

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 leaves! 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

Ticket price: \$10.00-\$12.00

Session dates: March 13-May 10, 2020

Shows: May 1-3 and 8-10

You MUST keep all six dates completely open as we may be adding shows.

Initial auditions: February 16, 20 and 22. Prepare a verse/chorus (no longer than 2 minutes) of a musical theatre song and a comic monologue. Please email for an audition appointment. Audition space is TBA, but it will be in the Edmonds/Lynnwood/Mountlake Terrace area. Most rehearsals will be at Edmonds Center for the Arts. Performance venue is The Phoenix Theatre in Edmonds. For more information/audition appointments email ballyhoo.theatre@gmail.com or call 425-345-0991

Ballyhoo Theatre Registration

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Student:

Gender/Pronouns:

Age:

Parent/Guardian (if under 18):

Parent Phone Numbers:

Student Cell Number:

Address:

Parent and Student email addresses:

Does your child 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

Some work study or partial scholarships may be available.

Spelling Bee Audition form:
(Please bring this form, filled out, to your audition.)

Name:

Age:

Pronouns:

Parent phone number (if under 18):

Student phone number:

Parent email address (if under 18):

Student email address:

Please check the conflict sheet/rehearsal schedule and fill it out and bring to your audition. 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:

Rona Lisa Peretti: (Female presenting) 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: (Any gender) 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: (Any gender) The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, 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: (Female presenting) 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: (Male presenting) 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 and a touchy, bullying personality. He develops a crush on Olive.

Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre: (Female presenting) 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, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year.

Marcy Park: (Female presenting) 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 the poster child for the Over-Achiever, and attends a Catholic school called "Our Lady of Intermittent Sorrows." She is also not allowed to cry.

Leaf Coneybear: (Any gender) 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: (Male presenting) 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 bring this form, filled out, to your audition.)

We will rehearse in the late afternoon/early evenings and some weekends. Our venue for performances will be The Phoenix Theatre in Firdale Village, Edmonds. Rehearsal space will be at Edmonds Center for the Arts, but you can also expect that music rehearsals may be at my home studio in Mountlake Terrace.

Rehearsal days: Please note that the days below are only the available rehearsal days. **WE WILL NOT BE REHEARSING ALL OF THESE DATES!!** This is just to see what the conflicts look like, and what the best days are for everyone. The dates in **bold** are mandatory. 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. We will rehearse 3-4 times per week, and the entire week that the show opens, plus two Saturdays. Not everyone will be called to all rehearsals. If you have questions, ask before auditions, please. If you have too many conflicts we will not be able to cast you.

Example:

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

Feb. 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.)

Mar 13 – 3:45-8:00pm

Mar 14 – 10:00am-12:30pm

Mar 16 – 3:45-6:00pm

Mar 17 – 3:45-6:00pm

Mar 18 – 3:45-6:00pm

Mar 23 – 3:45-6:00pm

Mar 24 – 3:45-6:00pm

Mar 25 – 3:45-6:00pm

Mar 26 – 3:45-6:00pm

Mar 27 – 3:45-9:00pm

Mar 30 – 3:45-5:30pm

Mar 31 – 3:45-5:30pm

Apr 1 – 3:45-5:30pm

Apr 2 – 3:45-5:30pm

Apr 3 – 3:45-6:30pm

Apr 4 – 11:00am-9:00pm

Apr 6 – 3:45-8:30pm

Apr 7 – 3:45-8:30pm

Apr 8 – 3:45-8:30pm

Apr 9 – 3:45-6:30pm

Apr 17 – 3:45-7:30pm

April 18 – 11:00am-9:00pm

Apr 20 – 3:45-7:30pm

Apr 21 – 3:45-7:30pm

Apr 22 – 3:45-7:30pm

Apr 23 – 3:45-7:30pm

Apr 24 – 3:45-8:30pm

Apr 25 – 11:00am-9:00pm

Mandatory Tech/Dress rehearsals:

Mon. April 27 – 5:30-10:00

Tues. April 28 – 5:30-10:00

Wed. April 29 – 5:30-10:00

Thur. April 30 – 5:30-10:00

Fri. May 1 – 3:30-5:00 (if needed)

Shows:

May 1-3 and May 8-10.

You MUST keep ALL show dates completely open as it is possible that we will be having two complete casts. If that's the case, each cast is guaranteed 5 performances over the days listed.