

**SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY**



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music and lyrics by:

William Finn

Story by:

Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by:

Rebecca Feldman

Director

Anthony Guest

Music Director

Alissa Hetzner

Choreographer

Greg Patterson

Scenic Designer

Rachel Daigneault*

Sound Designer

Jaden Leverett*

Costume Designer

Eileen Brennan*

Hair and Makeup

Kassie Dunaj*

Props Master

Abigail Elliott*

Stage Manager

Amanda Pordon*

November 11-13, 18-20, 2021 at 8 p.m.

November 13-14, 20-21, 2021 at 2 p.m.

Varner Studio Theatre

*We are pleased to acknowledge the work of our students on the production team.

The Cast

Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive's Mom	Kennedy Vernengo
Chip Tolentino/Carl Dad	Alec Diem
Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre/Leaf's Mom	Sara Huffmaster
Leaf Coneybear/Dan Dad	Braeden Haggarty
William Barfée/Olive's Dad/Leaf's Dad	Travis Darghali
Marcy Park/Leaf's Sister	Chanelle Beach
Olive Ostrovsky	Rachel Sarles
Vice Principal Douglas Panch	Mason Gaida
Mitch Mahoney	Ash Moran

Understudies

Jesus/Rona	Leah Wilson
Chip Tolentino/Carl Dad/Jesus	Phillip Christiansen
Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre/Leaf's Mom	Ansley Kopp
Leaf/Dan Dad	Brock Ritter
Barfée/Olive's Dad/Leaf's Dad	Aidan Phillips
Marcy/Leaf's Sister	Cayla Stus
Olive Ostrovsky	Sarita Alvarado
Vice Principal Douglas Panch	Brady Jacot
Mitch Mahoney	Gwendolyn Mace

Time and Place: Putnam County, 2021.

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* runs about an hour and 50 minutes WITHOUT an Intermission.

Special thanks to the Purple Rose, Terry Herald, Randy Magner, Frankel Jewish Academy, Meadow Brook Theatre, Phillip Christansen, and Mitch Master from Nicely Theatre Group for all their support with our production.

Musical Numbers

Act One

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”
“The Spelling Rules/My Favorite Moment of the Bee”
“My Friend, the Dictionary”
“The First Goodbye”
“Pandemonium”
“I’m Not That Smart”
“The Second Goodbye”
“Magic Foot”
“Pandemonium (reprise)/My Favorite Moment of the Bee 2”
“Why We Like Spelling”
“Prayer of the Comfort Counselor”

Act Two

“My Unfortunate Erection (Chip’s Lament)”
“Woe is Me”
“I’m Not That Smart (reprise)”
“I Speak Six Languages”
“The I Love You Song”
“Woe is Me (reprise)”
“My Favorite Moment of the Bee 3/Second”
“Finale”
“The Last Goodbye”

Band Members

Keyboard 1/Conductor-- Alissa Hetzner

Keyboard 2-- Cat Dacpano

Woodwinds-- Ian McEwen

Cello-- Andrew Toering

Percussion-- David Mety

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

Dramaturg's Note

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee follows the lives of Chip, Leaf, Logainne, Marcy, Barfée, and Olive as they all navigate what it means to be a preteen and how to deal with the constant pressure of competition. Is this spelling bee their one opportunity to prove themselves worthy of a first-place title not just within this competition, but to prove they are the best in their daily lives as well? This show poses the question: is life bigger than the bee, is life bigger than just me? The characters go on a journey of self-discovery in which they must decide for themselves what being the best means to them. Furthermore, does this competition define who they are as people and what they will go on to accomplish throughout their lives? This show centers around the everyday thoughts and emotions that adolescents grapple with when they are young and impressionable. It focuses on how competition and the drive to constantly be at your best can cause a lot of negative thoughts, doubts and anxiety. This show could be a metaphor for how competition is ingrained within people's lives. Following that, how someone's perspective can change once they are aware that constantly being the best is not always the solution they may be searching for. These competitive mindsets parallel how actors feel in pursuit of a role and having to go up against others for the same role. We can be our own toughest critic. Oftentimes, we get in our heads about our competition and believe we must be recognized as 'the best' in order to feel a sense of accomplishment. The characters come to learn that life has possibilities and adventures waiting for them, they just need to step away from the pressure long enough to see it. Has society taught us from a young age that beating out the competition is the only defining factor when it comes to success? How impactful is the moment when you realize that you have so much more to offer the world than a first-place trophy?

- Isabella Goff
Production Dramaturg

Due to copyright restrictions, video/and or audio recording of any kind during this production is strictly prohibited!

The Production Staff

Technical Director and Scene Shop Supervisor:	Joe Beck
Scene Shop Assistants:	Randy Magner, Jacquilin Strauder
Costume Shop Supervisor:	Christa Koerner
Scenic Design Advisor:	Jeremy Barnett
Costume Design Advisor:	Whitney Locher
Dramaturgy Advisor:	David Gram
Assistant Director/Dramaturg:	Isabella Goff
Assistant Stage Managers:	Kenny Hong, Joe Kocenda
Dance Captain:	Alec Diem
Scenic Charge:	Olivia Kunkle
Master Electrician:	Eden Cope
Assistant Props Master:	River Tomalka
Costume Shop Staff:	Eileen Brennan, Olivia Kunkle, Colin Franz, Mimi Denstaedt, Madeline Daunt, Katie Lengyel
Scene Shop Staff:	Jacquilin Strauder, Randy Magner, Rachel Sarles, Jaden Leverett, River Tomalka, Tuger Xiong
Wardrobe Head:	Colin Franz
Lighting Board Op:	Grace Lawrence
Follow Spot 1:	Grace Ricci
Follow Spot 2:	Lily Soergel Harris
Follow Spot 3:	Montana King
Follow Spot 4:	Stanley Misevich
Sound Board Op:	Sergio Mautone
Sound Floor Person:	Aurora Ave-Lallemant
Audio 2-	Del Harris
Dresser/Wardrobe Crew:	Katie Lengyel
Front of House:	Jaclyn Ellis
Front of House:	Cosette Reece
Front of House:	Emily Kloc
Props Runner:	Ava Taube
Promotional Photos and Video:	JLBoone Photography
Marketing Manager:	Carly Uhrig