

## The 25th Annual Putnam county SPELLING bee

Music & Lyrics by William Finn Book by Rachel Sheinkin Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Additional Material by Jay Reiss Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

August 11-20 2022

Directed by Nancy Rich

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Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, 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

Directed and Choreographed by Nancy Rich Music Directed by Darylene Hecht Stage Managed by Chris Berg Scenic Design by Shannon Clark Costume Design by Jenny Mitchell Lighting Design by Darby E. Madewell Sound Design by Todd Houseknecht Props Design by Alyssa Petrone

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.

#### ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.



Special thanks to our media sponsor, <u>The News & Observer</u>.

## The News & Observer

Special thanks to our show sponsor, North State Bank.



This program is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.





Special thanks to Reader's Corner, Kevin O'Barr, Will Jalkut, David Watts, and to the Wendell Community Center for Ioaning RLT the aluminum bleachers.

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## A Note from the Director

The fun started when Raleigh Little Theatre's Artistic Director, Patrick Torres, asked me if I'd like to direct this musical. It didn't take me long to make up my mind and say "yes" because I knew it well and loved it. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a bright, vivacious piece that brings back all the memories of the troubles that consumed and plagued our childhoods, along with a reminder of the pure joy and silliness of being a "tween."

When first approaching the show, I felt it was important to represent these children as all different and unique to each other. It is their eccentricities that makes them special, and that's true of the adults in the show as well. Adulthood creeps in through the children's insecurities, with some touching glimpses of their family lives juxtaposed with their own personal wants and needs. There hasn't been a single rehearsal that goes by where I don't gain another insight to these characters, through re-reading of the script or by my delightful cast bringing their own unique interpretations.

The hilarity of the words chosen in the Bee, the up-beat music, and the unexpected surprises, makes this show a true delight! Iconic musical numbers such as "Magic Foot" and "Pandemonium" give the show an up-beat pace while William Finn's beautiful ballad "The I Love You Song" provides depth and emotional resonance. I am so thankful for our Music Director, Darylene Hecht, who has brought her amazing talent and skill to every song.

Working with such a complex piece such as *Spelling Bee* has led to some memorable moments, especially the improvisational sections associated with our guest spellers – heads up: Vice Principal Panch has lined up some challenging words for this year's Bee!

I feel like the stars aligned for this production. Our cast is top-notch, and so is our staff and crew. Like any theatrical piece, the outcome reflects the journey, which is why we can promise you a night of fun: from nut allergies, spontaneous dance breaks, and rather unfortunate protuberances. I am absolutely H-O-N-O-R-E-D to present Raleigh Little Theatre's own rendition of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Nancy Rich, Director

## **Order of Songs**

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee	Rona, Olive, Barfee, Schwarzy, Chip, Marcy, Coneybear
The Rules	Ensemble
My Friend The Dictionary	Rona, Olive, Schwarzy, Chip, Coneybear
Pandemonium	Ensemble
I'm Not That Smart	Coneybear
Magic Foot/ Magic Foot Playoff	Rona, Mitch, Olive, Barfee, Schwarzy, Chip, Marcy, Coneybear
Pandemonium Reprise	Ensemble
Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor	Mitch
Chip's Lament	Chip
Woe Is Me	Schwarzy, The Dads
Spelling Montage	Ensemble
I Speak Six Languages	Rona, Olive, Schwarzy, Marcy
Jesus	Rona, Olive, Schwarzy, Marcy
The I Love You Song	Olive, Olive's Mom, Olives Dad
Woe Is Me Reprise	Mitch, Schwarzy
Second	Olive, Barfee, Ensemble
Pas De Deux	Olive, Barfee
The Champion	Ensemble
Epilogues	Ensemble
Finale/Bows	Ensemble

## Cast, Crew, and Production Team

#### Cast

Olive Ostrovosky William Barfee Rona Lisa Perretti Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere Mitch Mahoney Marcy Park VP Douglas Panch Leaf Coneybear Chip Tolentino Callie Colvard Nicholas A. Davis Jess Hill Sydney Kain Ben Muller Maya Noor Saib Steve Pysnik Jared Michael Scott Ryan Vasconcellos

#### **Production Team**

Director/Choreographer Assistant Director Music Director Stage Manager Production Manager/ Technical Director Costume Designer Scenic Designer Scenic Painter Lighting Designer Assistant Lighting Designer Sound Designer Props Designer

Nancy Rich Paula Andrews Darylene Hecht Chris Berg

Dennis R. Berfield Jenny Mitchell Shannon Clark Hope Hammond Darby E. Madewell Dustin Bowles Todd Houseknecht Alyssa Petrone

#### **Additional Crew**

Auditions Crew	Barbara Corbin Claire Huene Laurel Drobits Marie Berry Tony Landavazo
Auditions Crew Coordinator	Marie Berry
Costume Shop Crew	Alyssa Capps Ameer Tohamy Ann Haigler Danielle M. Welch Kathy Mauney Mallory Schultz Ruth Berry Sam Frigerio Viviana Straniero
Dresser Crew Supervisor	Beth Castle
Dresser Crew	Amy Blackwell Rebecca Leonard Valerie Pymento
Lighting Crew	Barbara Corbin Jadon Frank Sylvia Moore Will Lukas
Sound Engineer	Kristen Stinnett
Sound Crew Supervisor	Jeff Hooper
Sound Crew	Amy Koo Cynthia Ramos Kristen Stinnett Sky Symonds

#### **Additional Crew**

Fight Choreographer	Benjamin Tarlton
Props + Deck Crew	Bri Flynn Catherine Lambe Grace Kelly
Scene Shop Crew	Adalia Schafrath-Craig Charlie Hart Donald Gillett Don Miller Emily Weadon
2022-2023 House Managers	Ariel Gray Bettie Murchison Chanté Thompson Chelsea Pinto Dawn Graham Freyja Sindemark Greg Lytle Herb Estes Howard Estes Jaret Preston Judy M. Dove Julianne Santana Laurel Drobits Lilo Miles Lindsey Wyatt Maria Barber Mike Dunavan Raquel Rouse Shay Hamidou Thommie O'Neal

## **Biographies**

#### **Cast Biographies**



**CALLIE COLVARD** (Olive Ostrovsky) is so excited to be returning to Raleigh Little Theatre for this wonderful show. Her most recent credits include *Oh What A Night* and *The Bridges of Madison County* at Theatre Raleigh. She would like to thank the whole cast of *Putnam*, along with Nancy, Darylene, and Chris, for being so wonderful, and her family and friends for their support. Callie will be attending Molloy

University in the Fall to pursue her BFA in Musical Theatre. I would like to dedicate my performance to Joy Williams, who supported me endlessly for every show, living room dance routine, and every dream.



place to be.



NICHOLAS A. DAVIS (William Barfee) is a recent graduate of William Peace University in which he received a BFA in Musical Theatre. Nicholas' most recent role was Cornelius Hackl in *Hello*, *Dolly!* at Harnett Regional Theatre. Nicholas is thankful for his family and loved ones for their never ending support. He is also thankful for this incredible cast and crew for making Raleigh Little Theatre such a special

JESS HILL (Rona Lisa Perretti) attended Raleigh Little Theatre for the first time at a 2010 production of *Spelling Bee,* and now it marks her first production here! Jess has worked on stage and behind the scenes at North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre and Cary Players, before taking a break to focus on her other love—puppies! She has fostered almost 60 puppies so far, and will gladly talk about the joys

of fostering/adopting rescue dogs. She would like to thank Nancy and Darylene for this opportunity and the phenomenal cast of *Spelling Bee* for making her return to the stage a delight.



**SYDNEY KAIN** (Logainne (Schwarzy)) is thrilled to be in her first Raleigh Little Theatre production! Her recent credits include Lois Van Zandt in *Murders in the Heir*, and Commander Tal in *Blast Off* at Panther Creek High School. She was also the Vice President of the Thespian Society before graduating in 2021. She wants to thank her family and her girlfriend, Hope, for always believing in her.

#### **Cast Biographies**



**BEN MULLER** (Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad/Olive's Dad) is thrilled to be back on stage for the first time in eight years. Favorite roles include Black in *Wild Party* (NRACT), Eddie in *Wild Party* (Pauper Players), and Dennis in *All Shook Up* (Pauper Players). He would like to thank this talented cast and crew for making his first Raleigh Little Theatre production such an amazing experience, as well as all his family and friends in attendance.

Extra thanks and love to his partner Laurel and their pup Milton.



**MAYA NOOR SAIB** (Marcy Park) is a rising junior BFA Acting major at Millikin University. This past school year she performed as Judge Brack in a devised version of *Hedda Gabler*, was a Swing in *Romeo and Juliet*, and was an Ensemble Member in *She Loves Me*. She is very excited to perform in *Spelling Bee* this summer!



**STEVE PYSNIK** (VP Douglas Panch) is thrilled to be making his Raleigh Little Theatre debut! Past productions include *H.M.S. Pinafore, Sweeney Todd, Oliver!, The Sound of Music,* and *Into the Woods*. Steve also sings with The Seven Deadly Bibs and Singers of New and Ancient Music (SONAM). These performances are dedicated to Dave Pysnik, who would have made one hell of a Panch. Let's Go Duke + Ithaca Forever!



JARED MICHAEL SCOTT (Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad) is an East Coast native, having lived in Richmond and Raleigh before moving to Nashville with family. Jared attended school in Illinois, where he received his BFA in Acting from Millikin University. He is spending his summer teaching theater at NRACT, and will be moving to London in the fall to pursue a Masters in Actor Training and Coaching. He'd like to thank the

friends, family, and mentors who got him to this point! Enjoy the show!



**RYAN VASCONCELLOS** (Chip Tolentino/Jesus) is excited to be a part of his next production with Raleigh Little Theatre. Ryan was most recently in *In The Heights* as Sonny, and *Elephant and Piggie's "We Are In A Play"* as Elephant Gerald. Ryan is super excited to spell on a stage for the first time!

**PAULA ANDREWS** (Assistant Director) is extremely thrilled to be back in the theatre, especially supporting such a talented cast and crew. She has appeared in Raleigh Little Theatre's *Seussical The Musical* (2020) and *Junie B. Jones The Musical* (2019). Paula sends love and kisses to her husband and kids for their encouragement and support.

**DENNIS R. BERFIELD** (Production Manager) is from South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He received degrees in Theater and Communication Studies at the Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, and a Masters of Fine Arts in Scenic Design and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dennis has worked at various regional and off-Broadway theaters as a Scenic Artist, Carpenter, Master Carpenter, Scenic Designer, Assistant Technical Director, Scenic Coordinator. After working professionally for a number of years, Dennis became an adjunct professor at Millikin University in Decatur, IL and later the Technical Director at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

**CHRIS BERG** (Stage Manager) rediscovered theater 7 years ago (after a 25 year hiatus), and since then appeared on stage in *Christmas Story* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with Cary Players; as well as *Seussical* and *Calendar Girls* (cancelled due to Covid) at NRACT. Chris also worked on the technical side of many shows with Cary Players and stage managed *It's a Wonderful Life* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. He is thrilled to be in the booth for his first show at Raleigh Little Theatre, as well as his first outdoor show! He gives his love to his family for supporting his rediscovered theater hobby!

**DUSTIN BOWLES** (Assistant Lighting Designer) works in Human Resources for a wood biomass producer by day and is a theatre volunteer by night. Other free time is spent being an avid Carolina Hurricanes fan (LET'S GO CANES!). He is excited to be a part of another wonderful production at Raleigh Little Theatre. He has been involved with several productions and events at Raleigh Little Theatre in various backstage/production capacities since 2018. He thanks his family as well as Darby and Dennis for their continued support and the opportunity to learn more about lighting design.

**SHANNON CLARK** (Scenic Designer) returns to the world of theatre after a four year hiatus. He retired from teaching after 17 years at Cary Academy. He is thrilled to be back working with Raleigh Little Theatre and looks forward to future collaborations. He would like to give a special "Thank You" to his family Brian and Jayden for their support and generous spirit.

**DARYLENE HECHT** (Music Director) has worked as Music Director in multiple productions with Raleigh Little Theatre, Cary Players, and North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre. Some of her favorites include *Seussical, Smokey Joe's Café*, and *Legally Blonde*. She would like to thank Nancy and Chris for making hard work seem fun, as well as this incredibly talented cast for making her job so easy.

**TODD HOUSEKNECHT** (Sound Designer) has been active in community theatre in the Raleigh area for 15 years, providing set construction, technical direction, and sound design/engineering assistance for organizations that include Raleigh Little Theatre, Cary Players, NRACT, Forest Moon, and others. Highlights include *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Hairspray, Legally Blonde, Spring Awakening, Cinderella, Spamalot, Hedwig, Sweeney Todd, Avenue Q, Sister Act*, and many many others. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**DARBY E. MADEWELL** (Lighting Designer) (she/her/hers) is a lighting designer and NC State alum. She's thrilled to be creating art again with such a wonderful group of people! Previous credits at Raleigh Little Theatre include lighting designer for *The Velocity of Autumn*, sound designer for *A Number*, and sound designer for *Balloonacy*.

JENNY MITCHELL (Costume Shop Manager) is a Costume Designer with Raleigh Little Theatre. She is thankful to have such a dedicated group of volunteers and co-workers to work with on this, and every, production. Her most recent credits include: *Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook, The Mountaintop, A Number, Beehive,* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*.

ALYSSA PETRONE (Props Designer) is an avid crafter, creator, and all around problem solver, and has no less than six tricks up her sleeve at any given time. Stage managing, designing lights and props, crew, acting, sword fighting, knitting a scarf--She's up for any challenge you want to throw at her. Over the past 18 years she contributed to well over 100 productions, and refuses to pick any favorites to name here.

NANCY RICH (Director/Choreographer) is thrilled to be directing at Raleigh Little Theatre again, with this amazing cast and crew! Previous directing projects include: *Sister Act* (Director/Choreographer) at Raleigh Little Theatre, *Sweet Delilah Swim Club* (Director) at Theatre in the Park, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, Legally Blonde, Guys and Dolls, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Director/ Choreographer) for Cary Players. Next, Nancy will be directing Ken Ludwig's Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery. Thanks to Patrick for his sage advice and kind support. Special thanks to Rod, Darylene, Paula and Chris.

**HEATHER J. STRICKLAND** (Raleigh Little Theatre's Executive Director) started in her role in June 2020. Heather has more than 15 years of experience in developing organizational strategy and branding, fundraising, and cultivating engagement for nonprofit and public service organizations. She has been involved with RLT since 2005, starting as a volunteer and stepping into the roles of director, teaching artist, and board member over time. Heather has also worked as a director, actor, and dance/fight choreographer. She is a member of ArtEquity's first cohort of National Board Leaders and has a degree in Theatre Arts and Communications from Flagler College.

**PATRICK TORRES** (Raleigh Little Theatre's Artistic Director) has been a professional director and educator for over 15 years. His work has been seen at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Southwest Shakespeare Festival, Round House Theatre, The Source Festival, and the Hangar Theatre among others. In 2003, he was selected as a Drama League Directing Fellow and in 2005 was named a Young Leader of Color by the Theatre Communications Group. He has an MFA in Directing from the University of Southern Mississippi.

**BENJAMIN TARLTON** (Fight Choreographer) has been acting and fighting in North Carolina for over five years. He is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill studying theatre and music and has trained with the Society of American Fight Directors since he was 19, under Jeff A.R. Jones. He is a certified Actor Combatant.

**THE FARM** was founded in 2000 by Rebecca Feldman, Artistic Director. It is a collective of writers and performers, including Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg. The Farm's interest is in the role of improvisation in creating new work for the theatre. The Farm initially designates a two-week intensive period in which to discover, develop, and rehearse a play from the impulses borne mainly out of the pressure of a deadline. Previous projects include "Super" (at Atlantic Theatre Studios), "Why I Hate Florida" (workshop at White Wave in DUMBO) and "C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E" (at the Present Company Theatorium in October 2002), on which The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is based. The character and original dialogue of "Beth Marguiles," "Vice President Douglas Panch," "Mr. Barfee," and "Logan Schwarzengrubenierre" were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.

WILLIAM FINN (Music & Lyrics) is the writer and composer of Falsettos, for which he received two Tony Awards, Best Book of a Musical (with James Lapine) and Best Original Score. He has also written and composed In Trousers, March of the Falsettos and Falsettoland (Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, two Los Angeles Drama Critic's Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, the Lucille Lortel Award, and Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition). Mr. Finn wrote the lyrics to Graciela Daniele's Tango Apasionado (music by the great Astor Piazzolla) and, with Michael Starobin, the music to Lapine's version of The Winter's Tale. His musical, Romance in Hard Times, was presented at the Public Theater. Recently, he wrote Painting You for Love's Fire, a piece commissioned and performed by the Acting Company, based on Shakepeare's sonnets. For television, Mr. Finn provided the music and lyrics for the Ace Award-winning HBO cartoon "Ira Sleeps Over," "Tom Thumb and Thumbelina," "Pokey Little Puppy's First Christmas," and, with Ellen Fitzhugh, two "Brave little Toaster" cartoons. Mr. Finn has written for Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, and The New Yorker. A graduate of Williams College where he was awarded the Hutchinson Fellowship for Musical Composition, Finn now teaches a weekly master class at the NYU Tisch Graduate Program in Musical Theatre Writing. His most recent projects include Elegies, A Song Cycle (Lincoln Center) and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee which ran on Broadway and has been produced nationally and internationally, as well.

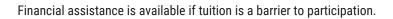
**REBECCA FELDMAN** is the conceiver of *The 25th Annual Putnam* County Spelling Bee for which she won a Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk and Tony Nomination for Best Musical. She directed its world premiere at Barrington Stage Company in the summer of 2004. Rebecca is Associate Producer on TRANSPARENT, the MUSICAL FINALE and served as Staff Writer on the finale as well. She is currently developing an episodic drama with Big Kid Pictures, called LA COYOTE, which has been selected to the WeForShe's 2019 Writeher List. She is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab as well as the AFI Directing Workshop for Women where she won the Jean Firstenburg Award for Best Short. Her short films include, MY FIRST TIME DRIVING (AFI Jean Firstenburg Award, Best Short at Lake Arrowhead Film Fest, Best of Shorts at Outfest), A/V CLUB (TV Pilot, NYTVF), UBER ALICE (Woodstock Film Fest), DEAD CAT (Producer, Tribeca Film Fest) and IRVING (Official Selection Rhode Island Film Fest, Official Selection USA Film Fest, Ft. Lauderdale Film Fest, Atlanta Jewish Film Fest).

RACHEL SHEINKIN (Book) Broadway: *The 25th Annual Putnam County* Spelling Bee (Tony, Drama Desk awards); Off Broadway: Striking 12 (Lucille Lortel nomination), Off-Off: Serenade. Regional: Guthrie, Little House on the Prairie; Center Theater Group, Sleeping Beauty Wakes(Los Angeles Ovation Award); London: Blood Drive. Residencies, fellowships, commissions include: Eugene O'Neill National Theater Center, Baryshnikov Dance Foundation, MacDowell Colony, Manhattan Theatre Club, Deaf West, McCarter Theatre, Playwrights Horizons. Rachel is a volunteer mentor for TDF's Open Doors program, a visiting instructor at Yale School of Drama, and adjunct faculty member of NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program.



Fall classes for youth age 2-18 and adults are now enrolling! Class sessions begin September 14 and November 2.

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& DESSER

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- Presenting art exhibitions, public art and special events

#### Vinculando al Pueblo con las Artes

La Comisión de Artes de la Ciudad de Raleigh sustenta la creatividad y enriquece a nuestra comunidad, favoreciendo las artes en Raleigh por medio de:

- La asociación con organizaciones culturales locales
- El apoyo de la programación de las artes
- El fomento de la inversión en el arte
- •La presentación de exposiciones artísticas, arte público y eventos especiales

#### 2021-2022 Raleigh Arts Partners

- African American Cultural Festival
- Animazement
- Arts Access
- Arts Together
- Artspace
- Artsplosure
- Burning Coal Theatre Company
- CAM Raleigh
- Carolina Ballet
- Chamber Music Raleigh
- Classical Voice of NC
- Community Music School
- El Pueblo
- The Justice Theater Project
- Marbles Kids Museum
- The NC Chamber Music Institute
- •NC Master Chorale
- NC Museum of History
- •NC Opera
- NC State LIVE
- •NC State University Theatre
- NC Symphony
- •NC Theatre
- North Raleigh Arts & Creative
  Theatre
- Nuv Yug Cultural Organization
- Performance Edge
- Philharmonic Association
- PineCone
- Raleigh Boychoir
- Raleigh Civic Symphony Association
- Raleigh Little Theatre
- The Raleigh Ringers
- Raleigh Symphony Orchestra
- Theatre in the Park
- Theatre Raleigh
- VAE Raleigh
- Women's Theatre Festival

www.raleighnc.gov/arts 919-996-3610 f) OfficeofRaleighArtsx) RaleighArts

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