



ARTS UMBRELLA
THEATRE, MUSIC, AND
FILM PRESENTS THE TONY
AWARD WINNING
MUSICAL

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THEATRE, MUSIC & FILM

Life is Pandemonium.

I mean, clearly, if you are around this summer at all, you have been privy to the cacophony of sound, the flurry of limbs, and the creative morass of art-making that is an ordinary week at Arts Umbrella's summer camps. More than this, many of us have become so hypersensitive in this drawn-out, ongoing, post-but-not-quite-post pandemic time to the actual texture of change. Whether we are changing seasons, changing climate, changing homes, or sometimes even changing clothes, changes feel somehow more dynamic – and often more challenging.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee takes the idea of a clear and simple challenge, and seeks to amplify the nuanced lives and thoughts of these spellers who find themselves deep in the pressure of the challenge. It asks audiences to recognize the humanness behind the simple things, and understand how hard it really can be

to stand up and be challenged, and what it really means to overcome the things that threaten to hold us back. And when we do see those things, played out in front of us, we might actually enjoy how ridiculous and beautiful those little things can be.

Folks, life may be random and unfair. You might get the hardest word in the dictionary. But I hope in the process of figuring out what you need to do with that, you get chances to smile at the ridiculousness of it all. Enjoy the show.

Andy Toth

Interim Artistic Director, Robert M. Ledingham School of Theatre, Music & Film

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a musical comedy that opened Off-Broadway in 2005. The original characters were conceived by professional improv actors with a retrospective perspective. As a company, we have explored our connection to and understanding of these characters to discover how we intend to bring them to life. How we all perceive the world through a unique lens and our relationship with memory are consistent themes throughout this piece. I am fascinated by the way our experiences, environments and expectations shape us, and exploring this production with these students has been a wonderful journey. The improvised elements of this show take the nature of live performance for our cast to a new level, meaning that every performance will be truly unique.

Unique

Definition: Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else.

Sentence: "I feel I have a unique perspective on the situation"

Thank you for joining us at the Bee.

Cydney Uffindell-Phillips

Director, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee



2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR AT ARTS UMBRELLA

Registration is open!

Fall 2023, Winter 2024, and Spring 2024 programs are open for registration.

www.artsumbrella.com/programs/theatre-music



**APPLY NOW FOR 2023/24
YEARLONG INTENSIVE PROGRAMS!**

Ages 9-19

Film Acting, Musical Theatre,
Theatre, Sketch Comedy &
Improv, and Stagecraft

Summerstage Musical Theatre Intensive presents:

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music & Lyrics by William Finn
Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is about to begin, and each young contestant is eager to prove their merit. As the bee unfolds and the competition intensifies, the spellers reveal their hopes, struggles, and passions at the mic. Rehearsed and staged in just a month here at Arts Umbrella, Putnam invites you into the weird and wonderful world of orthography through the eyes of these unique teenagers. E-N-J-O-Y!

ARTISTIC TEAM AND CREW

Director & Choreographer	Cydney Uffindell-Phillips
Music Director	Patrick Ray
Stage Manager	Julia Lank
Assistant Stage Manager	Olivia Tsoi
Production Design	Monica Emme
Lighting Design	Hina Nishioka
Sound Operator	Malcolm Armstrong
Lighting Operator	Matthew Piton
Theatre Manager	Alan Brodie
Production Managers	Andy Toth and Erika Babins
Accessibility Consultant	Jack Bumbala
Improv Coach	Julia Lank
Sound Assistant	Katherine Mezei

CAST

William Barfée	Ace Chittock
Logainne SchwarzandGrubeniere	Amelia Kondor
Dylan Klein/Carl Schwartz/Jesus	Chloe Klein
Olive Ostrovsky	Iris Thompson-Chang
Midge Mahoney/Dan Grubeniere	Katie Chong
Marcy Park	Lillian Munro
Douglas Panch/Olive's Dad	Nina Turin
Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive's Mom	Reina Grosch
Leaf Coneybear	Tessa Bird
Chip Tolentino	Pippa Cochrane

SPECIAL THANKS

Shyam Chand, Innovation Lighting, Julia Jandera, Rebecca Floresco, Alex Eaton, the Marketing & Communications Team, the Student Services Team, Paul Larocque, and all of the staff, administrative, and artistic teams at Arts Umbrella.

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 Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre.

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 Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

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. www.mtishows.com



ARTS UMBRELLA

2023/24 TROUPE AUDITIONS

Film | Musical Theatre | Theatre |
Sketch Comedy & Improv

Auditions take place September 10. Email
theatre@artsumbrella.com to book your audition.