Broadway by

David Sone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo

Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

'Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by The Farm'

'The Barrington Stage Company workshop of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY
SPELLING BEE was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman'

CAST

Rona Lisa Peretti

Chip Tolentino

Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniére

Leaf Coneybear

William Barfee

Marcy Park

Olive Ostrovsky

Vice Principal Douglas Panch

Mitch Mahoney

Carl Dad

Dan Dad

Olive's Mom

Olive's Dad

Mattie Washburn*

Landon Watts

Lily Moore*

Mason Hall*

Connor Rothberg

Grayson Skidmore*

Noelle Constance Wheeler

Taylor Rowe Morgan

Devontaye Merrill

Samuel Tillman

Pat Fleming

Caro Richardson

Daniel Schrank

*Denotes students who are members of the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society.

"The 25 th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"	Company
"The Rules"	Panch and Company
"My Friend The Dictionary"	Olive Ostrovsky and Company
"Pandemonium"	Company
"I'm Not That Smart"	Leaf Coneybear
"Magic Foot"	William Barfee and Company
"Rona Moment #2"	Rona Lisa Peretti
"Prayer of the Comfort Counselor"	Mitch Mahoney and Company
"Chip's Lament"	Chip Tolentino
"Woe Is Me"	Schwarzy and Company
"I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)"	Leaf Coneybear
"I Speak Six Languages"	Marcy Park and Company
"The I Love You Song"	Olive Ostrovsky, Rona Lisa Peretti, Mitch Mahoney
"Rona Moment #3"	Rona Lisa Peretti
"Second"	Olive Ostrobsky, William Barfee, and Company
"Finale"	Company

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

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Department of Theatre
and Dance
Winthrop University
115 Johnson Hall
Rock Hill, SC 29733

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WINTHROP UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Karen Oremus, M.F.A. Dean

Tracy Patterson, D.M.A. Associate Dean

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Zinorl Broñola, M.M. Instructor of Theatre and Dance

Leslie Cook, M.F.A. Associate Professor of Theatre

Rachel Dawson, M.F.A. Assistant Professor of Theatre

Biff Edge, M.F.A. Associate Professor of Theatre

Brian Franco-Winn, M.F.A. Assistant Professor of Dance

Daniel Gordon, M.F.A. Department Chair and Professor

Stephen Gundersheim, M.F.A. Professor of Theatre

Ramona Kundl Administrative Assistant

Marvin McAllister, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Theatre

Kelly Ozust, M.F.A. Program Director of Dance & Associate
Professor of Dance

Gabrielle Tull, M.F.A., M.Ed. CVPA Director of Arts Education &
Associate Professor of Dance

John P. Woodey, M.F.A. Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance

PRODUCTION & CREW

DIRECTOR Stephen Gundersheim

CHOREOGRAPHER Kelly Ozust

DANCE REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Kayelyn Wilburn*

MUSIC DIRECTOR Kristen Wonderlich

REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST Zinorl Broñola

STAGE MANAGER Kristin Lowery*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS Ashley Colson, Sarah Hoffmann

COSTUME DESIGNER Leslie Cook

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER Ethan Ganzell*

SET DESIGNER Daniel Gordon

LIGHTING DESIGNER Biff Edge

AUDIO ENGINEER & DESIGNER Jessica Caltagirone*

HEAD OF PROPS Dorothy Hamrick

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR John P. Woodey

COSTUME SHOP SUPERVISOR Cheralyn Lambeth

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR Mirrel Sharpe*

BOX OFFICE MANAGER Brandon Dawson

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW Savannah Amos, Ashley Colson, Ash Hernick*, Alicia Littlejohn, Elis Long*, Kirk Lowe

**SCENIC CONSTRUCTION/
LIGHTING CREW** Abigail Bast, Ashley Colson, Cydnee Corujo, Sierra Dennison, Eric Dykhuis, Ethan Ganzell*, Dorothy Hamrick, Kiernan Hedlund*, Shaylee Keogh, Kristin Lowery*

RUNNING CREW Hunter Bokalosky, Iona Brown, Maddie Harrison, Em Hilditch, Eden McCann, Amarachi Ogbuewu, Kennedy Sawhook, Kya Sullivan

ADDITIONAL CREW

SCENE SHOP TA'S

Reece Dinacci, Kiernan Hedlund, Ash Hernick*, Kayelyn Wilburn*

COSTUME SHOP TA's

Sierra Dennison, Ethan Ganzell*, Mirrel Sharpe*

BOX OFFICE TA'S

Kyran Anderson, Kyia Jones, Samiyah Jeffery, Val Kempton*, Taylor Rowe Morgan, Grayson Skidmore*

POSTER DESIGNER

Lauren Grad

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a musical ABOUT a Spelling Bee....but it is more than that. This beautiful score and book are filled with outrageous laughs, bemoaning the treacherous life of middle school. What drew me to this show is the social construct of winning. "The best spellers don't necessarily win." This theme repeats often in this musical, and this caused me to delve deeper into the concept of winning. Winning (or losing) is a social construct that we have created and is often circumstantial. How we define it also depends on how we were raised. Were you taught to be ultracompetitive or more docile? Was competition thrust at you, or did you crave it? Winning never truly defines you or what you can become.

Spelling Bee examines winning, how to be competitive, and how that measures our success. Is this really the right message to give our children? Being kind, having empathy, being sincere, and being a good citizen are far better barometers of true success. The lessons we teach our children and how we treat one another, especially at this time in the world, must be handled with loving care.

I challenge that the losers don't really lose after all. Besides, who are they trying to win for? They themselves? Their parents? I invite you to take a closer look at the relationships between these parents and children and reflect on your own life. As parents, are we absentee, are we too blasé, or are we helicopter parents? This show also invites us into everyone's unique and complicated story. Each child (and the adults, too) deals with growing up and the challenges of adolescence in their own way. As parents, we might reexamine how much more complicated and far more capable children are than we give them credit for as they grow.

Sit back and experience the students' joy, pain, heartache, and spelling. And remember, "The best spellers don't necessarily win."