



NEWS RELEASE  
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*MUSICAL COMEDY THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE OPENS THE 2023 MAIN STAGE SEASON AT CIRCLE THEATRE*

Our Hashtags: #circletheatregr #supportgrtheatre #circlespellingbee #circle2023

Twitter Ready Quote: *Musical-comedy The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee will open Circle Theatre's 2023 Main Stage Season. Co-directed by Chris and Jenna Grooms, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee runs at Circle Theatre from May 4-20. Tickets and information available at [circletheatre.org](http://circletheatre.org).*

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., April 20, 2023 - Circle Theatre, West Michigan's go-to destination for exceptional theatrical arts in an intimate setting, will kick off their 2023 Main Stage season with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a musical comedy.

A 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. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents 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.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, co-directed by Chris and Jenna Grooms, will be performed at the Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Aquinas College. Join us to find out who wins the spelling bee! The show runs May 4-6, 10-14 and 17-20, with May 14 being a matinee showing. Tickets are available for \$26 - \$30 at [circletheatre.org](http://circletheatre.org)!

This season, Circle Theatre will present *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Pippin*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. For more information on Circle Theatre's 2023 season, to purchase tickets, or to find more ways to support Circle Theatre please call the box office at 616.456.6656 or visit [circletheatre.org](http://circletheatre.org).

#### About Circle Theatre

For 70 years and counting, Circle Theatre has enriched, entertained and educated the community through exceptional theatrical arts in an intimate setting. Located in the Performing Arts Center on the campus of Aquinas College, Circle Theatre presents innovative and entertaining theatre while fostering an enthusiastic and hard-working corps of individuals who serve as staff, volunteers, and board members. Through the Main Stage season, unique Summer Concert Series, and Magic Circle family productions, Circle Theatre engages close to

30,000 people each season. Circle Theatre also values and creates effective collaborations with various community organizations in and around Grand Rapids.

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