

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Audition & Show Information

When

- Monday, October 10th
 - 4:00pm-8:00pm
- If you need to schedule an audition during the school day before October 10th, please contact Ms. Demato ASAP!
- *Note: Callbacks are scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th – you will be notified on the 10th if you are needed.*

What Do I Need to Prepare?

- 16 bars (30-45 seconds) of musical theatre song (supply accompaniment/karaoke track with no vocals)
 - Email or text track to Ms. Demato beforehand
 - ddemato@rhmail.org or 954-464-3790
- Cold Reading from script
- Dance Call (come in clothes to dance – bring dance shoes or sneakers!)

Show Dates and Rehearsal Period

- Rehearsals: October 13th-December 7th
- Show Dates:
 - December 8th @ 9:30am and 7pm
 - December 9th @ 7pm
 - December 10th @ 2pm and 7pm
- Strike
 - December 11th – 2pm-6pm

Summary of Show

An eclectic group of sixth-graders arrives at the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, each eager to win for very different reasons. Sweet and shy Olive brings only her best friend (the dictionary) with her to the bee; bold and hyperallergic speller William Barfee uses his “magic foot” to propel him to greatness; former champion Chip is struggling with his burgeoning puberty; easily distracted Leaf is unconvinced that he’s smart enough to be a challenger; overachiever Marcy is disappointed by her consistent success; and politically aware Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre only wants to impress her gay dads. In hilarious, touching, and catchy songs, each speller reveals his/her hopes, struggles, and passions as they make their way through the competition. With an engaging, tuneful score by William Finn and a sweet, funny book by Rachel Sheinkin, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* causes audiences to fall in love, both with the show itself and its “perspicacious,” “jocular,” and “effervescent” spellers.

Roles Available

- CHIP TOLENTINO
 - The reigning spelling champion of Putnam County, relatively athletic and social, he expects things to come easily to him. Lately though, he’s been going through some weird changes, and things are slipping out of his control.
- LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERRE
 - Younger than most bee participants, she is driven by internal and external pressure – but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers (from whom she takes her combined last name) proud. She lisps, is a little uncomfortable in her body, has some tics, but still manages to strike a strong presence with her political awareness and keen sense of justice. Having drilled words for hours a day, she is aware of everything that passes in the room.
- LEAF CONEYBEAR
 - A second alternate, he never expected to compete here today. Homeschooled with his many siblings, everything about this public bee is an adventure for him, from meeting the other kids to showing off his homemade clothing, to each moment of unexpected attention. He may have severe Attention Deficit Disorder but delights in his own wandering focus. Leaf doesn’t expect to win – or even to spell one word correctly – but he finds absolutely everything incredibly amusing. His mother has made him wear his protective helmet to the bee.

- **WILLIAM BARFEE**
 - Has a host of health problems and a lot to prove. Loud and combative as a defensive posture, he is the fat kid who becomes a bully to avoid being picked on (though he often gets picked on anyway so gets into a lot of fights). His parents are divorced, his father remarried to a much younger woman; and William does not expect kindness from anyone but his mother. So friendship takes him by surprise. Still, he's noticed on the spelling circuit for his remarkable technique – spelling words out on the floor with his foot. Taken out of competition last year because of an ill-timed allergic reaction, he's here for vindication. The journey he doesn't expect is one of coming to care about someone else - when he sees outside his own needs for perhaps the first time, it shakes him fundamentally.
- **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.
- **OLIVE OSTROVSKY**
 - A word lover, Olive has a fairly quiet life. An only child with often-absent parents, Olive spends a lot of her time alone. She fills some of that time reading the dictionary – the words bring her comfort, as does the idea of the vastness of the world the book contains. During the first half of the bee, she often peers into the audience to see if her father, who is delayed at work, has made it yet. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms.
- **RONA LISA PERRETTI**
 - Putnam's long-time spelling bee hostess, a local realtor, and 3rd annual Putnam County spelling champion. This is Rona's day to be queen. From her perspective, she keeps the bee running smoothly, upholds protocol, and conveys crucial information to the audience. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward. She thinks of this as a complex cerebral sporting event, and she wants the audience to understand every twist and turn. If anything, in her life in general, she has to minimize the importance of this event to her, embarrassed that her own championship moment remains such a highlight. A little concerned when the substitute word pronouncer arrives, she knows she has to step up her game to make the day a success.
- **VICE PRINCIPAL DOUGLAS PANCH**
 - Of Lake Hemingway Dos Passos Junior High is frustrated with his life. He fell into education, less out of love than a general ability uncoupled to a particular passion. The drive of the young spellers is alien to him. He never found anything that important. Stuck in his current job, endlessly awaiting a promotion that isn't coming, he was not happy to get the call this morning that he was needed to substitute; but he starts the bee eager to do well, to redeem himself for past mistakes, and to impress the local hostess, Rona Lisa, who impressed him long ago.
- **MITCH MAHONEY**
 - With a bouncer's physique and demeanor, Mitch appears an odd choice to be the bee's "comfort counselor," but it's part of his community service assignment. The outsider, who in a way gets to inhabit the audience perspective, he wonders about the wisdom of putting the kids through this at all. He has no idea how to offer comfort, but does increasingly find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better about losing, and perhaps place misspelling in wider perspective.

The following roles MAY OR MAY NOT be DOUBLE CAST with the roles above:

- **SCHWARZY'S FATHERS:**
 - **CARL GRUBENIERRE** (normally played by actor playing Leaf)
 - Schwarzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzy's fathers.
 - **DAN SCHWARZ** (normally played by actor playing Mitch)
 - The more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzy's fathers.
- **LEAF'S MOM, DAD, and SIBLINGS** (normally played by the spellers and audience volunteers)
 - All more academically gifted than Leaf, even more surprised than he is at his success.
- **OLIVE'S MOM** (normally played by actor playing Rona)
 - A fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India.
- **OLIVE'S DAD** (normally played by actor playing Mitch)
 - A fantasy version of Olive's dad coming to the bee from work.
- **JESUS CHRIST** (normally played by actor playing Chip)
 - Deity invoked by a speller in need

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Songs By Character

CHIP:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- The Rules
- My Friend the Dictionary
- Pandemonium
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Chip's Lament
- Woe Is Me
- Second (Part 1)
- Weltanschauung
- Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux
- Second (Part 2)
- The Champion
- Finale
- Bows

SCHWARZY:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- The Rules
- My Friend the Dictionary
- Pandemonium
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Chip Goodbye
- Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor
- Woe Is Me
- Spelling Montage
- I Speak Six Languages
- Jesus
- Woe Is Me (Reprise)
- Second (Part 1)
- Weltanschauung
- Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux
- Second (Part 2)
- The Champion
- Finale
- Bows

CONEYBEAR:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- The Rules
- My Friend the Dictionary
- Pandemonium
- I'm Not That Smart
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Chip Goodbye
- Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor
- Woe Is Me
- Spelling Montage
- I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)
- Second (Part 1)
- Weltanschauung
- Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux
- Second (Part 2)
- The Champion
- Finale
- Bows

BARFEE:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- The Rules
- Pandemonium
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Chip Goodbye
- Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor
- Woe Is Me
- Spelling Montage
- Second (Part 1)
- Second (Part 2)
- Finale
- Bows

OLIVE'S MOM:

- The I Love You Song

OLIVE'S DAD:

- The I Love You Song

MARCY:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- The Rules
- Pandemonium
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Chip Goodbye
- Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor
- Woe Is Me
- Spelling Montage
- I Speak Six Languages
- Jesus
- Second (Part 1)
- Weltanschauung
- Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux
- Second (Part 2)
- The Champion
- Finale
- Bows

OLIVE:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- The Rules
- My Friend the Dictionary
- Pandemonium
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Chip Goodbye
- Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor
- Woe Is Me
- Spelling Montage
- I Speak Six Languages
- Jesus
- The I Love You Song
- Second (Part 1)
- Second (Part 2)
- Finale
- Bows

CARL DAD:

- Woe Is Me

DAN DAD:

- Woe Is Me

RONA:

- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
- The Rules
- My Friend the Dictionary
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Rona Moment #2
- Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor
- Woe Is Me
- I Speak Six Languages
- Jesus
- How Exciting!
- Rona Moment #3
- Second (Part 1)
- Weltanschauung
- Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux
- Second (Part 2)
- The Champion
- Finale
- Bows

PANCH:

- The Rules
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Spelling Montage
- Finale
- Bows

MITCH:

- The Rules
- Pandemonium
- Magic Foot
- Magic Foot Playoff
- Pandemonium (Reprise)
- Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor
- Woe Is Me
- Woe Is Me (Reprise)
- Second (Part 1)
- Weltanschauung
- Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux
- Second (Part 2)
- The Champion
- Finale
- Bows