

Music & Lyrics by **William Finn**

Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

additional material by Jay Reiss



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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

Creative Team

Director & Choreographer	Jacques Lemay
Music Director	Stephanie Sartore
Set Designer	Hana Ramsay
Costume Designer	Shael O'Brien
Lighting Designer	Nadia Myroon
Projection Designer	Grayson O'Gorman
Sound Designer	Theo Falkiner
Stage Manager	Emilie Shjarback

Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre

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 Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

Presenting Sponsor:





Brigit Stewart	Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive Mom
Carter Lapham	Chip Tolentino/Jesus Christ
Anton Matsigura	
Emma Moon	LogainneSchwartzandgrubeniere (Schwartzy)
Emma Beadman	William Barfee
Chiara Power*	Olive Ostrovsky
Jack Storwick	Vice Principal Douglas Panch
Janina Ferrer**	
Kieran Nowazek	Mitch Mahoney
Eric Barnes	Carl Dad
Morgan Christopher	Dan/Olive Dad
Elliot Baskin Smith	
Kaitlyn Bergeron	Understudy
Marcus Delaney	Understudy
Sadie Kupery	Understudy

*Music captain, **Dance captain

Band

Piano, Conductor	Heather Burns*
Piano, Conductor	Jim Hill*
Synthesizer	Jeff Poynter*
Synthesizer	Dustin Wilde*
Alto Sax, Flute, Oboe	Spencer Leong Cowie**
Cello	Rheanna Finigan°
Clarinet	Jacob Wilkinson**
Percussion	Terina Wong°

*External guest, **UVic School of Music students, ° UVic Theatre students

There will be one 15-minute intermision ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkwəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkwəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Creative Team



Jacques Lemay C.M.

Director & Choreographer Mr. Lemay is a celebrated Producer/Director/Choreographer/Fight Director and Educator. An award-winning director/choreographer, his creative works span the full gamut of theatrical and television productions, including operas, ballets, symphony concerts, musicals, multicultural productions, royal galas, variety shows and special events both nationally and internationally. His work was last seen at the Phoenix as director/choreographer for the production of The Drowsy Chaperone.

As a performing arts educator, he has founded training programs for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Confederation Centre of the Arts. He is the Co-Founder/Managing Artistic Director of the Canadian College of Performing Arts.

Mr. Lemay has served as Adjudicator and Advisor to the Canada Council for the Arts as well as several provincial and territorial arts councils. He is currently Vice-President of the board of Pacific Opera Victoria and a member of the Order of Canada.

Director Notes

In meeting the company on the first day, I shared with them how excited I was to work collectively on this musical. Working with such creative and talented emerging artists, guided by highly skilled mentors, has been a most enriching and rewarding experience for which I will forever be grateful.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a celebration of the guirky, heartwarming, and sometimes nerve-wracking journey of adolescence. It is a heartwarming story of young people discovering where they fit in and the importance of finding your people.

Together, we have delved into the essence of each character and their life experience thus far. In so doing, we have discovered characters who, on the surface, may appear odd and even silly at times. Rona, the number-one realtor in Putnam County and returning moderator tells us that she loves what she sees: kids acting innocently. However, behind this innocence may lie fear, deeply rooted insecurities, and a longing to belong.



Stephanie Sartore

Music Director

Stephanie is thrilled to be back supporting the Phoenix through another musical! An internationally-renowned performer, musician, conductor and educator, she considers it a delightfully full-circle moment to be working at home alongside the great Jacques Lemay, who was absolutely instrumental in her own early training. Special thanks to Heather and our band, a combination of UVic students and seasoned local pros, for bringing live music back to the Phoenix mainstage. What these students achieve across every facet of getting a show on its feet, never fails to impress... especially considering they do not receive any additional musical training. I could not be more proud of their hard work and growth through this process. Thank YOU for being here supporting your local arts and future stage stars! Love to K, M, J and our little prince.

Recent local M.D. credits: Apple Tree (Belfry), 100 Years of Broadway, Threepenny Opera (Phoenix), Anne of Green Gables (CCPA) Upcoming: Ride the Cyclone (CCPA Studio Ensemble). Social media handle: theonlyscarlettdarling. Website: www.theonlyscarlettdarling.com

Creative Team



Heather Burns

Conductor, Piano

Heather works as a freelance musician and musical director and enjoys opportunities to teach, direct & perform both locally and abroad. She is the music director and manager for swing & show band, "Dock Side Drive" (www.docksidedrive.ca). Heather has released two CDs of her own, "Child's Play" (2005) and "Road Back Home" (2008), and "As Long As I'm Singing" (2016) with Dock Side Drive. She has done extensive work as a musician, performance coach, arranger, writer & music director in the theatre with companies such as the Belfry Theatre, Western Canada Theatre, Chemainus Theatre, Victoria Operatic Society, CCPA, and Kaleidoscope Theatre. Recent productions include 9-5 The Musical (CTF), The Last Five Years (BBRT), Spring Awakenings (Belfry/ CCPA), Light in the Piazza, West Side Story, Mary Poppins, Into the Woods (CCPA). www.heatherburns.ca

Jim Hill

Conductor, Piano

Mr. Hill has directed the music for nearly one hundred and fifty musicals, reviews and industrials. Not only has he written four musicals, he has arranged over a dozen of them and has founded/co-founded nine theatre companies. Mr. Hill received the Award of Merit from the Government of Canada and has written for National Theatre Magazine. Educated at the University of Michigan and Princeton, he has worked, taught and directed with the likes of Berthold Carrière, Robin Phillips, Bill Hutt, Martha Henry, Bernard Hopkins, Howard Dick, Anna Russell, Eugene Ormandy and Robert Shaw. Bio from ccpacanada.com.



Hana Ramsav

Set Desianer

Hana is a fourth-year Biochemistry major who is the first Theatre Minor to design a set for a mainstage production at the Phoenix Theatre. Hana has been enamoured with scenic paint and stage management since her introduction to theatre in 2017 and her enthusiasm for theatre has only grown since starting scenic design. Through her designs, she aims to capture the audience's eye with a variety of textures, colours & techniques to truly place the audience in the world where the narrative occurs. Previous credits at the Phoenix include The Hot L Baltimore, 100 Years of Broadway, The Importance of Being Earnest, Mojada & Vinegar Tom as Head Scenic Artist. Other credits include stage management, technician & scenic art roles for Genesis Theatre, Studio West Dance & Delta Youth Theatre.



Shael O'Brien

Costume Designer Shael is a fourth-year student in the design focus at the Phoenix Theatre. As a lover of musical theatre and a performer, she is incredibly excited to be a part of this wonderful production! Her past costume design credits include Costume Designer Weightless (UVic SATCo), Assistant Designer The Importance of Being Earnest (Phoenix Theatre), and Costume Design Apprentice As You Like It (Bard on the Beach). Some of her other professional experience includes dressing for Classic Country Roads (Chemainus Theatre Festival) and acting as Artistic Associate for Project X's Theatre Under the Trees Festival. You may also recognize Shael from the Phoenix Theatre's 2024 production of 100 Years of Broadway, where she sang 'The I Love You Song' from this exact musical!

Creative Team



Nadia Myroon

Nadia Myroon is a fourth-year student at the Phoenix Theatre. Past lighting design credits include I Am in My Body and You Are in Yours (SATCo) and Endgame (timetheft theatre). Nadia's favourite word is "perpendicular." Happy spelling!

Lighting Designer



Grayson O'Gorman

Projection Designer Grayson recently graduated from InFocus Film School, specializing in Visual Special Effects compositing. While pursuing work in the film industry, he is excited about this opportunity to gain experience in projections for theatre and stage and to be working on "Spelling Bee."



Theo Falkiner

Sound Designer Theo is a theatre artist who grew up on the territories of the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations. Kicking off their fourth year as a self-directed student, Theo's excited to be doing sound on yet another Phoenix musical. Past sound

design credits include *Endgame* (timetheft theatre), *The Importance of Being* Earnest (UVic Phoenix Theatre), I Am in My Body and You Are in Yours (UVic SATCo), and Horse Girl (timetheft theatre). They hope you enjoy the show!



Emilie Shjarback

Stage Manager Emilie is in her fourth and final year at the Phoenix Theatre, completing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Production and Management. While her passion for theatre began with design, she discovered her love for stage management in her second year of studies and has been committed ever since. Her credits include Spring Awakening, 100 Years of Broadway, Litigation Racket, and Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes (Phoenix). Emilie is thrilled to be part of one of her favorite musicals and has loved working with the incredibly talented cast, crew, and production team that brought this incredibly fun, whirlwind of a show to life. Enjoy!

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THE KILLING GAME by Eugène Ionesco February 13-22, 2025

Directed by Conrad Alexandrowicz

Absurdist comedy that transcends the ordinary with razor sharp wit and keen satire.



TWELFTH NIGHT by William Shakespeare March 13-22, 2025

Directed by Fran Gebhard

Timeless classic with mistaken identities and the delightful chaos of reality & illusion.



Brigit Stewart Brigit (she/her) is thrilled to finish off her final year at the Phoenix with the lively cast and crew of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!* Her previous Phoenix credits include Wendla in *Spring Awakening* and Ensemble in *100 Years of Broadway*.



Carter Lapham

Chip Tolentino/Jesus Christ

Carter is a fourth-year student at UVic. This is his fourth mainstage production and his previous credits include *The Hot I Baltimore* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He's incredibly excited to be on the stage once again. His favourite words include gubernatorial, periwinkle and snickerdoodle.



Emma Moon Emma is a third-year performance major with a love for musical theatre. She is ecstatic to be performing in her first mainstage show at the Phoenix Theatre with such an incredible group of people! Some previous performance experiences include *Project Hollywood* (SATCo) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Showstoppers Academy).



Anton Matsigura

Leaf Coneybear

Anton is a 20-year-old performer from Calgary, Alberta, and is pleased to join the Phoenix Theatre this year! Anton has worked with various companies across Calgary, including Calgary Young People's Theatre, the Mind the Gap Collective, and Black Radish Theatre. Anton is thrilled to be getting his hands on another musical and hopes you enjoy the Spelling Bee!



Emma Beadman

William Barfee

Emma (she/they) is a third-year student studying stage management. While she normally works behind the scenes, she is excited to make her mainstage debut here at the Phoenix Theatre. She looks forward to working on *The Killing Game* as a deputy stage manager next spring.



Chiara Power

Chiara is a fourth-year performance focus student and is elated, thankful, and titillated to be back onstage in Spelling Bee and working with such an illustrious team. Recent credits include *100 Years of Broadway* (Phoenix) and *Fully Committed* (San Juan Community Theatre). Chiara loves her family and the word tchotchke. @hotdangitschiara

Olive Ostrovsky



Jack Storwick Vice Principal Douglas Panch Jack is a Performer / Sound Designer who is honoured to be living, learning, and gathering inspiration on unceded Lakwanan territory. Previous performance credits include: The Importance of Being Earnest, Vinegar Tom, and Spring Awakening (Phoenix Theatre). Elsewhere: A Christmas Carol (Theatre Calgary), Litigation Racket (Victoria One Act Play Festival).



Janina Ferrer

Marcy Park

Janina is a fourth-year student focusing on acting and performance in UVic's Department of Theatre. She is overjoyed to be a part of this production! Recent credits: SETYA, Spring Awakening (Phoenix Theatre); Camp Goneaway (Vancouver Fringe 2024 - Ragamuffin Productions); Matilda the Musical (Theatre Under the Stars, Vancouver). Enjoy the show!



Kieran Nowazek

Mitch Mahoney

Kieran (they/them) is a Métis artist and actor who has previously acted in the Phoenix Theatre's production of *The Hot L Baltimore*, as well as the SATCo production *My Own* Sol.



Carl Dad

Eric Barnes Eric (he/him) is a fourth-year performance student. He's thrilled to be performing in his first musical! His last appearance at The Phoenix Theatre was in The Importance of Being Earnest (2023). He hopes you enjoy the show! You can see more of him on Instagram @erricbaarnes



Morgan Christopher

Dan/Olive Dad

Morgan (he/they) is a fourth-year theatre student and self-proclaimed terrible speller studying at the University of Victoria. With past credits including 100 Years of Broadway (Phoenix Theatre), Endgame (timetheft theatre) and Spring Awakening (Phoenix Theatre), he is thrilled to be singing on stage again in this incredible show.



Elliot Baskin Smith

Elliot is a 19-year-old performer from Kamloops, B.C. This is his first year at The Phoenix Theatre. You may have seen him at the Victoria Fringe this summer in Alectoria Productions' Nothing Crazy's Gonna Happen. Elliot is delighted to be a part of this year's Spelling Bee.

Understudy



Kaitlyn Bergeron

Kaitlyn is a Calgary-trained actor with experience in musical theatre and voice acting. Her notable roles include Maureen in *RENT* and Diana Barry in *Anne of Green Gables*. With diverse training and valuable experiences, she excels in singing, projection, and fight choreography, showcasing her passion for performance.



Marcus Delaney

Understudy

Understudv

Marcus (he/him/his) is a first-year theatre major and is ecstatic that the *Spelling Bee* is his first Phoenix production! He has been an active member of Shuswap Theatre since high school; some productions include *The Wizard of Oz, The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble*, and *The Secret Garden*.



Sadie Kupery

Understudy

Sadie standing by as Female Understudy #2, is beyond thrilled to be included in this performance! She is originally from Cochrane, Alberta, and is in her first year in UVic's theatre program. She has performed in productions through Cochrane High School and Storybook Theatre School. Enjoy the show!

The Phoenix Theatre is not a professional theatre. Its productions serve the academic requirements of the B.F.A. and M.F.A. programs of UVic's Department of Theatre. Students are involved in all aspects and work alongside guest artists, faculty, professional staff and mentors. Our theatre graduates are the industry leaders of tomorrow. Enjoy the show!

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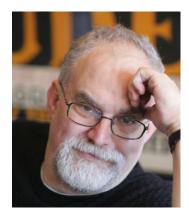
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The Creators: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

From the Music Theatre International official website



William Finn

Music & Lyrics

Mr. Finn is the writer and composer of *Falsettos*, for which he received two Tony Awards, Best Book of a Musical (with James Lapine) and Best Original Score. He has also written and composed *In Trousers, March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland* (Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, two Los Angeles Drama Critic's Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, the Lucille Lortel Award, and Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition). Mr. Finn wrote the lyrics to Graciela Daniele's *Tango Apasionado* (music by the great Astor Piazzolla) and, with Michael Starobin, the music to Lapine's version of *The Winter's Tale*. His musical *Romance in Hard Times* was presented at the Public Theater.

Recently, he wrote *Painting You for Love's Fire*, a piece commissioned and performed by the Acting Company, based on Shakespeare's sonnets. For television, Mr. Finn provided the music and lyrics for the Ace Award-winning HBO cartoon *Ira Sleeps Over, Tom Thumb and Thumbelina, Pokey Little Puppy's First Christmas*, and, with Ellen Fitzhugh, two *Brave little Toaster* cartoons. Mr. Finn has written for Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, and The New Yorker. A graduate of Williams College where he was awarded the Hutchinson Fellowship for Musical Composition, Finn now teaches a weekly master class at the NYU Tisch Graduate Program in Musical Theatre Writing. His most recent projects include *Elegies, A Song Cycle* (Lincoln Center) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, which ran on Broadway and has been produced nationally and internationally, as well.

Rachel Sheinkin

Broadway: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Tony, Drama Desk awards); Off Broadway: *Striking 12* (Lucille Lortel nomination), Off-Off: *Serenade*. Regional: *Guthrie, Little House on the Prairie*; Center Theater Group, *Sleeping Beauty Wakes* (Los Angeles Ovation Award); London: *Blood Drive*. Residencies, fellowships, commissions include: Eugene O'Neill National Theater Center, Baryshnikov Dance Foundation, MacDowell Colony, Manhattan Theatre Club, Deaf West, McCarter Theatre, Playwrights Horizons. Rachel is a volunteer mentor for TDF's Open Doors program, a visiting instructor at Yale School of Drama, and adjunct faculty member of NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program.



Rebecca Feldman

Conceived by

Book

Rebecca Feldman is the conceiver of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* for which she won a Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk and Tony Nomination for Best Musical. She directed its world premiere at Barrington Stage Company in the summer of 2004. Rebecca is Associate Producer on *Transparent*, the *Musical Finale* and served as Staff Writer on the finale as well. She is currently developing an episodic drama with Big Kid Pictures, called *La Coyote*, which has been selected to the WeForShe's 2019 Writeher List. She is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab as well as the AFI Directing Workshop for Women where she won the Jean Firstenburg Award for Best Short. Her short films include, *My First Time Driving* (AFI Jean Firstenburg Award, Best Short at Lake Arrowhead Film Fest, Best of Shorts at Outfest), A/V Club (TV Pilot, NYTVF), *Uber Alice* (Woodstock Film Fest), Dead Cat (Producer, Tribeca Film Fest) and *Irving*(Official Selection Rhode Island Film Fest, Official Selection USA Film Fest, Ft. Lauderdale Film Fest, Atlanta Jewish Film Fest).



The Creators: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

From the Music Theatre International official website



Jay Reiss

Additional material

Jay Reiss is a playwright. He is a Julliard graduate and provided additional material to the book for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Reiss appeared in the original workshops, Off-Broadway cast, and Broadway cast of the musical as Vice Principal Douglas Panch.

Play Background

Initially, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* started as a non-musical play, entitled C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, done by the improvisational group "The Farm." One of the performers in the play, Sarah Saltzberg, happened to be the nanny of playwright, Wendy Wasserstein. Impressed by what she saw, Wasserstein suggested to friend, William Finn, that he may be able to take the show to the next level. Finn, his former student, Rachel Sheinkin, and C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E creator, Rebecca Feldman, worked together to turn the piece into a full-length musical.

The Farm

Founded in 2000 by Rebecca Feldman, Artistic Director. It is a collective of writers and performers, including Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg. The Farm's interest is in the role of improvisation in creating new work for the theatre. The Farm initially designates a two-week intensive period in which to discover, develop, and rehearse a play from the impulses borne mainly out of the pressure of a deadline. Previous projects include *Super* (at Atlantic Theatre Studios), *Why I Hate Florida* (workshop at White Wave in DUMBO) and *C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E* (at the Present Company Theatorium in October 2002), on which *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is based. The characters and original dialogue of "Beth Marguiles," "Vice Principal Douglas Panch," "Mr. Barfee," and "Logan Schwarzengrubenierre" were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.

About Music Theatre International (MTI)

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide.

MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior[®] shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students.

Production Team

Stage Management Supervisor.	Timothy O'Gorman*
	Holly Layman, Gemma Noble
	Olivia Mazari
Lighting Design Supervisor	
	Jordann Bradshaw
Lighting Programmer	Ziqi Wang
Lighting Board Operator	Savannah O'Heany
Follow Spot Operators	Katrina Hayes, Kay Sammis
Projections & Sound Operator	Jenn Waugh
Front of House Sound Operator	Theo Falkiner
Monitor Tech	Sam Riter
Set Design Supervisor	Karyn McCallum*
Assistant Set Designer	Claudia Fraser
Stage Carpenter/Head Flys	
Assistant Carpenter	Makayla Gallacher
	Hana Ramsay
Scenic Painters	Claudia Fraser, Makayla Gallacher, Karyn McCallum*
	Thomas Moore, Hana Ramsay, Molly Somers, M. Welsh
-	Emma Brown
•	r M. Welsh, Kirby Young
	Judy Caranto
	Alexander Lindholm, Kieran Nowazek, Sophie Taylor
	Divine Mercy Ezeaku, Kaden Fleming-Holmes, Jessie Hutcheson
5 1	Carmen Alatorre*
	Samantha Johnson
•	Sara Briggs, Samantha Johnson
	Jolie Cree, Helga Woolsey, Valen Xu
·	
·	
	Link Bechtold, Mikan Munson, Moss Orser
-	Megan Farrell, Sadie Kupery, Emilie Shjarback
	Summer Alexander, Julian Woodgate
	Coco McElroy
вох Оттее Stan	
	Brock Brown, Tarn Blakely, Wynter Clermont
	Grace Fouracre, Brigit Stewart, Zoey Stienstra, Julian Woodgate

And Theatre 105, 205, 305, 405, and work-study students | *Staff/Faculty | **Guest Artists

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Professors Emeriti

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