

WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY

★ THEATRE ★

1970



THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

APRIL 25 - MAY 4
MADLAB THEATRE

WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY
THEATRE PRESENTS

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

MUSIC AND 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 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

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

W-E-L-C-O-M-E TO THE BEE!

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee follows an unusual group of kids as they nervously make their way through a local spelling bee. While candidly revealing hilarious and heartfelt anecdotes from their home lives, these kids spell their way through a series of increasingly difficult words. The audience is invited to participate in the bee alongside the spellers, creating a unique show experience that explores the struggles of navigating adolescence, the desire to fit in, and the insurmountable pressure to be a winner and especially NOT a loser. While it is a comedy about adolescence, it also explores some themes that may be too mature for younger audiences. Parental guidance is strongly advised.

M-U-S-I-C-A-L NUMBERS

ACT ONE

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE COMPANY
THE SPELLING RULES SPELLERS AND PANCH
MY FAVORITE MOMENT OF THE BEE RONA
MY FRIEND, THE DICTIONARY OLIVE
THE FIRST GOODBYE SPELLERS AND PANCH
PANDEMONIUM SPELLERS, PANCH AND MITCH
I'M NOT THAT SMART LEAF
THE SECOND GOODBYE SPELLERS AND PANCH
MAGIC FOOT BARFEE, RONA AND SPELLERS
PANDEMONIUM (REPRISE) COMPANY
MY FAVORITE MOMENT OF THE BEE (II) RONA
PRAYER OF THE COMFORT COUNSELOR MITCH

(INTERMISSION - 15 MINUTES)

ACT TWO

CHIP'S LAMENT CHIP
WOE IS ME LOGAINNE, CARL, DAN AND COMPANY
I'M NOT THAT SMART (REPRISE) LEAF
I SPEAK SIX LANGUAGES MARCY AND GIRLS
THE I LOVE YOU SONG OLIVE AND OLIVE'S PARENTS
WOE IS ME (REPRISE) LOGAINNE, BARFEE AND OLIVE
MY FAVORITE MOMENT OF THE BEE (III) RONA
SECOND OLIVE, BARFEE, PANCH AND RONA
FINALE COMPANY
THE LAST GOODBYE COMPANY

C-A-S-T

OLIVE OSTROVSKY: RACHEL WHITE
RONA LISA PERETTI: ALEKSA KAUPS
WILLIAM BARFEE: MATTHEW PHILLIPS
LEAF CONEYBEAR: NATHAN STANLEY
LOGAINNE SCHWARTZ AND GRUBENIERRE: MADI BURWELL
MARCY PARK: DEBORAH BRENNAN
CHIP TOLENTINO: NICK NAVARATNAM
MITCH MAHONEY: MIETTA SMITH
DOUGLAS PANCH: OLIE COEN

C-R-E-W

DIRECTOR: CHRISTINE MONSOUR
MUSIC DIRECTOR: LEXI MOORE
CHOREOGRAPHER: FRANCESCA MITCHELL
STAGE MANAGER: MATTIE ELLIOTT
REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST: BRIAN HORNE
SOUND DESIGNER: CHRIS BACU
SOUND OPERATOR: MADISON SNIPES, CHRIS BACU
LIGHTING DESIGN: PAIGE VICK
LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR: PAIGE VICK
PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMS PHOTOGRAPHY
SET DESIGNER: JAY JOHNS
WCT BOARD REP: CRISTIN CRANE

M-E-E-T THE CAST!



RACHEL WHITE



ALEKSA KAUPS



MATTHEW PHILLIPS



NATHAN STANLEY



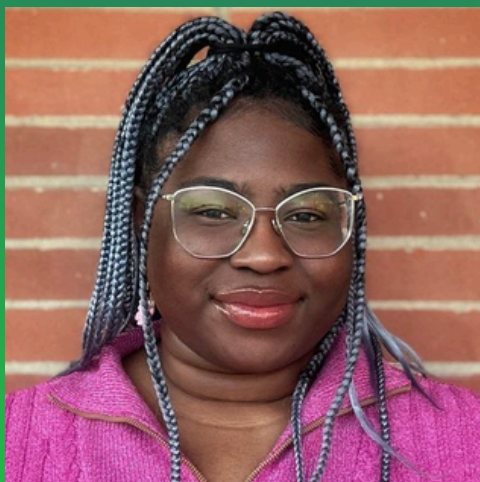
MADI BURWELL



DEBORAH BRENNAN



NICK NAVARATNAM



MIETTA SMITH



OLIE COEN

M-E-E-T THE CREW!



MATTIE ELLIOTT



BRIAN HORNE



LEXI MOORE



CHRISTINE MONSOUR



CHRIS BACU



FRANCESCA MITCHELL



MADISON SNIPES



PAIGE VICK



JAY JOHNS

DIRECTORS N-O-T-E

At The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, the audience is getting a look into a very niche community with unique, eccentric characters; but the story couldn't be more relatable. I'm thankful we get the opportunity to have our production performed at MadLab theater. The voice of this show is particularly more prominent when performed in an intimate space. A black box theater allows the audience to see these characters up close and be fully immersed in this story about adolescence. Finding connection and community is difficult when growing up, especially in a competitive environment, where there is an insurmountable pressure to NOT be a loser. Everyone has their individual experience of this context- whether it be at a spelling bee, a basketball court, or a theater. The environments we experience during our adolescence can foster a thirst for greatness, provide us a sense of belonging, and ultimately help us grow in ways we are not able to comprehend until we are older.

"It's a very very nice beginning."

CAST & CREW B-I-O-S

CHRISTOPHER BACU - Sound Designer (Cincinnati, Ohio) Chris is working towards his BFA in Technical Theater at Otterbein University. Some of his previous credits include Footloose: The Musical (A1/Sound Engineer), The Laramie Project (A1/Sound Engineer), and Natasha Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812 (A2/Assistant Sound Engineer). He also works as a Lighting and Sound Assistant for the University. He is thrilled to be designing the show.

DEBORAH BRENNAN (MARCY PARK) (she/her) is thrilled to join the cast and crew of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee with Worthington Community Theatre! She thanks Christine and the production and creative team for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show! L-O-V-E to all her family and friends for all of their unending support! NBL to Brady.

MADI BURWELL (LOGAINNE SCHWARTZ AND GRUBENIERRE) is so grateful to be a part of The Bee. In the spirit of Schwarzy, Madi encourages you to read banned books, create divisive art, and be advocates for empathy. "If we can make, from tenderness, a revolution..." – Carl Phillips. Endless gratitude to Christine, Lexi, Mattie, Frankie, and the multi-faceted, multi-talented, multi-cool Bee cast. This one's for fourteen-year-old Madi, and for the three, always.

CAST & CREW B-I-O-S

OLIE COEN (DOUGLAS PANCH) is returning to the stage after a 20-year hiatus. He previously did shows at Philo High School and at Zanesville Community Theatre. He would like to thank his first director and mentor extraordinaire Keith McCarroll for making theater special. He would also like to thank his wife Emily for always encouraging him, his daughter Evelyn for pushing him back into the spotlight, his son Perrin for always being his buddy, and his best friend Smitty for reminding him that every seemingly pointless moment in life can be full of wonderful meaning.

MATTIE ELLIOTT (she/her) is ecstatic to join her first WCT show as Spelling Bee's stage manager! She is a recent graduate of The Ohio State University's theatre program. Past productions include Gypsy (Imagine Productions), The Spongebob Musical, Disney's Freaky Friday, Heathers the Musical (Off the Lake Productions), and Cabaret (Imagine Productions). Mattie is eternally grateful to Christine, Lexi, Frankie, and Brian for being so supportive and trusting. Thank you to Jeffrey for wholeheartedly supporting her creative endeavors. You guys are the B-E-S-T. Continue advocating for the arts, and enjoy the show!

BRIAN HORNE (Accompanist) is excited to return to WCT, having previously played Mr. Wormwood in Matilda! In addition to acting and accompanying, Brian has also written multiple musicals, including Second to Sherlock (Imagine Productions, December 2021) and The Age of Innocence. Fun Fact: He has been the final speller in two different productions of Spelling Bee!

CAST & CREW B-I-O-S

JAY JOHNS (Set Designer) (he/him) is the Technical Director at Pickerington High School Central. Hailing from Texas and a proud graduate of Texas Christian University (TCU) with a degree in theater production, my love for theatre particularly blossomed on the technical side. After college, I spent three years traveling the world, working the "behind-the-scenes" magic and rigging for various shows on cruise ships. In 2013, I returned to the states and wore several hats in the AV industry, managing the Make-A-Wish Tour across Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana and then serving as a scenic manager for Live! Technologies.

ALEKSA KAUPS (RONA LISA PERETTI) is thrilled to join the cast of her first WCT show! Recent favorite credits include Queen Gynecia (Head over Heels), Claire (Ordinary Days), and Fanny Dashwood (Sense and Sensibility). She is on the board of Imagine Productions and assistant directed their recent production of She Loves Me. She is grateful for the Columbus theatre community that has offered her so much love and support, and to Mom, Dad, Nick, Taylor, and Keire - I couldn't do it without you! Dedicated to the educators that show up for our country's children every day - we'd be nothing without you.

FRANCESCA MITCHELL is so excited to be back choreographing for WCT's After Dark show. Francesca has choreographed Spring Awakening for WCT and Head Over Heels for Imagine Productions. Francesca has also appeared in multiple other productions around Columbus such as Frenchy (Grease) and Lulu (Cabaret) and is a member of FUSE Dance Project. She has had such a blast working with this amazing cast and hopes everyone enjoys the Bee.

CAST & CREW B-I-O-S

CHRISTINE MONSOUR (she/they) is elated to work with such talented artists in the Columbus theater community. Being a graduate from The Ohio State University with a BA in Psychology and minor in Theatre, this is the 'second' ;) musical under their direction; she previously directed *Freaky Friday* the musical with Off The Lake Productions. Though Christine enjoys directing, she is also a performer. Recent performance credits include Jo March in *Curtain Players' Little Women* and Ensemble in CCT's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. She is endlessly thankful to this cast for sharing their talents and silliness with us throughout this process.

LEXI MOORE (she/her) has had a blast music directing this incredible show. She owes her knowledge and passion for music to her many teachers throughout the years, whether high school or college, and would be nothing without their guidance and support. Most recently, Lexi was a swing in *Curtain Players' "Little Women"* and music directed "Gypsy" with Imagine Productions. She spends her days working as an automation engineer, and she is endlessly grateful for the flexibility to do what she loves outside of work. Thank you for supporting local theatre, and giving the chance for artists to fill their hearts.

NICK NAVARATNAM (CHIP) is thrilled T-H-R-I-L-L-E-D to be performing with this exemplary cast. Notable credits include *She Loves Me* (Kodaly), *The Last Five Years* (Jamie), *The Addams Family* (Gomez), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Aldolpho), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Neville), and *My Fair Lady* (Freddy). Outside of musical theater, Nick sings with the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus and Vox and performs improv comedy with ROT and TBD: The improvised musical. By day, he is a finance director at Cardinal Health. He sends much love to family and friends!

CAST & CREW B-I-O-S

MATTHEW PHILLIPS (BARFEE) is happy to be performing with Worthington Community Theatre for the first time! Favorite previous credits include SpongeBob (The SpongeBob Musical - Columbus Children's Theatre), Leo Bloom (The Producers - Gallery Players), and the Emcee (Cabaret - Imagine Productions). He is forever grateful to the Columbus theatre community for every opportunity to get to know and perform with so many incredible people. And he'd like to give special thanks and appreciation to his close friends for their constant presence and for helping him on his perpetual journey to being a better human; to his family for their undying support; and to his loving partner for inspiring him and stepping side by side with him every single day.

MIETTA SMITH (MITCH MAHONEY) (she/her) is so excited to be back at WCT to play Mitch in the Bee! This is her second show with WCT having been in Spring Awakening last spring. She has most recently been seen as Mopsa in Head over Heels with Imagine Productions! Mietta would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her in all her little shows! Love y'all deep!! She would also like to dedicate this to her Aunt Docy who always encouraged her to keep singing.

MADISON SNIPES has been working tech and management for shows for years! She loves working behind the scenes to enhance the audiences experience and make sure everything runs smoothly! She is grateful for the opportunity to help out this super talented team and she hopes you really enjoy the show!!

CAST & CREW B-I-O-S

NATHAN STANLEY (LEAF CONEYBEAR) (he/him) is ecstatic to be returning to the WCT stage! Nathan graduated from Ohio University in 2023 with a BFA in Interdisciplinary Arts, with focuses in music and performance. Credits include *The Waiter in She Loves Me* (Imagine Productions), *Moritz Steifel in Spring Awakening* (WCT), and directing *Head Over Heels* (Imagine Productions). Nathan would like to thank the cast and crew (especially Aleksa!) of *Spelling Bee* for being so cool, and his friends and family for all of their love and support! Don't ask me to spell no words in real life though fr.

PAIGE VICK is a senior at Otterbein University with a focus in lighting design and technology. This is her second time designing a show with WCT and she is excited for the opportunity to design in the mad lab space once again. This will sadly be her last show in Ohio for a while as she is attending University of Illinois in Fall to get her masters degree in lighting design but she hopes you enjoy the show!

RACHEL WHITE (OLIVE OSTROVSKY) is a junior at Ohio State University studying astronomy and astrophysics with a minor in theatre. She recently choreographed for *Off the Lake Productions' Legally Blonde the Musical*, and before that performed in *SpongeBob the Musical* and *Freaky Friday*. She is endlessly thankful to Christine and the artistic team for giving her this opportunity, to her mom, dad, and siblings for all of their love, and for OTL for always showing up to support her. Go Bucks, and may the best speller win!

SPECIAL T-H-A-N-K-S



Peggy R.

McConnell
Arts Center
of Worthington

MAC LAB

Pickerington High
School Central

Bexley High School

Michelle Damon and Matt DeBlieck



Founded in 1970, the Worthington Community Theatre was formed by a group of Worthington families who felt it would be fun to have a community theatre in their community. At over 50 years of age, WCT is one of the oldest community theatres in central Ohio. Our members come from all walks of life and now live all over central Ohio. Over the years our shows have consistently been recognized with honors by both the Ohio Community Theatre Association and the American Association of Community Theatres. We are proud to be members of OCTA, AACT, the Worthington Arts Council, the Worthington Chamber of Commerce and the Theatre Roundtable.

WCT BOARD

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NONI MADDREY - VICE PRESIDENT
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CRISTIN CRANE - SECRETARY
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*We're looking to add more amazing people to our board.
If interested, send us an email at wctpresents@gmail.com*

COMING S-O-O-N

JOIN US AT THE MCCONNELLARTS CENTER
IN WORTHINGTON THIS SUMMER!



Rodgers and Hammerstein's
Cinderella
Enchanted Edition

July 18-27

AUDITIONS ARE MAY 30-31
VISIT WCTPRESENTS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION