

CCM
MUSICALS SERIES
PRESENTS

**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 produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L Nederlander,
Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre

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

Nov. 8-12, 2023
Cohen Family Studio Theater

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE-CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
DIVISION OF THEATRE ARTS, PRODUCTION AND ARTS ADMINISTRATION
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Director
Chaz Wolcott

Scenic Designer
Regan Densmore*

Technical Director
Lukas Hummeldorf*

Choreographer
Chaz Wolcott

Lighting Designer
Jessica Drayton*

Props Manager
Melanie Reitman*

Musical Director
Steve Goers

Costume Designer
Corey Cochran*

Dance Captains
Carter Minor*
Griffin Simmons*

Voice/Dialect Coach
Sarah Summerwell

Sound Designer
Kaitlin Barnett*

Intimacy Captain
Annalise Prentiss*

Assistant Director
Jackson Reagin*

Production Stage Manager
Sarah Patisaul*

***Denotes CCM Student**

“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.

Run time will be 2 hours, including a 15-minute intermission

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

W-E-L-C-O-M-E to *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* here at CCM! We are delighted you've joined us for the show.

The musical was based on *C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E*, an original, improvisational play written by Rebecca Feldman and performed by The Farm. William Finn (music and lyrics) and Rachel Sheinkin (book) were brought on to make the show a musical, which was workshopped and developed at Barrington Stage Company and then transferred Off-Broadway before landing on Broadway in 2005, where it earned six Tony Award nominations.

Spelling Bee has always struck a chord with anyone who ever cared a little too much about something that, in the long run, maybe didn't matter as much as we felt it did in the moment. The children we usually see being bullied for being too nerdy are celebrated for their intelligence in this show. The stakes and pressure these kids feel to win the Bee probably reminds us all of something we have felt or seen in our own lives. As we present this show about schoolchildren in 2023, I am reminded that times have changed a lot since I was a kid. Our young citizens are dealing with more than they ever have before, from pandemics to smartphones to drug crises to school shootings. We live in a time where every book, every teacher, and every lesson we teach is being scrutinized by the government. A high percentage of our society is struggling with mental health in profound ways, and while we are finally diagnosing learning disorders and attention-deficit disorders at a higher rate, we still aren't doing that much as a society to support those that need accommodations to succeed. Maybe it is a good time to examine the pressures we put on the youngest members of our society, which may open up a conversation about the insurmountable pressures we put on adults to succeed too. The show examines the complicated relationship between parents and children, but to expand that more globally - the relationship between the powerful and the powerless. How the powerless try to live up to an impossible standard that the powerful has set for them, and how that pressure is often too much to handle.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

From AP exams and college admissions essays to sports tournaments, dance competitions, and spelling bees, how can we encourage our children to develop their talents and passions without becoming the pushy parents we see in the show? How do we balance our own stresses with the needs of our children to avoid turning into the absent parents we see the kids in the show longing for? How do we teach our children that no matter how hard you work, life is always full of surprises, disappointment, and yes, sometimes even a little pandemonium. The kids in the show feel every emotion they experience very deeply. Their futures, their happiness, and their self-worth is wrapped up in this silly little spelling tournament. Throughout the show, a lot of the young spellers begin to examine what “winning” really means. Does it mean that you hoist the trophy at the end of the Bee? Do you win if you make someone else smile? Do you win if you release yourself from the pressure you’re feeling? Do you win if you find the line you won’t cross to win, and therefore develop your own value system? A lot of growing up happens at the Putnam County Spelling Bee. Maybe being here really is winning.

I hope that, if you enjoy your time with us today, you will consider becoming a member of CCMpower, a group of friends and alumni fueling the future of the arts at CCM. This incredible group raises funds to provide the unique experiences that an education in the performing or media arts requires. The work you see tonight is the culmination of years of dedication to our craft, on the stage and behind the scenes. CCM is able to create incredible theatre because of you. To learn more or to join CCMpower, scroll to the bottom of your digital program and make a secure donation online. In addition to supporting the students whose work you will see tonight, you will receive special benefits like advance ticket sales, parking passes for the CCM garage, backstage tours, and more.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you for attending *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

May the best speller win!

Sincerely,

Chaz Wolcott

Director/Choreographer of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

*Special Note on Casting

The show has always featured adults playing children. One of those children is Marcy Park. The original Marcy on Broadway, Deborah S. Craig, who was proud to be one of the first Korean-American actors to play a featured role in a musical, helped develop the character with the creative team based on her own lived experience. The script, however, does not specify a race for Marcy, and after we engaged as a community about this, we have decided that the struggles Marcy encounters are consistent with the struggles many different races face in the melting pot we call America, especially brown bodies in predominately white communities. We have cast an incredible actress in the role who brings her own history and lived experience to the role, even though she has a different racial background than the original actress. Similar to Deborah S. Craig, she too is proud to be one of the first Guatemalan-American actors to play a featured role in a musical. We feel the dialogue about this is important to help create a world where folks aren't held to higher standards because of their race or status in society, but rather uplifted. The fact that many students from various racial backgrounds can relate to the pressure Marcy feels to be perfect should indicate that our society is still far from equal.

THE COMPANY

The Spellers

Chip Tolentino Andrew Burke*
Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere Amanda Bishop*
Leaf Coneybear Joey Baciocco*
William Barfée Nicholas Pattarini*
Marcy Park Annalise Prentiss*
Olive Ostrovsky Madison Osment*

The Adults

Rona Lisa Perretti Julia Schick*
Vice Principal Douglas Panch Dan Klimko*
Mitch Mahoney Sam Yousuf*
Jesus Christ JT Langlas*
Carl Grubenniere Andrew Burke*
Dan Schwartz Sam Yousuf*
Olive's Mom Julia Schick*
Olive's Dad Sam Yousuf*

Swings

For Olive Amelia Lamb, Maya Sharma, Ellie Eisele*
For Barfée Declan Smith, Carter Minor, Griffin Simmons*
For Rona Amelia Lamb, Ellie Eisele*
For Chip Griffin Simmons, Declan Smith, JT Langlas*
For Panch Declan Smith, Carter Minor, Griffin Simmons*
For Mitch Carter Minor, JT Langlas*
For Schwarzzy Ellie Eisele, Maya Sharma, Amelia Lamb*
For Leaf JT Langlas, Griffin Simmons, Carter Minor*
For Marcy Maya Sharma, Amelia Lamb*
For Jesus Griffin Simmons, Carter Minor, Declan Smith*

***Denotes CCM Student**

COMPANY PROFILES

Student bios are organized by major and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name. The bios on this page include Acting, Ballet, Musical Theatre, Opera and Voice students.

ccm.uc.edu/programs/bios

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

ACT 1

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" | Company |
| "The Spelling Rules" | Panch and Spellers |
| "My Favorite Moment of the Bee" | Rona |
| "My Friend, the Dictionary" | Olive and Company |
| "The First Goodbye" | Company |
| "Pandemonium" | Panch, Chip, Mitch, and Spellers |
| "I'm Not That Smart" | Leaf |
| "The Second Goodbye" | Company |
| "Magic Foot" | Barfée and Company |
| "Pandemonium (Reprise)" | Mitch, Chip, and Company |
| "My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)" | Rona |
| "Prayer of the Comfort Counselor" | Mitch and Company |

ACT 2

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| "Chip's Lament" | Chip |
| "Woe is Me" | Logainne, Carl, Dan, and Company |
| "Spelling Montage" | Panch and Spellers |
| "I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)" | Leaf |
| "I Speak Six Languages" | Marcy and Company |
| "Marcy's Epiphany" | Marcy and Company |
| "The I Love You Song" | Olive and Olive's Parents |
| "Woe is Me (Reprise)" | Logainne, Mitch, and Company |
| "My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)" | Rona |
| "Second" | Barfée, Olive, Rona, and Company |
| "Finale" | Company |
| "The Last Goodbye" | Company |

ORCHESTRA ROSTER

Steve Goers, Musical Director

Piano/Conductor

Steve Goers

Synthesizer

Casey Reed*

Cello

Matthew Lei*

Woodwinds

Geovanny Morales-Santos*

Percussion

Jett Stevens*

PRODUCTION STAFF

| | |
|--|--|
| Assistant Stage Managers | El Bowers, Jordan Shaw* |
| Production Assistant | Chloe Caudill* |
| Assistant Production Managers | Katie Reus, Annalee Crosser* |
| Assistant Lighting Designers..... | Matti Andrews, Nate Hodges* |
| Assistant Costume Designer..... | Cassie Smith* |
| Assistant Sound Designer | Macay Smith* |
| Draper | Cassidy Kempthorne* |
| Costume Shop Graduate Assistants | Max Cotman, Lauren Fitts, Cassidy Kempthorne* |
| Wardrobe Supervisor | Abby Barrientes* |
| Wardrobe Crew Head(s)..... | Alannah Gorrigan, Emily Mallendick, Rachel Luneke* |
| Wardrobe Crew | Adrian Graff* |
| Production Electrician | Rachel Ledington* |
| Deck Electrician | Lucia Thill* |
| Lighting Board Operator | Jack Capobianco* |
| Electrician/Programmer..... | Maddi Myer* |
| Follow Spot Operators | Bethany Untener, Lily Landoch* |
| Head Carpenter..... | Evan Reinhart* |
| Run Crew..... | Chloe Hessling* |
| Set Construction Crew..... | Sarah Anderson, Sadie Boeskool , Ryan Bradbury, Anya Brennan, Ryan Buckley, Hank Burns-Pavlik, Jack Capobianco, Chloe Caudill, Robert Chalk, Halena Edwards, Will Everson, Evan Fehn, Madeline Field, Ali Fishbain, Jason Goodman, Michael Hamburg, Chloe Hessling, Jacob Kaplan, Emma Miller, Katie Mogren, Val Molloy, McGregor Phillips, Ella Rosoff, Joseph Schmitt, Keira Schneider, Elle Stumpf, Lacey Vailikit, Hayden Valkema, Flynn Wilson, Ben Wright, Blake Yavuz* |
| Scene Shop Assistants..... | Will Blank, Iz Dillon, Willow Heichel, Corvo Hopkins, Lukas Hummeldorf, Nick Hunley, Hunter Lee, Benji Lookatch, Paloma Robles, Morgan Terry* |
| Scenic Charge Artist..... | Anna Camerer* |
| Production Sound Engineer..... | Frank Jernigan* |
| Audio Technician 1 | Kayla Chen* |
| Audio Technician 2..... | Nick Feldmann* |
| Microphone Technicians..... | Emma Miller, Lacay Vailikit* |

***Denotes CCM Student**

PRODUCTION PROFILES

Student bios are organized by major and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name. The bios on this page include Costume Design and Technology, Lighting Design and Technology, Make-Up and Wig Design, Sound Design, Stage Design, Stage Properties, Stage Management and Technical Production.

ccm.uc.edu/programs/production-bios

TAPAA FACULTY AND STAFF

Faculty and staff bios are organized by department and within each section they are listed alphabetically by name.

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