

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Director: Brian Glick

1st Rehearsal: September 15, 2024

1st Performance: October 11, 2024

Closing: October 20, 2024

Possible extension: N/A

For out of town Equity, Non-Equity, AGMA

***Video submissions accepted Due: June 7 at 11:59. A 16-32 bar vocal cut for all submissions.**

Synopsis: Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is 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. A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful den of comedic genius.

Seeking:

Rona Lisa Peretti

(she/her) 35-55

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. Also plays Olive's Mom A fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India. Normally played by the actor playing Rona.. B3–F5. Ethnicity: All Ethnicities

Douglas Panch

(he/him) 35-55

The Vice Principal. 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. Does not sing. Ethnicity: All Ethnicities

Mitch Mahoney

(he/him) 25-55

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. Dan Dad the more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzy's fathers. Normally played by the actor playing Mitch.

Chip Tolentino

(he/him) 22-42

An athletic, 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. Also plays Jesus Christ Deity invoked by a speller in need. Normally played by the actor playing Chip.. C4–B5. Ethnicity: All Ethnicities

Logainne Schwartzandgrunenierre (Schwartzzy)

(she/her) 22-42

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. A3–F5. Ethnicity: All Ethnicities

Leaf Coneybear

(he/him) 22-42

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 has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and spells words correctly while in a trance. Also plays Carl Dad Schwarzzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzzy's fathers. Normally played by the actor playing Leaf. A3–A5. Ethnicity: All Ethnicities

William Barfee

(he/him) 22-42

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.. E4–B5. Ethnicity: All Ethnicities

Marcy Park

(she/her) 22-42

The ultimate overachiever, Marcy has never been given another option. She comes from a family where excellence is expected and so simply produced. A parochial school student, she assumes God, too, expects perfection. She sees herself as a mass of problems but she keeps them to herself. Having moved often because of her parents' work, she knows she can beat the local competition. Her many talents include piano, dance, martial arts, baton twirling, and/or whatever special gifts you can find in your casting pool. C4-E5. Ethnicity: Asian, Ethnically Ambiguous / Multiracial, South Asian / Indian, Southeast Asian / Pacific Islander

Olive Ostrovsky

(she/her) 22-42

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. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms. Ethnicity: All Ethnicities