



AUDITION NOTICE

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

ONE ACT MUSICAL

MUSIC & LYRICS BY William Finn/**BOOK BY** Rachel Sheinkin/**CONCEIVED BY** Rebecca Feldman

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY Jay Reiss

RATED: PG-13

REHEARSALS BEGIN: March 13, 2023

PERFORMANCES: May 4-20, 2023

AUDITIONS: Friday, March 3/By Appointment-6:30-10:00 PM
Saturday, March 4/By Appointment-10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Auditions will be held at the Art & Music Center, located on the campus of Aquinas College.

Please prepare 16-20 bars of a song (approx a minute of music). Please bring sheet music, an accompanist will be provided. Be prepared to dance.

For resources and specific information (ex. sheet music, audio tracks, scene selections, etc., please refer to <https://circletheatre.org/auditions/> and select the **RESOURCES & CALLBACK MATERIALS tab.**

VIDEO AUDITIONS: *Video submissions will be accepted from February 13-28, 2023
*Complete online registration form and send video submissions to auditions@circletheatre.org
*Video submissions should include the following:
(1) *Uptempo song (16 bars of a song)*
(1) *Ballad (16 bars of a song)*

CALLBACKS: BY REQUEST ONLY March 5, 2022 @ 1:30 PM
If you are called back, you will be notified by March 5, 2022.
For callbacks, be prepared to:
*sing from the score
*read from the script
*dance (bring comfortable clothes and shoes to dance in)

PRODUCTION STAFF: CO-DIRECTORS/Chris & Jenna Grooms
MUSIC DIRECTOR/Scott Patrick Bell
CHOREOGRAPHER/Mary Lohman

STAGE MANAGER/Kendra Jones

THE STORY:

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent kids vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box. Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless humor and vibrant score.

CASTING:

Adults, age 18-30; all ethnicities. This show is traditionally produced with performers doubling various roles as indicated in the script.

NOTE: In reference to the character descriptions below – The characters in this show are on the binary and written with he/him or she/her pronouns as you will see in the following descriptions. However, we seek to be as inclusive as possible and ask gender non-conforming, gender queer, transgender and non-binary actors to list on the audition form the roles they most identify with. We also list race/ethnicity when specific to the character, but are otherwise seeking all races and ethnicities. Unless otherwise noted, roles will be open for consideration of actors of all ethnicities.

CHARACTERS :

Chip Tolentino: An athletic, social, boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment.

Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniére (Schwartzzy): Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. She is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year.

Leaf Coneybear: The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and spells words correctly while in a trance.

William Barfee: A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy, bullying personality. He develops a crush on Olive.

Marcy Park: The ultimate over-achiever, Marcy has never been given another option. She comes from a family where excellence is expected and so simply produced. A parochial school student, she assumes God, too, expects perfection. She sees herself as a mass of problems but she keeps them to herself. Having moved often because of her parents' work, she knows she can beat the local competition. Her many talents include piano, dance, martial arts, baton twirling, and/or whatever special gifts you can find in your casting pool.

Olive Ostrovsky: A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. Having found comfort in

its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms.

Rona Lisa Peretti: The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children, but she can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Vice Principal Panch and his feelings for her. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward.

Douglas Panch: The Vice Principal. Frustrated with his life, he finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, but she does not return his affections.

Mitch Mahoney: The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He has no idea how to offer comfort, but does find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better.

Carl Dad: Schwarzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzy's fathers. *Normally played by an actor playing Leaf.*

Dan Dad: The more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzy's fathers. *Normally played by the actor playing Mitch.*

Jesus Christ: Deity invoked by a speller in need. *Normally played by the actor playing Chip.*

Leaf's Mom, Dad, And Siblings : All more academically gifted than Leaf, they are even more surprised than he is by his success. *Normally played by the spellers and audience volunteers as indicated in the script.*

Olive's Dad: A fantasy version of Olive's dad coming to the bee from work. *Normally played by the actor playing Mitch.*

Olive's Mom: A fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India. *Normally played by the actor playing Rona.*

For additional information, please visit the Circle Theatre website. (www.circletheatre.org)