

Ballyhoo Theatre Intensive
Shileah Corey, Artistic Director

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Directed by Shileah Corey

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

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 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 is the champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

Ages 13-21 (younger/older with permission.) Acceptance is by audition only.
Spelling Bee is rated PG-13

Tuition: \$325.00

Some work study, or partial/full scholarships may be available.

Session dates: July 14-August 15, 2021

Shows: August 5-15, Thursday-Sunday

Initial VIDEO auditions are due by June 3. Prepare a verse/chorus (no longer than 2 minutes) of a musical theatre song and a comic monologue. Please upload your video to a private Youtube channel and email the link. Callbacks (via video) may be required.

Rehearsals will be at Edmonds Center for the Arts. Tech/performance venue is The Phoenix Theatre in Edmonds. For more information email ballyhoo.theatre@gmail.com or call 425-345-0991

All rehearsals and performance will be in person. We will be following all Covid-19 State safety guidelines, and will update them as needed during the process. The safety of our students, creative staff, crew and audiences are paramount.

Ballyhoo Theatre Registration

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Student:

Pronouns:

Age:

Parent/Guardian (if under 18):

Parent/Guardian Phone Numbers:

Student Cell Number:

Address:

Parent/Guardian and Student email addresses:

Does your student have any allergies or medical conditions that we should be aware of? Please list any symptoms that we should look for.

Emergency Contact:

Phone Numbers:

In allowing the above named person to enroll or participate in a Ballyhoo Theater production, which involves physical activities, and the use by the named person of the leased, rented or made available property and premises for said activity, the undersigned, being aged 18 or the legal parent and/or acting guardian of the participant, acting for themselves and/or on behalf of the participant, release and hold harmless Ballyhoo Theatre, their members, officers, employees and volunteers of and for any and all liability, claims, actions and causes of actions whatsoever, arising out of or relating to any loss, damage or injury that may be sustained by the participant while in, on, or upon the teaching, rehearsal or performance of the production and at all rehearsal and production facilities. In the event of any incident which may require immediate medical or dental or any other emergency attention or care, I hereby authorize Ballyhoo Theater personnel to take any and all necessary actions as it relates to immediate medical attention, transportation and emergency medical services as warranted in the course of care of the named individual. I am responsible for any and all fees and/or expenses as they may relate to this medical attention. Unless I notify you in writing, the person whom I am legally representing in this registration does not require any special care, attention or medications unless noted above. This includes, but is not limited to, any allergies, food or otherwise, and medical conditions. I hereby give permission to Ballyhoo Theater to use the named person's name and photographic likeness in all forms of media for advertising purposes. I understand that the content of the show is mature and my child has permission to participate. I further state that I have read and understand this release and that I am legally competent to sign it.

Signature:

Date:

Tuition is due with acceptance by audition unless other arrangements are made.
Please make checks payable to: Ballyhoo Theatre

Spelling Bee Audition form:
(Please email these forms along with your video audition)

Please check the conflict sheet/rehearsal schedule and fill it out . This is VERY important information, and we need it in order to cast. Please check with your guardian to MAKE SURE this information is correct.

What voice part do you usually sing? How strong would you say you are singing harmonies?
Can you teach them to yourself, or do you need help?

Are you interested in being a section leader? Can you play out parts on the piano?

Please list your dance experience. Are you interested in being dance captain?

Are there any roles you are particularly interested in being considered for?

Please list the roles roles that you are NOT willing to accept:

Please list anything else you'd like us to know:

Characters: (All roles are open to all genders)

Rona Lisa Peretti: The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children, but she can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Vice Principal Panch and his feelings for her. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward.

Vice Principal Douglas Panch: Frustrated with his life, he finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, but she does not return his affections.

Mitch Mahoney: The Official Comfort Counselor. Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He has no idea how to offer comfort, but does find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better.

Olive Ostrovsky: A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. Having found comfort in its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition.

William Barfée: A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril. He develops a crush on Olive.

Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre: Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. She is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak.

Marcy Park: A recent transfer from Virginia, Marcy placed 9th in last year's nationals. She speaks six languages, is a member of all-American hockey, a championship rugby player, plays Chopin and Mozart on multiple instruments, sleeps only three hours a night, hides in the bathroom cabinet, and is getting very tired of always winning. She is also not allowed to cry.

Leaf Coneybear: The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He is easily distracted and spells words correctly while in a trance.

Chip Tolentino: A social boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment.

Other, doubled, characters: *Carl Grubenierre, Dan Schwartz, Leaf's Mom, Leaf's Siblings, Olive's Mom and Dad*

Spelling Bee rehearsal and performance dates
(Please email this form, filled out, with your audition video.)

Our venue for performances will be The Phoenix Theatre in Firdale Village, Edmonds. Rehearsal space will be at Edmonds Center for the Arts.

Please know that if you have too many conflicts, I will not be able to cast you. Cross off the days that you cannot rehearse. On the days you are available, list your available hours after the date. You may not be called for all hours and/or days. If you have questions, ask before auditions, please.

Example:

~~July 25~~ (This means you aren't available at all this date.)

July 26 – 3:00-7:30pm (List the hours that you are available for this date, for example 3:20-7:00. That means you can BE AT REHEARSAL during those hours and have already allowed for travel time and typical bad Seattle traffic.)

July 14 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 15 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 16 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 19 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 20 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 21 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 22 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 23 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 24 – 10:30am-6:00pm (SAT)
July 26 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 27 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 28 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 29 – 10:30am-6:00pm
July 30 – 10:30am-6:00pm

Shows:

August 5-8 and 12-15

You MUST keep ALL show dates completely open for now as we will be having two complete casts. Each cast is guaranteed 5-6 performances over the days listed. You will know ahead of time, so that you can schedule outside work hours if needed.

Tech (Hours TBA, you will not be called for all of these hours, but I need to know your availability):

July 31 – 10:30am-10:00pm
Aug 2 – 10:30am-10:00pm
Aug 3 – 10:30am-10:00pm
Aug 4 – 10:30am-10:00pm
Aug 5 – 10:30am-4:00pm