

SHOW PROGRAM

HAMILTON THEATRE INC. PRESENTS

The 25th Annual Putnam County
SPELLING BEE



FEB. 14 TO MAR. 9

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today, we gather on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and recognize this land as being home and traditional territory to other Indigenous people since time immemorial.

HAMILTON THEATRE INC.

Hamilton Theatre Inc. is Hamilton's oldest musical theatre company, while entirely operated and maintained by volunteers. HTI's mandates include providing our members with the necessary training to get involved in all aspects of theatre, and making the performing arts accessible to the Hamilton community.



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Hamilton Theatre Inc. Presents
**The 25th Annual
PUTNAM COUNTY
SPELLING BEE**

Music & Lyrics
by **WILLIAM
FINN**

Conceived
by **REBECCA
FELDMAN**

Book by
**RACHEL
SHEINKIN**

Additional Material by **JAY REISS**
Originally Directed on Broadway by **JAMES LAPINE**

Directed By
KAYLA JENSEN

Music Direction By
JENNIFER FERREIRA

Choreography By
ERIKA BENNETT

Produced By
TERYN LAWSON

Stage Managed By
ELIZA CHAMPION

Artistic Direction by
MADDIE MERRILL

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

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

BECOME A MEMBER

Perks include discounted tickets to opening weekend and discounts at the concession.

Single	\$25.00
Student	\$15.00
Family	\$50.00

**Family: 2 adults and all children under 18 years old

TO BECOME A MEMBER VISIT:
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MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"	Company
"The Rules"	Panch and Spellers
"My Friend The Dictionary"	Olive and Company
"Pandemonium"	Panch, Chip, Mitch, and Spellers
"I'm Not That Smart"	Leaf
"The Second Goodbye"	Company
"Magic Foot"	Barfée and Company
"Magic Foot Playoff"	Barfée and Company
"Pandemonium" (Reprise)	Mitch, Chip, and Company
"Chip Goodbye"	Chip and Company
"Rona Moment #2"	Rona
"Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor"	Mitch and Company

Act Two

"Chip's Lament"	Chip
"Woe is Me"	Logainne, Carl, Dan, and Company
"Spelling Montage"	Panch and Spellers
"I'm Not That Smart" (Reprise)	Leaf
"Coneybear Goodbye"	Leaf and Company
"I Speak Six Languages"	Marcy and Company
"Marcy's Epiphany"	Marcy, Mitch, and Company
"The I Love You Song"	Olive and Olive's Parents
"Woe is Me" (Reprise)	Logainne, Mitch, and Company
"Rona Moment #3"	Rona
"Second" (Part 1)	Barfée, Olive, Rona and Company
"Weltanschauung"	Panch, Barfée and Company
"Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux"	Barfée and Company
"Second" (Part 2)	Olive, Barfée and Company
"The Champion"	Barfée, Olive, Rona, Panch and Company
"Epilogues"	Company
"Finale"	Company
"Bows"	Company

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The Cast of *Spelling Bee*

Chip Tolentino/Olive's Dad/Schwartzzy's Dad Ryan McGinlay
Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre Sarah Gazzola
Leaf Coneybear/Schwartzzy's Dad Makenna Louks
William Barfee Leia Mahoney
Marcy Park Liyah Imbert
Olive Ostrovsky Adelaide Bliss
Rona Lisa Perretti/Olive & Schwartzzy's Moms ... Alissa Jambrovic
Vice Principal Douglas Panch Matt Moore
Mitch Mahoney/Jesus Kyle Ferreira

The Crew Behind *Spelling Bee*

Director Kayla Jensen
Musical Director Jennifer Ferreira
Choreographer Erika Bennett
Producer Teryn Lawson

Stage Manager Eliza Champion
Assistant Stage Manager Haleigh Wallace
Assistant Stage Manager Allison Dickey

Lighting Operator Gregory Sokil
Spotlight Operator Gavin Nelson
Sound Operator Robert Alley

Artistic Director Maddie Merrill
Head of Construction Paddy Skinner
Set Builders Renata Ona, Gavin Nelson,
Gregory Sokil, Maddie Merrill

Props Buyer Alex Buckenroth, Maddie Merrill
Set Dresser Maddie Merrill
Illustrator Gillian White
Costume Designer(s) Jenn Helsdon, Hope Wickett
Head of Makeup Osho Sachdeva

Videography Brad Howe
Photography Paul Merrill

The Live Band for *Spelling Bee*

Piano Keelin Donnelly
Drums/Percussion Vince Campovari-Waters
Cello Paul Burghardt
Winds (Flute, Clarinet and Sax) Jennifer Ferreira

THE MULE

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**Ryan McGinlay as
Chip Tolentino**

Ryan is thrilled to be back in the theatre in his first show since high school. Thanks to HTI for the deput opportunity and special thanks to Nikki, whose immense support made this possible.



**Sarah Gazzola as
Logainne "Schwartzzy"
SchwartzandGrubenierre**

Sarah is delighted to be on stage with HTI again after her debut as Alyssa Greene in last season's *The Prom*! She hopes you enjoy the ride that is *Spelling Bee*; special thanks to family, friends, and the extra family this incredible cast and crew have become.



**Makenna Louks as
Leaf Coneybear**

Makenna is a graduate of St Lawrence Colleges Musical Theatre program, and is happy to be apart of their first HTI show! Credit highlights include Jack Kelly (*Newsies*), Charlotte (*Cinderella*) & Ursula (*The Little Mermaid*).



**Leia Mahoney as
William Barfée**

Leia is SO excited to be playing William Barfée in their HTI debut alongside some of the most talented and welcoming people they know. Their favourite role thus far has been Kate Monster in *Avenue Q* (Neptune Theatre) which also resulted in a lifelong passion for puppetry!



**Liyah Imbert as
Marcy Park**

Liyah (lie-yah) has adored musical theatre since she was younger, and is really happy to be part of her very first production EVER at the age of 16! She hopes that this is the first of many.



**Adelaide Bliss as
Olive Ostrovsky**

Adelaide is thrilled to be making her HTI debut with the best cast and crew EVER! Previous shows include *The 39 Steps* and *Cinderella*, lots of love to Taylor and family.



**Alissa Jambrovic as
Rona Lisa Perretti**

After playing Mrs Mayor in *Seussical* last year Alissa is very excited to be back on stage at HTI in *Spelling Bee*. She feels so honoured to be working with such a wonderful cast and production team.



**Matt Moore as
Douglas Panch**

Matt is thrilled to be back onstage performing in *Spelling Bee*. Previous credits include Barry in *The Prom*, Nostradamus in *Something Rotten*, and Uncle Ernie in *The Who's Tommy*. Shout outs to my supportive wife Jenn and HTI's resident Shop Dog, Gracie.



**Kyle Ferreira as
Mitch Mahoney**

After a decades long hiatus, Kyle is very excited to be back on the HTI stage. He couldn't be happier to be able to perform with such a talented cast and production team! also, his wife!

WHO'S WHO IN THE CREW



**Kayla Jensen,
Director**

Kayla is extremely proud and grateful to be directing her first full-length production with HTI!

Endless thanks to Jake the human and Charlotte the dog for your love and support in this endeavor.



**Jennifer Ferreira,
Musical Director**

Jennifer is pleased as punch to be back Musically Directing for HTI with such a wonderful cast (including

her fabulous husband in his return to the stage). Catch you from the bandstand!



**Erika Bennett,
Choreographer**

Erika has had the time of her life working with the cast and crew on this goofy, earnest, and hear-

tswarming show -- her third show with HTI since 2023. She recommends that you don't overcomplicate things, and enjoy the pandemonium!



**Teryn Lawson,
Producer**

A special thank you to Red Bull energy drinks, Eliza's spreadsheets, and the very talented HTI community for

their unwavering support! Honourable mentions include her family and friends.



**Eliza Champion,
Stage Manager**

Eliza prefers to be a mystery, but would like to shout out her two cats, Elsie and Daisy. They shine

brighter than the stars in the night sky.



**Haleigh Wallace,
Assistant Stage Manager**

This is Haleigh's first time being an ASM, and she is thrilled, ecstatic, and overjoyed to be here! (She

seems to have picked up a thesaurus instead of a dictionary).



**Allison Dickey,
Assistant Stage Manager**

Allison (She/Any) is a performer and crazy dog person from Hamilton. She is very excited to be a part of

the *Spelling Bee* crew for her first time as an Assistant Stage Manager!



**Gregory Sokil,
Lighting Operator**

Gregory Sokil is an artist and performer with a passion for the arts, and is thrilled to be able to work

with this amazing group of people who love what they do.



**Gavin Nelson,
Spotlight Operator**

Gavin is excited and grateful to be back at HTI for another production! He hopes everyone who sees

the show has as much fun as he did working behind-the-scenes.



**Robert Alley,
Sound Operator**

Robert is an audio technician in his second year with HTI and hopes to continue in the future.



**Maddie Merrill,
Artistic Director**

Maddie Merrill is excited to make her behind-the-scenes debut as Artistic Director, swapping the

spotlight for a glue gun and a love of all things sparkly. Grateful for the chance to showcase her creativity, she hopes you will be dazzled by the show's artistic offerings.



**Paddy Skinner,
Head of Construction**

Paddy is excited to be a part of this magical show! He is going on his 10th year as a community member at

HTI both on stage and behind the scenes. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support!



**Renata Ona,
Set Builder**

Renata Ona is an actor and production assistant in Hamilton and Toronto, who really enjoyed worked on

the set of *Spelling Bee*.



**Alex Buckenroth,
Props Buyer**

Alex Buckenroth has previously worked with HTI on *Fun Home* and *Suessical the Musical*, and is excited to

be a part of the *Putnam County Spelling Bee!*



**Osho Sachdeva,
Head of Makeup**

Osho is a new addition to the team eager to bring her make up artistry and skills onto the stage with her first

show on the HTI stage.



**Jenn Helsdon,
Costume Designer**

Jenn has had the honour of being HTI's resident costume troll for nearly 10 years. Favourite show

designs include *Suessical the Musical*, *Something Rotten*, *Heathers* and *The Rocky Horror Show*; favourite show person includes her talented husband, Matt.



**Hope Wickett,
Costume Designer**

Hope is happy to be back for her second season at HTI as the newest addition to the costume troll team.

She has been working in theatre for many years, including several productions at Theatre Aquarius and University of Toronto Mississauga. Hope can't wait to get a juice box from the comfort councilor!



**Gillian White,
Illustrator**

Gillian is a writer and self-taught artist from Burlington. After a year long break from HTI, she is happy

to be back stretching her artistic muscles designing and illustrating Putnam's *Petey the Penguin*.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

Hamilton Fire Control, Michael Fleet, Bar Sazerac, Saltlick Smokehouse, Hamilton Handyman, Monica Cairney, KC Creatives, Kreation Photography, Haughland Media, Cheryl Sampson, Jake Jensen, Taylor Wallace, Chantel Furtado, Sam Burns, Nikki McGinlay, David Gibel, Paul Merrill, Jonah Schaufler-Biback, Brittany Di Tommaso, Ferris Rodriguez Anderson, Owen Boucher, Sarah Misale, Zoila Guipit, Kristina Kuhnert, and Liberty for Youth

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a story about moments and how we don't know what life might throw at us from one moment to the next. It's about finding yourself and using your gifts and talents to the best of your ability. There's big wins, tragic losses, and navigating those emotions.

The show explores the nuanced lives of middle schoolers and how they interact with the world around them. I believe that there's a little bit of us that can relate to each of these characters. I also think we can appreciate that, like improv, we just have to stay in the moment and see what the next one brings.

Thank you so much to the cast for committing to your characters and each other. Thank you to my crew for running the show and keeping the vision alive. And finally, thank you to you, the audience. You have come to experience this series of moments with us. It is with great pride that I hope you enjoy our production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Kayla Jensen, Director of *Spelling Bee*



MERCHANDISE

We've partnered with True Hamiltonian to show off our love for the local theatre community! These beautiful shirts are 100% cotton Gildan brand shirts and are available in Youth, Fitted & Unisex sizes.

Shirts are \$30 and all proceeds support HTI's Building Improvement Fund.

Available at the Box Office or:
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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As children, we often find that so many experiences seem so daunting and all consuming that it's impossible to convince them that, in the grand scheme of things, something as simple as a Spelling Bee is not the end of of existence.

Spelling Bee is such a simple, beautiful piece of theatre. Yet growing up (or even now as adults) we all know a Leaf, or a Marcy, or any and all of these characters, and can immediately relate to their struggles through the lens of the chaotic life of a twelve year old.

And while life may seem "random and unfair" at times, it can also bind us together, through shared experiences and a common love of something.

Thank you for sharing this experience with us, and showing the same love for the theatre we all possess as well. Sit back, relax and enjoy!

Matt Moore, Chairperson

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - where the set doesn't end at the stage! With a static setting, we had the perfect excuse to extend the world of the Bee throughout the studio theatre, into the lobby, and even down to the bathrooms in the basement. Championship banners proudly display the birth years of our crew members alongside their favourite sports, while school club posters in the lobby feature their last names as teachers or faculty members.

A touch of magic shimmers through chrome, rhinestones, and reflective surfaces, transforming an ordinary school gym into something more vibrant and dynamic. And for a nod to history, our fictional school was "established" in 1956, the same year as Hamilton Theatre Inc. I hope you leave feeling not just like an audience member, but part of the Bee itself!

Maddie Merrill, Artistic Director of *Spelling Bee*

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