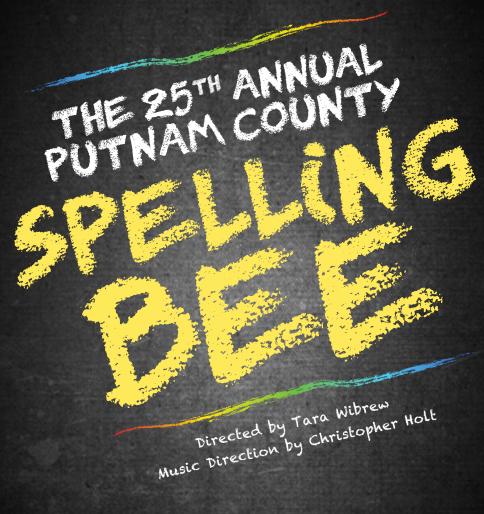
University Theatre Presents

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



MAY 23 24 30 31 JUNE 1* 5 6 7 8*

7:30 pm evenings 2:00 pm matinees*

HOPE THEATRE

Miller Theatre Complex



University Theatre

University Theatre 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 Directed on Broadway by James Lapine

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

THE SHOW RUNS ABOUT TWO HOURS

including one 15-minute intermission

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee will be interpreted in American Sign Language on June 7.

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

Distribution of audio or audiovisual recording or the Play or any portion of it by any means whatsoever, including, but not limited to, through physical media (e.g., film, CD, DVD, tape), the internet, or any method of digital recording or distribution is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

University Theatre is located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon, and continue to make important contributions in their communities, at UO, and across the land we now refer to as Oregon.

CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Rona Lisa Peretti/ Olive's MomLaura Leader
Charlito "Chip" Tolentino/ Jesus Christ
Logainne "Schwartzy" Schwartzandgrubenierre
Leaf Coneybear/ Carl DadAri Rubenstein
William Morris BarféeVeer Chulki
Marcy ParkKelly Finch
Olive OstrovskyAixa Gutierrez
Vice Principal Douglas Panch/ Olive's DadLandon Kobz
Mitch Mahoney/ Dan DadElijah Tinker Jean



PRODUCTION/CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Tara Wibrew

Music Director: Christopher Holt

Vocal Director: Jeany Van Meltebeke Snider

Choreographer: Darcy Rust

Assistant Director: Logan Love

Stage Manager: Max Maltz

Assistant Stage Managers: Farrine Leslie, Kio Hill

Costume Designers: Annika McNair, Sara Smith

Lighting Designer: Jordan Hamlin

Scenic Designer: Graham Mauro

Properties Designer: Nala Johnson

Technical Director/Sound Designer: Bradley Branam

Production Manager: Janet Rose

Costume Design Advisor: Jeanette deJong

Lighting Design Advisor: Janet Rose

Scenic and Properties Design Advisor: Jerry Hooker

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.

SCENIC, LIGHTING, AND SOUND CREW

Scene Shop Supervisor: Michael Walker

Scene Shop GE: Graham Maruo

Assistant Scenic Designers: Makayla Meleason, Addie Leonard

Assistant Costume Designer: Levi Nissley

Properties Assistant: Emma Kirby

Set Construction/Paint Crew: Jacqueline LaRoche, Makayla Meleason,

Addie Leonard, TA 121, TA 124, TA 210

Scenic Artists: Delaney Lipkin, and Nathan Vandehe

Assistant Lighting Designer: Laura Leader

Running Crew: Reece Miller-Reynolds, Ayano Yamada, Erika Noda, Carson Koudele

Production Sound Engineer: Ian Cash, Story Arney

Production Sound Technicians: Sadie Raihl, Hunter Boyer

Sound Crew: Ted Martin, Kio Hill

Light Board Operator: Caroline Crawford

Electricians: Isaac Webb, September Gudgel, Erika Noda, Ted Martin, Ayano Yamada

COSTUMING AND WARDROBE CREWS

Costume Shop Manager: Heather Bair

Costume Shop GEs: Grace O'Brien-Hickey, Mehrnoosh Moosapoor

Costume Crew: Nala Johnson, Rien Leong, Zoe Uhlig

Costume Construction: TA 122 Students, TA 212 Students, TA 322 Students:

Sonora Cooke, Lucas McColough, Alana Cole

Costuming Volunteer: Alex Smith

Wardrobe Crew Head: Oliver Twitchell

Wardrobe Crew: Carina Miner, Stephanie Schafstall

SPECIAL THANKS

UO Theatre Arts Faculty and Staff

Aycan Akçamete, Heather Bair, Bradley Branam, Jeanette deJong, Jerry Hooker,
Michael Malek Najjar, Tricia Rodley, Janet Rose,
Phil Scher, Michael Walker, Alohilani Wright

Emeriti Faculty

Robert Barton, Alexandra B. Bonds, Theresa May,

John Schmor, Jerry Williams

Special Thanks

Pegasus Playhouse, Audience participants, Rehearsal spellers, and The Associated Students of the University of Oregon

University Theatre is extremely grateful to the Associated Students of the University of Oregon for their generous financial support of our productions.

American Sign Language Interpretation provided by
University of Oregon College of Education

FRONT OF HOUSE & MARKETING

Marketing Coordinators: Michelle Wright, Kaylee Aalbers

Marketing Assistant: Bella Miwa

Photography: Jess Simpson

House Manager: Iona Gessner

Ushers: Kailee Baumgardner, Jake Castigliano, Suzy Oakes, Grace Stitt, Emily Andaya

Ticketing: UO Box Office

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Let's be honest: the world is a bit of a mess right now. Random and unfair. Pandemonium.

We won't be able to tackle all of the world's big bads in one night, on our own. But we have to start somewhere. Why not start here? Can we find joy in resistance, revelation in community as we try, fail, succeed, cry, laugh, and play together?

Tonight, we welcome you to enjoy the world as it could be: sharing stories and fears, growing through adversity, and welcoming everyone to be the fullest, best version of themselves--bizarre habits and all.

It's a very, very, very nice beginning.

Welcome to Putnam County, spellers. By being here, you're already a winner.

- Tara Wibrew, Director

SONGS

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
My Friend, the Dictionary
Pandemonium
I'm Not That Smart
Magic Foot
Pandemonium (Reprise)



Prayer of the Comfort Counselor

[Intermission]

Chip's Lament
Woe is Me
Spelling Montage
I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)
I Speak Six Languages
Jesus
The I Love You Song
Woe is Me (Reprise)
Second
Finale

ORCHESTRA

Conducter	Christopher Holt
Piano	Christopher King
Drums	Donald Inglese Sub. Hinoki Wetzel
Reed	Abigail Robertson

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME)

Veer Chulki (William Morris Barfée) is a first-year student majoring in Data Science with a minor in Computer and Information Technology. His recent roles include Emmett Forrest in *Legally Blonde*, Motel the Tailor in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mr. Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice*, and Jimmy Ray Dobbs in *Bright Star*. Veer was born and raised in Houston, Texas and loves jazz music, basketball, and playing the drums. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Kelly Finch (Marcy Park) is a third year student at the University of Oregon and is studying Elementary Education. This is her 4th show at the University of Oregon, and second show on the main stage. Kelly would like to thank all of her friends and family for their endless support, and she is so excited for this show and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this it.

Aixa Gutierrez (Olive Ostrovsky) is a second year psychology student minoring in Spanish. This is her debut production with University Theater. She has also previously been involved in Pocket Playhouse productions here at UO. In her free time, she loves grabbing an oat milk latte and spending time with her cat, Otter.

Landon Kobz (Vice Principal Douglas Panch/Olive's Dad) is a Sophomore majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Theater Arts. This is his third show with the university. He was in the Fall show this year *Frankenstein* (The Creature) and also played Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* in his home town of Chico, California. He won a silver medal at the Lenea Theater Festival for vocal performance in 2023.

Laura Leader (Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive's Mom/Assist. Lighting Designer) is in her final year at UO, majoring in Theatre Arts. Though she began her theatre career as a performer, she primarily works as a professional stage manager, as well as serving as the Technical Director for UO's Pocket Playhouse. She finds joy in all aspects of theatre - both onstage and off. She eagerly anticipates graduating and continuing to follow her passions in the theatre.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

(CONTINUED)

Andrew Nelson (Charlito "Chip" Tolentino/Jesus Christ) is a first year Music Education and Theater Arts student at UO. He has previously been in *Seussical* (Cat in the Hat) and *Addams Family* (Lucas) at Curtis High School, as well as been in *Firebringer* at VLT (Ensemble). He wants to thank his family and friends and, of course, April Cavelti.

Aaralyn Reed (Logainne "Schwartzy" Schwartzandgrubenierre) is currently a junior double-majoring in Theatre Arts and Linguistics. Their previous roles with University Theatre include Jean in *POTUS*, Third Chorister in *Antigone*, and #2 in *The Wolves*. Aaralyn gets paid to people-watch at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and in their spare time can be found collecting trinkets, wishing Pokémon were real, doodling, and contemplating the fact that life is random and unfair.

Ari Rubenstein (Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad) is a 4th year environmental studies student at the University of Oregon. Ari has been in various shows at the University of Oregon including *Personal History* and *The Essential Etiquette for House Parties and Hijinks* with the Pocket Playhouse. In high school, he also acted in shows, playing Schlomo Metzenbaum in *Fame* and directing a production of *Pippin*. In his free time, Ari likes to act in short films on campus, play piano, and go on hikes around the area.

Elijah Tinker (Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad) is a Freshman Vocal Performance Major minoring in theatre. This is Elijah's debut production with University Theatre, and he's excited for the years to come! Elijah has performed in 20+ music and theatre productions, with some of his favorite roles including originating the role of Seth in *Spider* at Oregon Children's Theatre and playing Jack in *Jack and Jill* at Cleveland High School in Portland, Oregon.



PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER BY LAST NAME)

Heather Bair (Costume Shop Manager) is in her fourth year at the University of Oregon and has been working as a cutter/draper at such companies as LA Opera, The Alley Theatre, Glimmerglass and the Santa Fe Opera. She extends many thanks to our Costume Lab students for each beautiful stitch, thread-mark, label, seam and rhinestone that helped bring Spelling Bee to life!

Bradley Branam (Technical Director/Sound Designer) is an associate professor and the technical director and media designer for the University Oregon theatre arts department. Bradley has served as the resident designer and technical director for the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center. He also worked with the Ash Lawn Opera Festival as the production manager and technical director. Other credits include Denver Center Theatre Company, the Kansas City Repertory Theatre Company, the Commonweal Theatre Company, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, and The Old Creamery Theatre Company. He received his BA in theatre from Luther College, in Decorah, IA and his MFA from the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Jordan Hamlin (Lighting Designer) is in their 4th year majoring in theatre. They recently did lighting design for *Into the Woods* for the Non-Stop Players, and *Dark Sisters* for the Eugene Opera. They currently work for Event Services at the university as well as a stagehand under IATSE. This will be their 5th production at the UO.

Kio Hill (Assistant Stage Manager) is in his junior year, majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in sports business and theatrical arts. This is his fifth University of Oregon production and second production working as an ASM, with his first show being in his freshman year with *The Wolves*. He is also a proud member of the Sousaphone section in the Oregon Marching Band.

Christopher Holt (Music Director) has been a music teacher in Oregon Public Schools since 1995. He has directed or played in the pit for over 30 shows, including high school productions, children's theater and community theater. He is active in the community playing his clarinet in multiple local groups and directing the Springfield Community Concert Band. All three of his children are pursuing careers in professional ballet, and after he retires from Thurston Middle School this June he looks forward to having more time to travel and watch them perform.

Nala Johnson (Properties Designer) is a senior majoring in theater arts. She has worked on numerous shows for UO as a stitcher in the costume shop and also worked as a cutter draper for this show. This is her first time being on the design team for a production. She had a lot of fun making these props and watching this show get brought to life. She hopes you enjoy them and the show as much as she does!

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

(CONTINUED)

Emma Kirby (Assistant Props Designer) is a senior, majoring in Theatre Arts. Emma first worked with the University theatre as a part of the ensemble in the 2019 production of *Machinal*. She had to take a break from theatre for a while because of COVID, but now she's gotten back into it!

Farrine Leslie (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in theater arts. Her favorite amino acid is valine and if she isn't up finishing her lab reports she's usually baking, doing pottery, making playlists, playing the sims, or boring people with jellyfish facts. Her favorite musical at the moment is *Hadestown* because she likes to be sad on purpose.

Logan Love (Assistant Director) is a second-year Theatre Arts major with a minor in Art History, emphasizing in direction. This is Logan's first production at University Theatre, and he couldn't ask for a better director and creative team. His previous directing works include *Puffs* and *Sorority House of the Dead* through the Pocket Playhouse. He also serves as one of the Technical Directors for the Pocket Playhouse. He enjoys hiking and getting Dutch Bros and Diet Coke with friends!

Max Maltz (Stage Manager) is in their final term at the University of Oregon, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre Arts. This is their first time as a Stage Manager, but Max has been in over 20 shows in nearly every capacity. Some of their other shows at UO include *Personal History* (ASM), *12 Angry Jurors* (Juror 11), *God Said This* (ASM), and *Antigone* (ASM). They want their mom to know: "I Love You!"

Graham Mauro (Scenic Designer) Graham is in his final term of an MFA in scenic design and technical direction. This is his third scenic design with the department. Previous roles with the department include: projection designer, technical director, special effects coordinator, and special weapons designer.

Annika McNair (Co-Costume Designer) hopes you enjoy the costumes as much as she enjoyed designing them with Co-Designer, Sara Smith. Her previous works including the UO's production of *POTUS*, the UO's production of *Antigone*, and *The Spirits of Sylvia Beach* for the Porthole Players. Annika's favorite part of design is crafting intense detail with purpose. She dreams you'll see those details on a movie screen someday.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

(CONTINUED)

Makayla Meleason (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a junior, majoring in Cinema Studies and minoring in Theater Arts. She has helped with various productions at the University of Oregon including assistant stage managing for the winter term production of *Frankenstein: Playing with Fire*. She loves having movie nights with her friends and helping build the theater sets!

Levi Nissly (Assistant Costume Designer) is a junior and a theater arts major at the University of Oregon. Right now my role is the costume designer assistant for the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. I have taken TA 212 and am currently taking a costume design class. My hobbies include painting and making art in my free time.

Darcy Rust (Choreographer) is a senior BFA dance major here at UO. Her choreography has been seen at The Cottage Theatre in *Something Rotten!*, *Frankenstein*, and *Big Fish*. She has also choreographed in UO School of Music and Dance concerts. This is her first UO Theatre production and she couldn't be more thankful for the support the cast and crew has given her. Enjoy the silliness that is the bee!

Sara Smith (**Co-Costume Designer**) This the first show Sara has designed for and she is incredibly proud of how it turned out. Sara poured her heart and soul into these designs and hopes the magic of the bee showed through them. A special thanks to Nala Johnson who took the design for Olive Ostrovsky's dress and brought it to life, it was M-A-G-I-C-A-L working with her. It was an honor to be the first team to co-design costumes at UO with Annika McNair.

Jeany Van Meltebeke Snider (Vocal Director) is an American/Canadian theatre artist. Recent local projects include *Christmas Presence* at the Wildish Theater, *Something Clean* at Oregon Contemporary Theatre, *Fiddler on the Roof* at The Shedd, and directing *Madagascar Jr.* for Rose Children's Theater. After 17 years at Alberta's Rosebud Theatre and School of the Arts, Jeany enjoyed teaching Acting fall term at UO. She is the artistic director of Narrow Shoes Productions and enjoys cooking and discovering colorful things on walks.

Tara Wibrew (Director) is a theatremaker, connector, and producer of many stripes. Recent directing credits include *Antigone* (University Theatre); *Small Mouth Sounds* (SPA/LCC); *A Christmas Carol: A 1940s Radio Show* (OSU); *Witch*, and *A Doll's House, Part 2* (OCT). She currently serves as Program Director at Lane Arts Council. Other credits: founding member of Operation Shadowbox, lead singer for The NightViews, and producer/co-host of What The Musical.

CREATORS

The Farm 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) was 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 also wrote 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. 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 wrote 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 taught a weekly master class at the NYU Tisch Graduate Program in Musical Theatre Writing. Other 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. Mr. Finn passed away on April 7th, 2025.

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).

CREATORS

(CONT.)

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.

Jay Reiss (Additl. Materials) is a playwright. He is a Julliard graduate and provided additional material to the book for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.* Reiss appeared in the original workshops, Off-Broadway cast, and Broadway cast of the musical as Vice Principal Douglas Panch.



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 49®, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein. Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation. Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts. This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels. Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance. Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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