

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



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



Cast

Chip Tolentino, Jesus Christ

Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniére (Schwartz)

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.

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.

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!

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

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.

Production team

Director Justin Johnson	Stage Manager Alaina Brown
Choreographer Tracy Doty	Lighting Designer Reed Otto
Costume Designer Birdie Plank	Director of BM/MT Degree Program Matthew Chellis
Production and Set Designer Ron Mueller	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	Electric bass Alex King
Assistant Music Director/keyboards Keith Teepen	Reeds Clayton Williams
Drums/percussion Andrew Grossman	Cello Pedro Sanchez Mijares

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

Upcoming performances

🎫 Ticketed events 📺 Live broadcast at cupresents.org

Sunday, Feb. 16

Spring Festival of Choirs

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Faculty Tuesdays

Charles Wetherbee, violin

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Pendulum New Music

7:30 p.m., ATLAS Black Box

Sunday, Feb. 23

Honors Competition Finals

12:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Music and Diversity Lecture

Aaron Dworkin and Afa Sadykhly Dworkin

11 a.m., Grusin Music Hall

Faculty Tuesdays

Mike Dunn, tuba

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Thompson Jazz Studies Combos

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Thursday, Feb. 27

Early Music Ensemble

Vocal

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall

Friday, Feb. 28

Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 📺

Saturday, Feb. 29

CU Boulder Honor Band Festival

6 p.m., Macky Auditorium

Monday, March 2

Artist Series: Pilobolus

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 🎫

Concert Band

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Tuesday, March 3

Faculty Tuesdays

Janet Harriman, harp

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Thursday, March 5

Thompson Latin Jazz Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 📺

Events are subject to change:

call us at 303-492-8008 or visit us online at cupresents.org to verify.

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.

CU Presents is the home of performing arts on the beautiful University of Colorado Boulder campus. With hundreds of concerts, plays, recitals and more on our stages each year, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Find your next performance at cupresents.org.

Keep in touch! Send your email address to be added to our events mailing list at cupresents.org/email.