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presents

The 25th Annual Putnam County
SPELLING BEE



A MUSICAL



Produced by
Jonelle Kop

Musical Director
Michele Zofchak

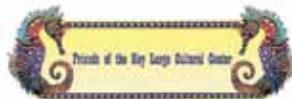
Directed by
Kelly Sutter

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... six spellers enter; one speller leaves!
A riotous ride, with audience participation.

APRIL 2018

FRI	SAT	SUN	•	THU	FRI	SAT
6	7	8		12	13	14
EVENING	EVENING	MATINEE		EVENING	EVENING	EVENING
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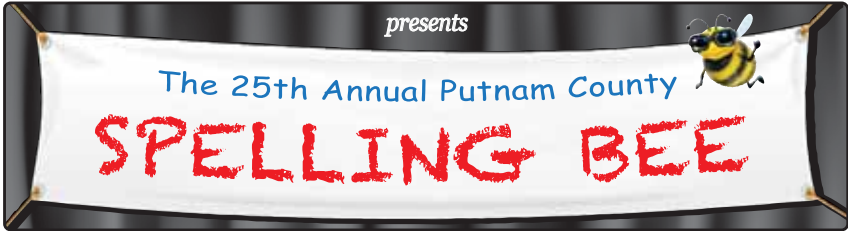
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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music & Lyrics by **William Finn** • Book By **Rachel Sheinkin**
Conceived by **Rebecca Feldman**

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

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The Barrington Stage Company workshop of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

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A Letter From the Director/Producer Jonelle Kop



I have been a joyful member of The Key Players for 17 years. During that time I have participated in over 50 productions, acted in or produced and/or directed 17 of the last 18 productions. This is Key Players' 121st production, the wonderful musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with a new Director Kelly Sutter and Musical Director Michele Zofchak. Their cast has been rehearsing for four months and, in spite of Hurricane Irma with destroyed homes, repeated delays, rampaging flu season and cast changes, this talented cast has come together to bring you a wonderful, funny musical.

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 book and a truly fresh and vibrant score, this musical is one unforgettable experience. It takes a village.... with lots of help with stage design and building, props, costumes, back stage crew, lights and sound as well as front of house, we all came together to be here for you tonight. So please enjoy!



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Director's Notes

by **Kelly Sutter**



Dear Key Players Patrons,

I was president of the production guild in my college for three years. I directed *Drinking Habits*, *13 Ways to Screw Up Your College Interview*, and *Black Comedy*. I have wanted to do *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* since high school, when I saw it at a thespian conference. When I brought this show up to the Key Players board members, I didn't think they would go for it, but they took a chance on this 25-year-old! The main reason why I wanted to do this show was that it's a fun show that people might need in the time after Irma. I pulled in this AMAZING cast together in October and knew this was going to be a great show. But due to Irma displacing and interrupting the lives of the cast, and a job opportunity guiding in the Bahamas in January, the decision was made to push the show back from January to April.

I really want to thank my cast for being so flexible. Even with many of my castmates having to rebuild their homes and find temporary housing, they remained committed and enthusiastic about the show. Michele, thank you for having my back ever since the show was just a thought. Jonelle, thank you for all your hard work and help in making this show a success. And a really big thanks to YOU, our audience, we hope you enjoy the show!



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Andrew Fleites as Chip Tolentino

Andrew Fleites is a senior from Coral Shores High School, and has participated in many theater productions in his student career. He has been a part of stage crew for *Annie* and *Back to the 80s*, but has also acted in *A Christmas Carol*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Game's Afoot*, and, most recently, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. He hopes to give a stunning performance as Chip Tolentino, for this is his final performance with The Key Players before he goes off to Florida State University. He would like to thank the many people who provided him the opportunities and experiences that allowed him to grow so much over the course of only four years. Those people are, (but certainly are not limited to): Michele Zofchak, Suzanne Gagliardini, Jonelle Kop, Jeremy Wilken, and Kelly Sutter. Thank you all!



Don Stewart as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre

Don is a nineteen year old from Springfield, Missouri who recently graduated from Coral Shores in 2017. They're passionate for all things artistic, and hopes to study theatre further in the future. Their previous shows include *Shrek the Musical*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *War of the Worlds*, and *The Game's AFOOT*.



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Kelly Sutter as Leaf Coneybear

This is Kelly's 3rd production with the Key Players. Her hometown is Miami Beach, but she decided to go all the way up to Alaska for college! Kelly graduated from Alaska Pacific University with a bachelor degree in Outdoor Studies. Since graduating she is an outdoor guide in Alaska (summers) and spends time with family in the Keys (winter).



Kelly is very passionate about theater. She was a in Key Players' *Mid-life! The Crisis the Musical!* and also in *Shrek* as the Mad Hatter. She has been involved theater throughout high school and college, in roles including Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*, Patty Simcox in *Grease*, Redgy Fulty in *The Laramie Project*, Narrator in *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, Jane in *Don't Mention My Name*, Harold in *Black Comedy*, Mother Superior in *Drinking Habits*, and Dotty in *Noises Off*.



Grayson Cox as William Barfee

Grayson has been doing theater all his life, and found a passion that he hopes will stay with him forever. He has most recently been seen in The Key Players production of *Shrek! The Musical* playing multiple parts. He also used his creative skills painting scenery and working on costumes. He currently attends FKCC, but plans to transfer out and pursue the arts. Grayson is also a world-renowned cat enthusiast, connoisseur, and lover. He hopes you enjoy the show, and have a safe night!

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Brittany Poelma as Marcy Park

This is Brittany's first production with The Key Players. Brittany met her husband, Jacob, in her first community theater show, *The Nutcracker*, during high school, and the rest is history. The two have spent the past 12 years together laughing during rehearsals, working on sets, dancing together, and making some of the best friends through theater.



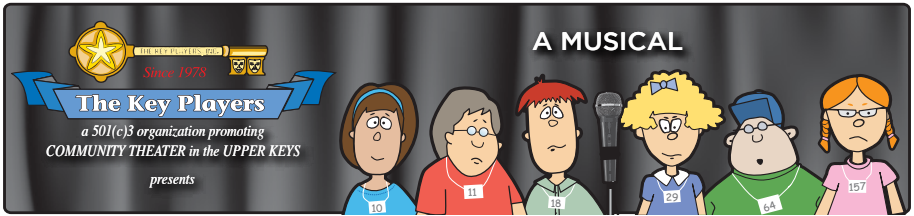
Brittany is grateful to The Key Players for allowing her to continue her love for community theater, as well as to Miss Z and Coral Shores High School for giving her the chance to inspire the next generation by assisting with the spring musicals. Brittany is thankful to be part of such a wonderful community in the Keys, and hopes that this show brings you as much joy and laughter as it has brought her.



Michele Zofchak as Olive Ostrovsky

Michele Zofchak, also known as Ms. Z, is a nationally certified language arts teacher (NBPTS) at CSHS, teaching Theater and English 1. She has directed many plays and musicals through the years such as *Les Miserables* and *Bye, Bye Birdie*; and is currently the Drama Club advisor at the high school, having recently directed and produced *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

With the Key Players, Miss Z has had the opportunity to direct two of their children's shows and be on stage for *Steel Magnolias*, *Sound of Music*, and *Shrek*. Michele is an active member of the Key Largo Baptist Church choir and loves her church family. When asked what she likes to do in her free time, she replied, "What free time?" A true advocate for arts education, Michele strives to provide Monroe County kids with the opportunity to experience theater for years to come.



CAST

Andrew Fleites as Chip Tolentino

Don Stewart as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre

Kelly Sutter as Leaf Coneybear

Grayson Cox as William Barfee

Brittany Poelma as Marcy Park

Michele Zofchak as Olive Ostrovsky

Luna Angelica Rivera as Rona Lisa Perretti

Jacob Poelma as Vice Principal Douglas Panch

Seamus Dougherty as Mitch Mahoney

Gabi Rivera as a guest speller

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CREW

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Director: **Kelly Sutter**

Vocal Director: **Michele Zofchak**

Stage Manager: _____

Choreographer: **Brittany Poelma**

Lights & Sound: **Bob Auer, Chris Hernandez,
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Set Design Build & Paint: **Russ Holmes, Bill Cobey,
Keith Barber, Jonelle Kop**

Set Decoration: _____

Props and Costumes: **Kelly Sutter, Lilly Cascamo, Jonelle Kop**

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To Our Audience

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Luna Angelica Rivera as Rona Lisa Perretti

Luna is a 25-year-old, SINGLE cosmetologist with a twisted sense of humor, and a love of music and people. This is her first performance with The Key Players, but she has held roles such as Madame Thenardier in *Les Miserables*, Pepper in *Annie* and the Caterpillar in *Alice in Wonderland*.



In her “spare time” she sings, plays instruments and runs sound at Key Largo Baptist Church. (Luna’s mom wrote this for her.)



Jacob Poelma as Vice Principal Douglas Panch

This is Jacob’s first play since high school and his first with the Key Players. He is excited to work with such wonderful people and hopes to be involved in future produc-

tions. Jacob would like to thank his wife (Brittany Poelma), Michele Zofchak, and Kelly Sutter for roping him into this. Jacob is a science teacher at Coral Shores High School.

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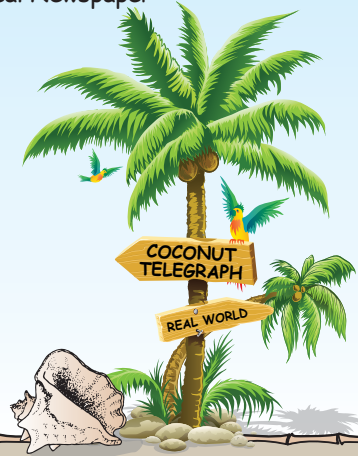
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Seamus Dougherty as Mitch Mahoney

This is Seamus's first production with the Key Players He is very excited to be taking on the role of Mitch Mahoney. He has always had a passion for theater, ever since he was a little boy. Seamus has also been in two of the Coral Shores Drama Club productions: *Phantom Of The Opera* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. He is also the lead trumpet player for the Coral Shores Concert Band and a previous member of the Cross Country Team.



Seamus hopes to pursue his dream of music and theatre throughout college. He would like to thank all his friends and family for their love and support, and a special thanks to Mrs. G and Miss.Z for being his rock throughout his musical experience and the amazing and life-long lessons they have taught him.



Gabi Rivera as a guest speller

This is Gabi's first performance with the Key Players, though she has performed with the Coral Shores Drama Club in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Back to the 80s*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. She is a freshman who enjoys theatre and plans to keep performing in the future.

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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.

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

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 at 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 conceived, directed, and performed in *C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E*, the play upon which *SPELLING BEE* is based, with her company *The Farm*.

Jay Reiss

Jay Reiss is 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.

James Lapine

has also worked with Stephen Sondheim on *SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE* and *PASSION* as well as the recent Broadway show, *SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM*. He also directed the first revival of *MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG* at Lajolla Playhouse in 1985. With William Finn he has collaborated on *FALSETTOS*, *A NEW BRAIN*, *25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE* and the soon to be produced *LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE*. Other Broadway credits: *THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK*, *GOLDEN CHILD*, and *AMOUR*. He has written the plays: *TABLE SETTINGS*, *TWELVE DREAMS*, *LUCK*, *PLUCK & VIRTUE*, *THE MOMENT WHEN*, *FRAN'S BED* and *MRS. MILLER DOES HER THING*.

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Rodgers & Hart Revue
Picnic
The Drunkard - Melodrama

1984

Mousetrap
Grandma and the Mistletoe
Some Enchanted Evening - Revue
Never Too Late

1985

Cole Porter - Musical Revue
Everybody Loves Opal
Lo and Behold

1986

Sing For Your Supper - Revue
The Enigma

1987

Opals Million Dollar Duck
2x5 - Musical Revue

1988

Forty Carats
Arsenic and Old Lace
Sound of Music

1989

Fantastiks
Oh Mama, No Papa
Trilogy

1990

Plaza Suite
Oliver!
Dirty Work at the Crossroads
Broadway to Hollywood - Revue

1991

Oklahoma!
Prisoner of Second Ave.
The Curious Savage

1992

My Fair Lady
Divorce Me, Darling
Dracula

1993

Man of La Mancha
You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
(Kids)

1993, continued

A Night of Music - Revue
Rumors

1994

Fiddler on the Roof
Wizard of Oz (Key Players Kids)
Nonsense
Norman, Is That You?

1995

A Funny Thing Happened
On The Way To The Forum
Cinderella (Key Players Kids)
The Night of January 16th
Lend Me A Tenor

1996

Kiss Me Kate
Enchantment of Beauty and
the Beast (Key Players Kids)
M*A*S*H
Wait Until Dark
Barefoot in the Park

1997

South Pacific
Hurricane Smith (Key Players Kids)
Dreadful Doings at the Cider Mill
The Odd Couple

1998

Little Shop of Horrors
Aladdin (Key Players Kids)
Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In
You Can't Take It With You

1999

Heartbeats — A Musical
Robin Hood (Key Players Kids)
Tom Foolery
Arsenic and Old Lace

2000

Annie - A Musical
Murder at the Banquet
Nifty Fifties (Key Players Kids)
Cactus Flower

2001

Annie Get Your Gun
Stop The World I Want to Get Off
The Secret Garden (Kids)
The Nerd

2002

Personals
Kokunut Kapers (Key Players Kids)
The Affections of May
Don't Dress for Dinner

2003

Over The River and
Through the Woods
The Magical Pied Piper (Kids)
The Odd Couple

2004

I Love You, You're Perfect...
Now Change!
Steel Magnolias
Sheherizade (Key Players Kids)
Harvey

2005

The Sound of Music
Give My Regards to Broadway
(Kids)

2006

Daddy's Dyin' *Who's Got
the Will?*

2007

A Night at the Theater
Nobody's Perfect
The Taffeta's Memories

2008

Kitchen Witches
Radio TBS
Last of the Red Hot Lovers

2009

Meshuggah-Nuns!
Weekend Comedy
Don't Hug Me

2010

Dearly Beloved
Dixie Swim Club
Sex Please, We're Sixty

2011

Bingo
Unmentionables
Men Are Dogs
A Taffeta Christmas

2012

'Til Beth Do Us Part
Drinking Habits

2013

On Golden Pond
Song Man, Dance Man
There's a Burglar in My Bed

2014

Fox on the Fairway
Three One Act Plays
George M. Cohan Tonight

2015

Nonsense Jamboree
Red, White & Tuna
Who's in Bed with the Butler

2016

Shrek: The Musical
Move Over, Mrs. Markham!

2017

Midlife! The Crisis Musical
The Games AFOOT

2018

War of the Worlds



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