

September 30 – October 3, 2021
EVELYN SMITH MUSIC THEATRE

MUSIC THEATRE AND OPERA

PRESENTS

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 Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre

Director/Choreographer
SETH TUCKER

Music Director
KEVIN WHITE

Technical Director
CAL BUCHER

Lighting Designer
KRISTEN PETERSON

Costume Designer
MATTAEA REEVES

Sound Designer
CLAYTON MELOCIK

Prop Master
ALFREDO ESCARCEGA

Hair and Makeup
SHARON JONES

Set Designer
ALFREDO ESCARCEGA

Lighting/Sound
Supervisor
GERALD WILLOW

Stage Manager
KATE LEONARD

Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by The Farm.
The Barrington Stage Company worship of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

“The 25 th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”	Rona, Spellers
“The Rules”	Panch, Mitch, Rona, Spellers
“My Friend The Dictionary”	Olive, Chip, Coneybear, Logainne, Rona
“Pandemonium”	Chip, Olive, Logainne, Coneybear, Barfee, Marcy
“I’m Not That Smart”	Coneybear, Kids
“Magic Foot”	Barfee, Chip, Rona, Mitch, Marcy, Coneybear, Olive, Logainne
“Magic Foot Playoff”	Spellers
“Pandemonium (Reprise)”	Panch, Chip, Mitch, Coneybear, Marcy, Olive, Barfee, Logainne
“Chip Goodbye”	Olive, Barfee, Marcy, Coneybear, Logainne
“Rona Moment #2”	Rona
“Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor”	Mitch, All
“Chip’s Lament”	Chip
“Woe Is Me”	Logainne, Carl Dad, Dan Dad, Kids
“Spelling Montage”	Logainne, Olive, Marcy, Coneybear, Barfee, Panch
“I’m Not That Smart (Reprise)”	Coneybear
“I Speak Six Languages”	Marcy, Girls
“Jesus”	Marcy, Rona, Olive, Logainne
“The I Love You Song”	Olive, Olive’s Mom, Olive’s Dad
“Woe Is Me (Reprise)”	Logainne, Mitch
“Rona Moment #3”	Rona
“Second (Part 1)”	Olive, Barfee, Chip, Mitch, Rona, Coneybear, Marcy, Logainne
“Weltanschauung”	Chip, Mitch, Rona, Coneybear, Marcy, Logainne
“Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux”	Rona, Chip, Marcy, Mitch, Logainne, Coneybear
“Second (Part 2)”	Olive, Barfee, Mitch, Chip, Rona, Coneybear, Marcy, Logainne
“The Champion”	Rona, Chip, Mitch, Marcy, Coneybear, Logainne
“Finale”	All

Show run is approximately 90 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JONICE BERNARD	Olive Ostrovsky
WESLEY BRADSTREET	Leaf Coneybear
AYDAN BRUCE	Rona Lisa Perretti
MATTHEW DODARO	Swing (Barfee/Panch/Leaf)
CHRIS ELLIOTT	Mitch Mahoney
LINA FORERO	Logainne SchwartzandGrubenniere
LEO GALLEGOS	Chip Tolentino
LIUYI JIANG	Marcy Park
TEDDY LADLEY	William Barfee
JESSICA LESTER	Swing (Rona/Logainne)
SOPHIA MARINO	Swing (Olive/Marcy)
SETH MORTON	Vice Principal Douglas Panch
MATT VILLAR	Swing (Chip/Mitch)

ORCHESTRA

Keyboard/Music Director KEVIN WHITE
Synthesizer EMILY TELLING
Cello HANNAH SHUTE
Reeds MICHAEL ROBINSON
Percussion ROBERT GRAHMANN

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director BRIAN DEMARIS
Assistant Stage Manager MAX PLATA
Program Coordinator LINDA BENNETT
Office Assistant ELLIE BARRETT

STAGE CREW

MADISON ABLIN
ALEXANDRIA BROOKS
HANNAH EICHHOLTZ
ANNIE HEARTNEY
MARISSA KNIGHT
LAURYN SHELLEY
VAISHALINI SITARAMAN

ASL INTERPRETER

LISA SCHULMAN
CAMERON EGGERS

AUDIO ASSISTANT

SOPHIA RODRIGUEZ

COSTUME CREW

SAVANNAH TREVINO-CASIAS
KELLI SHILL
KAELA MCMAHON

ASU INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts acknowledges the twenty-two Native Nations that have inhabited this land for centuries. Arizona State University's four campuses are located in the Salt River Valley on ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples, including the Akimel O'odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) Indian Communities, whose care and keeping of these lands allows us to be here today.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



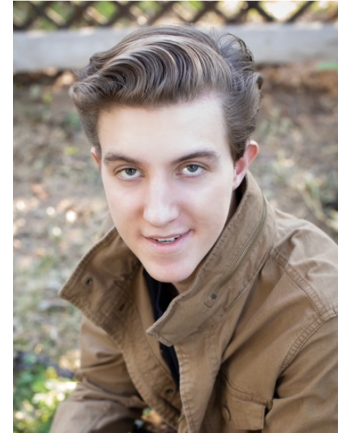
JONICE BERNARD



WESLEY BRADSTREET



AYDAN BRUCE



MATTHEW DODARO



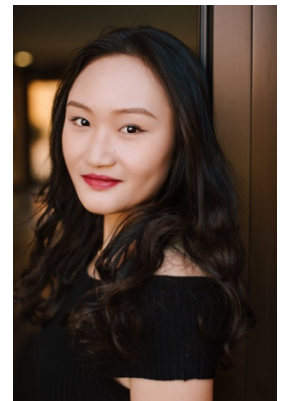
CHRIS ELLIOT



LINA FORERO



LEO GALLEGOS



LIUYI JIANG



TEDDY LADELY



JESSICA LESTER



SOPHIA MARINO



SETH MORTON

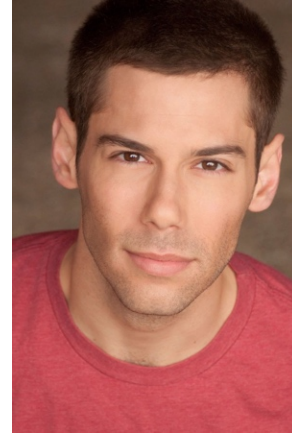


MATT VILLAR

CREATIVE TEAM



SETH TUCKER



KEVIN WHITE



MATTAEA REEVES



KATE LEONARD



MAX PLATA

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Jonice Bernard (Olive Ostrovsky) is so excited to be a part of ...*Spelling Bee* at ASU! She is currently a senior pursuing her Bachelors in Music Theatre Performance. Some of her favorite roles include Miriam in *Fly By Night*, Savannah in *Freaky Friday* and Charlotte in the new musical *Leading Ladies*. The biggest thanks to her amazing cast, crew, and creative team, as well as all the faculty, staff and students who have supported this show along the way. Thanks for coming! @Jonicebernard

Wesley Bradstreet (Leaf Coneybear) is an energetic and thoughtful performer who takes pride in creating compelling characters that spread joy and light. Some of his favorite roles include Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* and Hunter in [title of show]. *Spelling Bee...* marks Wesley's ninth production with MTO. He is incredibly grateful for the chance to work with this cast and creative team! Special thanks to Kate, Max, Kevin, & Seth. Wesley loves his family

and friends deeply and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their love and support. Find him @wesleybradstreet on Instagram or at wesleybradstreet.com.

Aydan Bruce (Rona Lisa Perretti) is delighted to be making her debut at ASU in *Spelling Bee*. She is a junior with a double major in Musical Theatre Performance and Popular Music Performance. She is thrilled to be back on the stage, performing again and continuing on the path towards her dreams. Many thanks to family, friends, professors and everyone who has encouraged her along the way; your love and support means the world.

Matthew Dodaro (Leaf US/Barfee US/Panch US) is delighted to call *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* his first ever production at ASU. As a first year student pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Music Theatre, he is lucky to have worked with the many upper class leaders (and now friends)

that make up this spectacular cast! Outside of ASU, Matthew has successes in high school theatre and local community productions as well (roles include The Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, Curly McLain in *Oklahoma!*, Sid Sorokin in *The Pajama Game*, Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods* and Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie!*).

Chris Elliott (Mitch Mahoney) is excited and honored to perform in *Spelling Bee* at ASU. He is a second-year graduate student pursuing his Master of Music in Music Theatre: Voice. This will be his fourth feature in an ASU production. Chris has performed in a variety of venues including Hale Center Theater, Goucher College: Opera & Musical Theatre Workshop, Stage Craft Studios, and many more. Some of his favorite roles include Sparky from *Forever Plaid*, Riff Raff in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and Ivor DeQuincy in *Babes in Arms*. Special thanks to his friends and family for their endless love and support!

Lina Forero (Logainne Schwartzand Grubenierre) is thrilled to be a part of this stellar cast and hilarious show at ASU. Some favorite roles include Éponine in *Les Misérables*, Alice Russell in *Lizzie the Musical*, and Talkative Girl in *Speed Dating Tonight!*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and voice teacher for their unending support! Also a huge thank you to Seth, Kevin, Kate, and Max for just being plain awesome. She would just like to remind everyone that they are awesome and deserve love and happiness! "WE HAVE RIGHTS! That's why we complain!"

Leonel Gallegos (Chip Tolentino) is so excited to be a part of such a wonderful cast, crew and production of *Spelling Bee*. He is a junior here at ASU pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Musical Theatre. Leo could not be more excited than to finally be on stage again after such a long time without performing. He is very thankful for this opportunity to be on stage with a live audience. He would like to thank everyone for coming to the production and supporting the musical theatre program. And a special thanks to all his family, friends and vocal teachers for coming to the performance.

Liuyi Jiang (Marcy Park) is a master student in musical theatre, also a student of Andrea Pitman Will. She got the extensive voice and acting training. Musical came into her life like a sudden accident and attracted her deeply. *Miss Saigon* is her favorite, also her dream shows till now! She participated in the New Work reading as "Guerilla girl" in *Well behaved Women*, Iggy in *musical Runaways*.

She last time was showed as "Vipralabdhā" in *Nayika*. She cherished that she could have the chance to join in the musical this time. She would also like to thank her family and friends who always be with her!

Teddy Ladley (William Barfée) is a senior BM in Music Theatre Performance in his seventh mainstage production at ASU! This summer, he won 1st place in NATS Cal-Western Regionals, and has performed as Sid Sorokin (*The Pajama Game*), The Cowardly Lion (*The Wizard of Oz*), Prof. Bhaer (*Little Women*), and Michael (Georgia Stitt's *The Danger Year* [world premiere]) among other roles at the College Light Opera Company in MA. Past roles include Gaston (*Beauty and the Beast*)(Arizoni-Award), and Man #1 (*Kiss Me, Kate!*). Special thanks to Carole, Toby, Robbie, Dale, Molly, Mom, and Dad, and his spectacular friends and family.

Jessica Lester (Rona US/Logainne US) is so excited to be in ASU's production of *Spelling Bee*. She is a sophomore this year pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Music Theatre Performance. Her favorite past roles include playing Lizzie in *LIZZIE*, and Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*. Jessica wants to thank her friends and loved ones for always supporting her dreams. Thanks for coming!

Sophia Marino (Olive Ostrovsky US/Marcy Park US) is super excited to be cast in *Spelling Bee* at ASU. She is a sophomore pursuing her Bachelor's of Music for Musical Theatre Performance! She is originally from Redondo Beach, California and has been in numerous productions in the area. Some of her favorite

roles include Paulette in *Legally Blonde*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Jan in *Grease*. She would like to thank her friends and family for always BEE-lieving in her, as well as thank the cast, director, crew, and her voice teacher for making this experience absolutely amazing!

Seth Morton (Vice Principal Panch) is honored to be a part of ASU's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He is pursuing his Bachelor's in Music for Music Therapy, and is thrilled to be doing this show as his first production at ASU. He would like to thank his family and friends for being so supportive and encouraging, all of his teachers who have helped mentor him, and the cast and crew of this show for creating an amazing experience.

Matt Villar (Chip US/Mitch US) is a junior at ASU pursuing a BMus in Vocal Performance. He believes that, though the past two years have been extremely taxing, the time away from the physical stage has given him the opportunity to refocus his passion for performing. This is his first swing roll, and learning to play Mitch and Chip in *Spelling Bee* has been a unique, but welcome, challenge for him. Some fast facts: he's a major Star Wars nerd, has a love for a cappella music, could always eat sushi, and dreams of having a "music study" in his future home.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CREATIVE TEAM

Seth Tucker (Director/Choreographer) is honored to make his ASU directorial debut with the first musical on this stage in over a year. Seth is an ASU alumni with degrees in Music Theatre and Business Marketing. Directing credits: *Pageant, Shout, Altar Boyz, ...Spelling Bee* (ABT), *Our Kiki: A Gay Farce* (NYC International Fringe), *Strange Kind of Spring**, *Social Diva Game**, *Objection!** (Limelight), *Young Frankenstein* (AYT, NYA Nomination), *Lucky Stiff*, *As Bees In Honey Drown* (ART), and [title of show]. Seth is a proud member of AEA and will be seen next starring in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* with ATC. www.SethATucker.com (*AriZoni Nominations)

Kevin White (Music Director) Kevin is thrilled to be back at The Bee with this talented cast. Kevin will graduate this spring with a M.M. in Music Direction. At ASU, Kevin served as MD for *It's Only Life* last spring. This January, Kevin will serve as MD and cast member in *The Hello Girls* at The Phoenix Theatre Company. Favorite Credits as MD: *Matilda*,

Legally Blonde, *James... Giant Peach*, *Mamma Mia*, *Rent*, *25 th Annual... Spelling Bee*, *The Producers*, *Gypsy*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Spitfire Grill*, and *Ruthless!*. Thanks to Robbie, Kate, and this incredible cast. Love to Dallyn and Ruthie!

Kate Leonard (Stage Manager) This is Kate's 10th season with ASU Music Theatre and Opera! Favorite shows include [title of show], *35mm*, *Grey Gardens*, *Reefer Madness*, and *A New Brain*. She graduated from ASU in 2016 with a BA in Theatre. Thanks to the lovely cast and production team, the oh-so-fabulous MTO faculty and staff, her incredible friends and family, and YOU for supporting local theatre!

Mattaea Reeves (Costume Designer) is ecstatic to be costume designing for ASU for the first time! She is an award-winning costume designer who has designed at theatres all over Arizona including Pinnacle Creative Arts, The Arizona Opera, Desert Foothills Theater, and Northwest Christian

School. She graduated from Northern Arizona University back in 2017 with a degree in Theatre with an emphasis in Design and Technology with a focus in Costume Design and a minor in Arts and Cultural Management. Mattaea would like to thank Seth and Sharon for giving her this opportunity, as well as her family for always supporting her design work!

Max Plata (Assistant Stage Manager) is a student of Barrett, the Honors College studying Theatre (Writing & Dramaturgy). His previous experience with Music Theatre and Opera includes Stage Manager for *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* and [title of show], among many other productions as Assistant SM. Max would like to thank the cast and creative team for their hard work and high energy as we return to in-person rehearsal and performances! He's happy to start his final season at MTO back with Kate and everyone else who dwells in the basemen

ASL INTERPRETER



LISA SCHULMAN

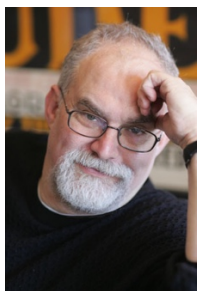
LISA SCHULMAN (ASL Interpreter) is a Washington, DC, native with extensive onstage drama, musical theater, and dance experience since early elementary school. Now based in Phoenix, AZ, Lisa holds an RID NIC (National Interpreter Certification) and specializes in Theatrical interpreting, as well as Mental Health and Addiction & Recovery settings. Her favorite shows to have interpreted include the Broadway national tours of *Hamilton*, *Pippin*, *Book of Mormon*, and *Aladdin*, and local professional productions of *Avenue Q*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *Cabaret*. Lisa is excited to be back at ASU collaborating again with Music Theatre and Opera.



CAMERON EGGERS

CAMERON EGGERS (ASL Interpreter) has been involved in theatre and dance from a young age. After completing his Bachelor's degree in American Sign Language, he became immersed with the Deaf Community in Sacramento, California, where he discovered his passion for interpreting. Cameron was also a company member for the Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theatre, where he collaborated with the Deaf Community and Hearing Community alike to aid in curating "Sign of Life," a production that embedded American Sign Language into Contemporary Dance movement. This production benefited Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and CODA youth. After relocating to Phoenix, Arizona, Cameron became certified and now works as a professional interpreter in many settings, with theatre closest to his heart. Cameron has performed with many local artists and companies and is very grateful to be a part of "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

ORIGINAL CREATIVE TEAM



WILLIAM FINN

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

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

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 Firstenberg Award for Best Short. Her short films include, *MY FIRST TIME DRIVING* (AFI Jean Firstenberg 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).

FACULTY

BRIAN DEMARIS Artistic Director
DALE DREYFOOS Associate Artistic Director
ROBERT MILLS Vocal Coach
TOBY YATSO Musical Theatre Coordinator
ROBERT KOLBY HARPER Musical Theatre, Acting
MOLLY LAJOIE Musical Theatre, Dance

STAFF

LINDA BENNETT Program Coordinator
ALFREDO ESCARCEGA Technical Director
SHARON JONES Costume Coordinator, Hair and Makeup
KATE LEONARD Production Stage Manager
GERALD WILLOW Master Electrician

STUDENT WORKERS

KEVIN WHITE Graduate Assistant
MAX PLATA Assistant Stage Manager
ELLIE BARRETT Office Assistant

VOICE FACULTY

AMANDA DEMARIS
CAROLE FITZPATRICK
GORDON HAWKINS

NATHAN DE'SHON MYERS
ANDREA PITMAN WILL
STEPHANIE WEISS