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 Catulla,
Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre

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. MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

This production will run approximately 90 minutes without intermission.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.

7:30 p.m., Feb. 13-15, 2020
Music Theatre
Imig Music Building
Cast

Chip Tolentino, Jesus Christ
Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniere (Schwartzy)
Leaf Coneybear, Carl Dad
William Barfee
Marcy Park
Olive Ostrovsky
Rona Lisa Peretti, Olive’s Mom
Douglas Panch
Mitch Mahoney, Dan Dad

Wyatt Lowrie
Annie Carpenter
Michael Gaven
Bennet Forsyth
Brooke Curry
Lou Abécassis
Melissa Burke-Manwaring
Kees Nachbahr
Eli Harvey

Plot synopsis

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.

Director’s note

Joy. That’s Spelling Bee. Unbridled joy and nostalgia for childhood. It was hailed by the critics when it premiered in 2005, first off-Broadway and then on Broadway where it was nominated for Best Musical and won Best Book of a Musical. I was excited to helm this production because I believe we need more joy in the world. And kids seem to be really good at that, better than adults for certain. But that doesn’t mean this show doesn’t have something to say.

In fact, it has urgent things to say about the American obsession with being number one. The intensity with which these children compete is a testament to the adversarial culture in which they have been raised. However, by the end of the Bee, every single one of them learns and grows in a way that gives you hope that not only will they be ok, but that they’ve found a new sense of worth that has nothing to do with being the best.

I hope our shows brings you tons of laughs, a few tears and something for your brain to munch on. Enjoy!

The Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre Degree is a new degree program launched in the Fall of 2019 in the College of Music. Conceived and headed by Professor of Voice Matthew Chellis, the program strives to offer the finest musical and actor training to a select number of America’s finest young musical theatre talent.
Song list
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
My Unfortunate Erection (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)
My Favorite Moment of the Bee 3/Second
Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux
Finale
The Last Goodbye

Production team
Director
Justin Johnson
Choreographer
Tracy Doty
Costume Designer
Birdie Plank
Production and Set Designer
Ron Mueller
Stage Manager
Alaina Brown
Lighting Designer
Reed Otto
Director of BM/MT Degree Program
Matthew Chellis
Prop Master
Tanner Johnson

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE is 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 Baraklava and Rebecca Feldman.

Orchestra
Musical direction/ keyboards
Gerald Steichen
Assistant Music Director/keyboards
Keith Teepen
Electric bass
Alex King
Reeds
Clayton Williams
Cello
Pedro Sanchez Mijares
Drums/percussion
Andrew Grossman

Read cast and production bios at cupresents.org/spellingbee.

Special thanks
We wish to thank College of Music Dean Rob Shay, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Enrollment Management Matthew Roeder, the voice faculty and the entire administrative staff of the College of Music for their help and support with our first BM/MT cohort and season. Our sincerest appreciation for the Music Advisory Board for their unflagging support and Jan Burton for housing our maestro during this rehearsal period. A special thank you to Leigh Holman, Nick Carthy and the Eklund Opera Program for being amazing collaborators and mentors to our new program.
## Upcoming performances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Feb. 16</td>
<td>Spring Festival of Choirs</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb. 18</td>
<td>Faculty Tuesdays&lt;br&gt;Charles Wetherbee, violin</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb. 19</td>
<td>Pendulum New Music</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ATLAS Black Box</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Feb. 23</td>
<td>Honors Competition Finals</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb. 25</td>
<td>Music and Diversity Lecture&lt;br&gt;Aaron Dworkin and Afa Sadykhly Dworkin</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Tuesdays</td>
<td>Mike Dunn, tuba</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Feb. 26</td>
<td>Thompson Jazz Studies Combos</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Feb. 27</td>
<td>Early Music Ensemble&lt;br&gt;Vocal</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb. 28</td>
<td>Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Macky Auditorium</td>
<td>Live broadcast at cupresents.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 29</td>
<td>CU Boulder Honor Band Festival</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Macky Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 2</td>
<td>Artist Series: Pilobolus</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Macky Auditorium</td>
<td>Live broadcast at cupresents.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert Band</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 3</td>
<td>Faculty Tuesdays&lt;br&gt;Janet Harriman, harp</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 5</td>
<td>Thompson Latin Jazz Ensemble</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Grusin Music Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Events are subject to change: call us at 303-492-8008 or visit us online at cupresents.org to verify.</td>
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Founded in 1920, the CU Boulder College of Music offers a wide range of programs for undergraduate and graduate study, uniquely combining advanced musical training with professionally oriented experiences and the rich resources of a leading research university. Learn more at colorado.edu/music.

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