MONMOUTH COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

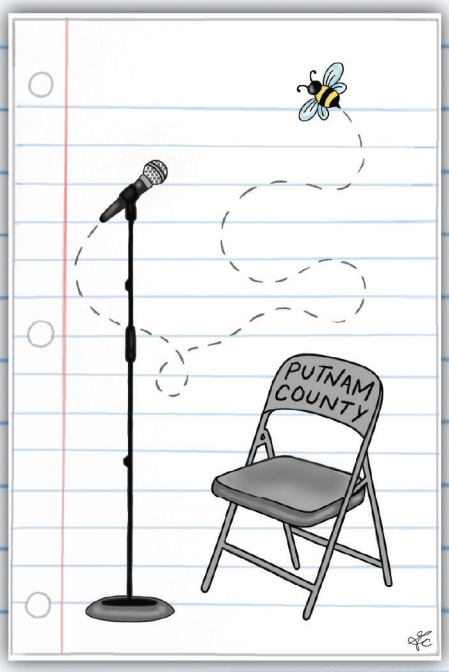
THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Directed by: Dr. Vanessa Campagna

Book by: Rachel Sheinkin

Music & Lyrics by: William Finn

Conceived by: Rebecca Feldman



A-P-R-I-L

10TH THRU 12TH

FRIDAY & SATURDAY @ 7:30PM | SUNDAY @ 2:00PM



DIRECTOR'S NOTE
Dr. Vanessa Campagna

In late fall 2010, just as my first semester of graduate school was drawing to a close, I was invited to audition for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. I had previously directed for Nick Padgett—now a Broadway, Vegas, and West End producer—so I was intrigued by his thinking of me as an actor for this project. I must admit, hesitation accompanied my piqued curiosity since Nick's invitation came at a moment when I was transitioning away from performance and turning decidedly toward scholarship, teaching, and directing. I felt pulled between the familiar and emerging versions of myself, and yet it was precisely the liminality of my lifestage that ultimately compelled me to schedule the audition. I thought, perhaps, I was uniquely positioned (at least as far as young adults go) to play a junior high character growing out of childhood and into adolescence. More likely, Nick knew I was just goofy and uninhibited enough to take on Logainne Schwarzandgrubenierre. A few months later, I was having what continues to be one of my most memorable theatre-making experiences. What I understood then and continue to know now is that *Putnam* is a dream show for actors—intensely character driven, even as it is structured with precision. I also knew that the story has important things to say about competition (with ourselves and others). Now more than then, I understand that growing pains, embarrassments, and winners and losers are perennial, and that youth is ephemeral.

I don't take it for granted that the last six weeks have gifted me with another especially meaningful experience at the *Bee*. Sharing such a special show with this talented team of students, colleagues, and guest artists has been truly rewarding. Let the record show that Hannah McGhee, who I have so enjoyed having as a student for the last four years, is also just goofy and uninhibited enough to play Schwarzy. Hannah, I love your interpretation of the role! This is what happens when we grow up, isn't it? We hand precious things over to the younger ones and sit back, watch what they do with it, and we heartily applaud them. Now well established in my career, I identify much more with the character Rona Lisa Peretti, a former Spelling Bee Champion who just can't stay away. She watches on as the young competitors conquer words, conquer fears, conquer their pride, and conquer—or not—their changing bodies. Like Rona, I watch with such pride each night, and for each student.

I invite you to accept a role in this production. Be your 10-year-old self. Be filled with wonder and look forward to all that's ahead. Come play with us, if only for a couple of hours. As Ray Shaul's character, Olive Ostrovsky, sings, "I'm loving every minute." I hope you will, too.

T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U for supporting Theatre at Monmouth College!



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April 10-12, 2026
Friday & Saturday @ 7:30pm | Sunday @ 2:00pm
Wells Theater

Please silence all cell phones and distracting devices.
Restrooms and water fountains are located in the lobby.
Photography and recording of any kind are prohibited.

Rights through *Music Theatre International (MTI)*

Dedicated to Janell Johnson, with gratitude and admiration

THE TIME

Present Day

THE PLACE

Gymnasium of Putnam County Middle School

THE CAST

CHIP TOLENTINO	Robert Robison*
LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENNIERE	Hannah McGhee*
LEAF CONEYBEAR	Ivy Johnson*
WILLIAM BARFEE	Edrass Chávez-Alvarado*
MARCY PARK	Maya Blackmon
OLIVE OSTROVSKY	Ray Shaul*
RONA LISA PERRETTI	Abby Zayas*
VICE PRINCIPAL DOUGLAS PANCH	Eric Pio*
MITCH MAHONEY	Rowan Love
SEMI-FINALISTS	Abby Hollerud, Maylee Huffman, Nyx King, Bella Moore*, & Tori Vavrosky*
CARL GRUBENIERRE	Vea Vavrosky '25
DAN SCHWARTZ	Aiden Earley
OLIVE'S MOM	Delaney Fredricksen
OLIVE'S DAD	Lorenzo Ramirez
JESUS CHRIST	Nyx King
MRS. CONEYBEAR	Emma Heiser*
MR. CONEYBEAR	Cupid Wilson
MARIGOLD CONEYBEAR	Quenby Wilson*
MS. BARFEE	Delaney Fredricksen
MRS. TOLENTINO	Lorelei Weidman
MS. PARK	Kiersten Fuhr '25
SUPPORTIVE CUSTODIAN	Lorenzo Ramirez

* = Indicates a member of Alpha Psi Omega (APO)

THE PIT MUSICIANS

KEYBOARD 1	Janell Johnson
SYNTHESIZER	Aaron Ames
KEYBOARD 2	McKenna Rahn
PERCUSSION	Kent Huth

THE SONGS

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE	Full Company
THE RULES	Panch, The Spellers, Rona, & Mitch
MY FRIEND, THE DICTIONARY	Olive & Company
PANDEMONIUM	Full Company
I'M NOT THAT SMART	Leaf
MAGIC FOOT	Barfee & Company
PRAYER OF THE COMFORT COUNSELOR	Mitch & Company
CHIP'S LAMENT	Chip
WOE IS ME	Logainne, Carl, Dan, & Company
I'M NOT THAT SMART (REPRISE)	Leaf
I SPEAK SIX LANGUAGES	Marcy & Company
THE I LOVE YOU SONG	Olive, Olive's Mom, Olive's Dad, & Company
WOE IS ME (REPRISE)	Logainne & Mitch
SECOND	Olive, Barfee, & Company
FINALE	Full Company

THE GUEST SPELLERS

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
President Pat Draves	Brielle Berry	Stacy Lotz
Sarah Henderson	Rev. John Huxtable	Christopher Pio
Dick Johnston	Howard Moffett	Cosmo Schatz
Dawsyn Wilson	Tim Pahel	Ryan Ullrich
	Brian Russell	

THE CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER	Vanessa Campagna
CALLING STAGE MANAGER	Ryan Bowman '25
STAGE MANAGER	Zairah Abbott
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	Adyson Beebe & Emily Perez-Castillo
VOCAL DIRECTOR & REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST	Janell Johnson
MUSIC ASSISTANT	Tim Pahel
DANCE CAPTAIN	Emma Heiser
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Vanessa Campagna
SCENIC DESIGNERS	Vanessa Campagna & Grace Cornelius '24
SCENIC PAINTING	Vanessa Campagna, Grace Cornelius '24, Aiden Earley, Ashley Juerjens, Rowan Love, Basilio Mekoum, K Pohlman, Suzanne Reimolds, Cupid Wilson
BANNER & TABLECLOTH DESIGN	Ray Shaul
LIGHTING DESIGNER & ENGINEER	Kristen Peck
LIGHTING ASSISTANTS	Acen Akers, Matthew Bright, Maylee Huffman, Nyx King, Payton Lamb, Karly J. MacKenzie, K. Pohlman, Cupid Wilson.
LIGHTING BOARD OPERATORS	Matthew Bright & Addison Luna
SOUND DESIGNER	Abby Zayas
SOUND ENGINEERS	Edrass Chávez-Alvarado & Justin Swearinger
SOUND BOARD OPERATORS	Robert Miller & Isabel Lynch
MICROPHONE ENGINEERS	Esme Caballero & Calista Lythgoe*
COSTUME DESIGNER	Vanessa Campagna
PROPS DESIGNER	Vanessa Campagna
SEAMSTRESS & TAILOR	Tamima Tabishat
HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGNER	Delaney Fredricksen
BUILD CREW	Acen Akers, Maya Blackmon, Matthew Bright, Ryker Grauer, Maylee Huffman, Nyx King, Addison Luna, Isabel Lynch, Robert Miller, Madison Springer, Braden Sullivan, Adam Waite, Quenby Wilson.
RUN CREW	Zairah Abbott, Adyson Beebe, Matthew Bright, George Hoelzel, Maylee Huffman, Addison Luna, Isabel Lynch, Robert Miller, Emily Perez-Castillo, Adam Waite.
COSTUME & SCENIC LAB MANAGER	Vanessa Campagna
POSTER & PROGRAM DESIGN	Ray Shaul
LOGO DESIGN	Grace Cornelius '24
HEADSHOT PHOTOGRAPHY	Todd Quick & Ray Shaul
BOX OFFICE MANAGERS	Melanie Crum & Ray Shaul
HOUSE MANAGER	Melanie Crum

ACTORS' HEADSHOTS



ROBERT ROBISON



HANNAH MCGHEE



IVY JOHNSON



EDRASS CHÁVEZ-ALVARADO



MAYA BLACKMON



RAY SHAUL



ABBY ZAYAS



ERIC PIO



ROWAN LOVE



ABBY HOLLERUD



MAYLEE HUFFMAN



NYX KING



BELLA MOORE



TORI VAVROSKY



VEA VAVROSKY



AIDEN EARLEY



DELANEY FREDRICKSEN



LORENZO RAMIREZ



EMMA HEISER



CUPID WILSON

ACTORS' HEADSHOTS



QUENBY WILSON



LORELEI WEIDMAN



KIERSTEN FUHR

THE UNDERSTUDIES

LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERRE	Quenby Wilson
LEAF CONEYBEAR	Vea Vavrosky '25
MARCY PARK	Maylee Huffman
OLIVE OSTROVSKY	Bella Moore
RONA LISA PERRETTI	Delaney Fredricksen
VICE PRINCIPAL DOUGLAS PANCH	Emma Heiser
MITCH MAHONEY	Lorenzo Ramirez

SPECIAL THANKS

President Patricia Draves and Dr. Jeff Draves

Dean Mark Willhardt

Athletic Director Roger Haynes

Todd Quick

Howard Moffett

Cori Moore

Jeff Olsen

Suzanne Reimolds

STAY TUNED FOR ANNOUCEMENTS ABOUT OUR 26-27 THEATRE SEASON!

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Monmouth College Theatre on Facebook