### GRINDSTONE THEATRE PRESENTS

# THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

TONY AWARD WINNER!

DIRECTED BY BYRON MARTIN

MUSIC & LYRICS BY WILLIAM FINN

BOOK BY RACHEL SHEINKIN

CONCEIVED BY REBECCA FELDMAN

Playing April 19-29 at the Auditorium
(Room 1-08)
at Campus Saint-Jean 8406 Rue Marie-Anne Gaboury
(91st Street) Edmonton, AB



# THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music and 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

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International {MTI}.

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by The Farm.

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

#### CAST

Marcy Park Katelyn Cabalo

Chip Tolentino, Carl Cameron Chapman

Rona Perretti, Olive's Mom Natalie Czar

William Barfee Sam Daly

Mitch Mahoney, Dan, Olive's Dad Paul-Ford Manguelle

Olive Ostrovsky Rain Matkin

Logainne "Schwartzy" Abby McDougall Leaf Coneybear, Jesus Malachi Wilkins

Douglas Panch Donovan Workun

#### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Director Byron Martin

Musical Director Simon Abbott

Set & Props Design Raili Boe

Costume Design Beverly Destroys

Lighting Design Byron Martin

**Trinity Locke** 

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Producer Jocelyn Anselmo

Assistant Producer Trinity Locke

FOH Manager Jarin Ten Hove

Funds & Volunteers Kyle Parrotta

Bar Manager Darren Peacock

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Carpentry Chris Hicks

Troy Locke

Simon Abbott

Victor Snaith

Scenic Painting Julia Martin

Trinity Locke

Head of Sound David Bowden

Sound Operator Autumn Russell

Stage Manager Trinity Locke

Special thanks to Witold Kurpinski!

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## MESSAGE FROM THE



## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee! This show has been on my wish list to direct since I first saw it in 2011 at the Mayfield. After coming back from my MA in Musical Theatre in Glasgow, seeing the show reminded me of the fantastic caliber of talent we have in Edmonton. Over ten years later it's a privilege to get to put on the show with a new wave of Edmonton talent that I am very proud to present.

Spelling Bee will be the first Broadway Musical we have produced since Urinetown back in August 2017. Since then, a side from opening our own theatre space and our improvised musicals, among other projects, our focus has original been writing musicals on \*ThunderCATS, Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer and DIE HARSH}. It's great to take a break from writing and return to a tried and true book musical that is full of great characters, incredible music and a ton of laughs. A huge thanks to the entire Grindstone team, cast, crew, sponsors and everyone who has made this show possible.

Enjoy!



## TO FRILES

10467 80th Avenue NW., Edmonton



#### Mission Statement

is committed to creating professional opportunities for local emerging performing artists. We believe that Edmonton has an overflow of talent that deserves to be nurtured and showcased. We serve to advance a diverse community of arts and culture through theatre, comedy, music and art.

#### Land Acknowledgement

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our venue is located on Treaty 6 territory.

This land is the traditional territory of, and an important gathering place for, diverse Indigenous people including the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota Sioux, Dene, Metis and many others. Their histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

## ABOUT GRINDSTONE

The Grindstone Theatre is a not-for-profit Edmonton based theatre company founded in 2011 by Artistic Director, Byron Martin. The Grindstone opened its venue, The Grindstone Comedy Theatre & Bistro in 2018 and is home to independently produced improv, stand-up, sketch comedy and musical theatre troupes. Grindstone Theatre produces the hit improvised musical, The 11 O'clock Number, which is currently in its 11th season, as well as a full mainstage season and summer festivals & Grindstone Comedy Fest, Disco in the Park and Mural Massive . The Grindstone has produced original shows, including Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer: The Musical, which toured around the province and performed to sell out audiences both in Edmonton and abroad, and {Thunder}CATS, a favourite at Edmonton's Fringe Festival. Grindstone has an extensive education department that offers classes in acting, improv, stand-up, burlesque and more. Grindstone also offers free weekly events such as comedy open mic, karaoke, dance parties and trivia held in the Grindstone Bistro. We believe that theatre can change lives for the better; for those who participate in the performing arts, for our audiences and for our community.

Join us in making our community a better place through the arts.

### SHOW DESCRIPTION

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 \*potentially made-up\* 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 a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.



A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful den of comedic genius. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a fast-paced crowd pleaser and an instant theatre patron favorite.

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## **Musical Numbers**

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE - COMPANY THE SPELLING RULES- PANCH AND SPELLERS MY FAVORITE MOMENT OF THE BEE - RONA MY FRIEND. THE DICTIONARY - OLIVE AND COMPANY THE FIRST GOODBYE - COMPANY PANDEMONIUM - PANCH, CHIP, MITCH, AND SPELLERS I'M NOT THAT SMART - LEAF THE SECOND GOODBYE - COMPANY MAGIC FOOT - BARFÉE AND COMPANY PANDEMONIUM (REPRISE) - MITCH, CHIP, AND COMPANY MY FAVORITE MOMENT OF THE BEE (REPRISE) - RONA PRAYER OF THE COMFORT COUNSELOR - MITCH AND COMPANY MY UNFORTUNATE ERECTION/DISTRACTION (CHIP'S LAMENT) - CHIP **W**OE IS **M**E - LOGAINNE. CARL. DAN. AND COMPANY SPELLING MONTAGE - PANCH AND SPELLERS I'M NOT THAT SMART (REPRISE) - LEAF **I SPEAK SIX LANGUAGES - MARCY AND COMPANY** MARCY'S EPIPHANY - MARCY, MITCH, AND COMPANY THE I LOVE YOU SONG - OLIVE AND OLIVE'S PARENTS **W**OE IS ME (REPRISE) – LOGAINNE, MITCH, AND COMPANY MY FAVORITE MOMENT OF THE BEE (REPRISE) - RONA SECOND - BARFÉE, OLIVE, RONA AND COMPANY FINALE - COMPANY THE LAST GOODBYE - COMPANY



#### Byron Martin - Director, Choreographer

Byron is an Edmonton based writer, director and actor and the Founder and Artistic Director of Grindstone Theatre in Edmonton. He has been working as an improviser for the past 11 years and is the director of The 11 O'clock Number! The Improvised Musical with which he has toured internationally. Byron is a graduate of the MacEwan Theatre Arts Program and The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland MA Musical Theatre Program. Byron has worked as an actor for The Citadel Theatre, Alberta Opera, Edmonton Actors Theatre, The National Theatre of Scotland, The Citizens Theatre (Glasgow), Trunk Theatre, Malachite Theatre, and Theatre YES to name a few. He is the recipient of Theatre Alberta's Community Service Award, voted VUE weekly's Champion of the Arts and was nominated for Outstanding Artistic Director at the Mayors Celebration of the Arts. As an actor nominated for Best Supporting Actor and Outstanding Achievement in Theatre for Young Audiences at the Edmonton Sterling Awards. Directing credits include Here Lies Henry, The Adventures of Chucky and Reggie and Urinetown The Musical, (Thunder)CATS The Musical, Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer The Musical, and Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical (Grindstone Theatre).



#### **Simon Abbott - Musical Director**

Simon Abbott is a left-handed, itinerant musician based in Edmonton. He is an organist by training, and a glam rocker by disposition. He has at times struggled to feed himself as a choral conductor, jazz pianist, and musical theatre director, although he is now pleased to be gainfully employed at the Visionary Centre for the Performing Arts. He's worked with his writing partner Byron Martin on many projects with the Grindstone, including Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer, (Thunder)CATS, Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical and the 11 O'clock Number. If you've ever passed a cyclist pedaling through the Edmonton winter snow, it's definitely him.



#### **Donovan Workun as Vice Principal Douglas Panch**

Donovan Workun is a world renowned improviser and actor who has starred in movies, TV shows and radio programs including seven seasons on the #1 comedy radio show in Canada – CBC's The Irrelevant Show, and CMT's reality hit show Ice Racer Showdown. His career highlights include: performing with Mike Myers, Wayne Brady, Colin Mochrie, Dave Thomas, and Joe Flaherty (SCTV), Kevin McDonald (Kids In The Hall) and Tom Green to name just a few, official performer at the 2012 Summer Olympic games, featured in Amazing Race Canada, hosted the Red Carpet at The Juno Awards, starred in movies alongside Tim Curry, Demi Moore, Patrick Swayze, Carmen Electra, Tom Green, Donald and Kiefer Sutherland and WWE's star Steve Goldberg. Acclaimed as a multiple winner of Alberta Motion Picture Industry Awards, the first improv group to headline Montreal's Just for Laughs and the San Francisco Comedy Festival, and the first comedy act to be nominated for Entertainer of the year by The Canadian Association of Campus Activities Awards.



#### Natalie Czar as Rona Lisa Peretti

Natalie Czar is an actor, singer and song-writer and is a graduate of the MacEwan Theatre program. Some past credits include The Best Little Newfoundland Xmas Pageant Ever!! (Whizgiggling Productions), Erlking: A New Musical (Christopher Scott/Scona Alumni Theatre), Urinetown (Grindstone Theatre), HMS Pinafore (Opera Nuova). As a singer-songwriter and vocalist, she has performed in bands, ensembles, and in a solo capacity in various venues, festivals, and events locally and across Western Canada. Natalie has two amazing kids and is a practitioner/teacher of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and yoga. You can see Natalie next in Think Of Me: An Andrew Lloyd Webber Cabaret Spectacular (Scotty C Productions) playing at the Grindstone Theatre in June.



#### **Paul-Ford Manguelle as Mitch Mahoney**

Paul-Ford Manguelle is a Canadian French and English speaking actor of Cameroonian origin. His most notable theatre credit includes his performance as the blue, hip gyrating, and jovial cat Panthro in The Grindstone Theatre's Musical adaptation (Thunder)CATS in the 2019 and 2022 Edmonton Fringe Festival, he has also most recently played multiple characters such as Theo the vault the breaker, officer Al Winslow, Argyle the rapping limo driver, and Mary the African secretary in The Grindstone Theatre's 2022 Christmas adaptation called Die Harsh. Paul-Ford is also a local filmmaker, writer, producer, and director.



#### Malachi Wilkins as Leaf Coneybear

Malachi is a local actor and comedian most known for starring in Grindstone Theatre's award winning improvised musical The 11 O'Clock Number and for his portrayal of Justin Trudeau in the smash hit Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer. He is very excited to play a weird homeschooled kid in Spelling Bee because he was once a weird homeschooled kid. He hopes you enjoy the show!



#### **Rain Matkin as Olive Ostrovsky**

Rain (she/her) is an emerging actor, singer, and dancer who was born and raised here in Edmonton. She is currently in her 3rd year of the Music Performance BFA at MacEwan University. She is absolutely thrilled to be making her Grindstone debut! Past credits include: London Road, The Drowsy Chaperone, And the World Goes 'Round (Macewan University), Double Bubble (Citadel Theatre), and Scenes from the Sidewalk (Plain Jane). She would like to thank her parents, Sharla and George, for their never-ending support and love.



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#### Abby McDougall as Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre

Abby McDougall (she/her) is an Alberta-based actor and graduate of the University of Alberta BFA Acting program. Recent theatre credits include: The Merry Wives of Windsor (Theatre Calgary), Love's Labour's Lost, She Kills Monsters, Rochdale (Studio Theatre) Puppet Pub Crawl (Found Festival). She has always been a very physical performer, having trained as a dancer and gymnast when she was younger. Abby is a filmmaker, producing and starring in her own projects; she received the Golden Nose award from the 2021 Play the Fool Film Fest for her film Outtshgh, and the Best in Alberta award from the 2022 Play the Fool Film Fest for her film EGG (created in collaboration with Dayna Lea Hoffmann). She also performed a solo clown/comedy piece at the 2023 SkirtsAfire festival: 'The Radical Re-Education of Generation Z, Internet Hygiene, and Being AFK' created alongside her director and co-writer Dayna Lea Hoffmann. Abby's experience with comedy, clown, and puppetry inspires her to seek opportunities to laugh and play in her work. Her focus above all else is to create honest, inclusive, relatable art that can connect people and invite them to reflect on themselves.



#### Cameron Chapman as Charlito "Chip" Tolentino

Cameron Chapman (He/They) is so excited to be making their Grindstone Theatre debut with The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee as Chip Tolentino! Select credits include; Elf the Musical, Little Miss Sunshine, SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical (Storybook Theatre), Pinocchio (Alberta Musical Theatre Company). They are looking forward to putting on a stellar production of this wonderful show!



#### Katelyn Cabalo as Marcy Park

Katelyn (she/her) is a proud Filipina-Canadian performing artist located on Treaty 6 territory. She is a fourth-year student at the University of Alberta with a political science and drama double major. Katelyn is ecstatic to be joining the Grindstone family for this lively production and feels blessed to be sharing the stage with so many talented artists! Select theatre credits include A Flea in Her Ear (University of Alberta 2023), 13 (ABBEDAM 2022), Lemon (New Works and Fringe Festival 2022) and Citadel Theatre's Young Musical Company (2020-2021). When she is not busy cultivating her passion within the performing arts, you can find her playing with her puppy Zuko! Maraming salamat to everyone who has supported this process. She hopes you enjoy the show!



#### Sam Daly - William Morris Barfée

Sam (he/him) is thrilled to join the cast of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. A lifelong theatre lover, he is very excited to work with Grindstone Theatre for the first time. Sam is currently finishing his 3rd year of the Music Theatre Performance BFA at MacEwan University. His past shows include London Road, The Drowsy Chaperone, and The World Goes 'Round (MacEwan University). Sam would like to thank his family, girlfriend, and his mother's Facebook friends for all of their support in all of his endeavours.



#### **Trinity Locke - Stage Manager**

Between her third year business classes, Trinity (she/her) works at the Grindstone Comedy Theatre, programming rentals, producing festivals and stage managing, with her credits including Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer the Musical which took her on a tour across Alberta, as well as Die Harsh: A Christmas Musical. Because she just can't get enough of theatre and definitely has free time to spare, she is also the Executive Director for the UofA New Works Festival.



The Grindstone is thrilled to present a stacked lineup full of world renown headliners sharing a stage with local talent. Join us for a weekend of Stand Up, Sketch, Improv and more!

Don't miss out on this unforgettable event - get your tickets now and let the laughter begin!

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#### **Beverly Destroys - Costume Design**

A multi-disciplinary artist and educator, Beverly started her career in fashion before venturing into costume design for tv, film, and advertising. A 2010 fashion design graduate of Istituto Marangoni, she has worked on projects for UK's Channel 4, Billy Talent, Ralph Lauren & the 2012 United States Olympic Committee. Beverly is also the founder of two clothing labels and The House of Sew, a sewing school based in Edmonton.



#### Raili Boe - Set and Properties Design

Raili Boe is a freelance designer and Head of Props for Edmonton Opera, based in amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton). She/they graduated from the University of Lethbridge with a BFA in Technical/Design for Theatre. Raili also completed a staging practicum at Banff Centre before working as Head of Props at Keyano Theatre. Select recent credits include The Shoplifters (Theatre Northwest), Purge, Evil Dead; The Musical, The Great Gatsby, Barefoot in Nightgown by Candlelight, Riders to the Sea and Ten Belles with No Ring, The Shape of a Girl, Patience, Rock of Ages (Assist), and Where's My Sky? Raili is also the personal designer for drag artist Ms. Simma Downe, and burlesque artist Shir Modesty. Raili is very excited to finally be designing a show in the city they live in! Much love to mom, dad and BattleAxe: Destroyer of Worlds, Defender of the Realm in the North and Hunter of Snakes (he's a dog).

The Farm was founded in 2000 by Rebecca Feldman, Artistic Director. It is a collective of writers and performers, including Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg. The Farm's interest is in the role of improvisation in creating new work for the theatre. The Farm initially designates a two-week intensive period in which to discover, develop, and rehearse a play from the impulses borne mainly out of the pressure of a deadline. Previous projects include "Super" (at Atlantic Theatre Studios), "Why I Hate Florida" (workshop at White Wave in DUMBO) and "C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E" (at the Present Company Theatorium in October 2002), on which "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is based. The character and original dialogue of Marquiles." "Vice President Panch." Douglas "Mr. Barfee." Schwarzengrubenierre" were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.



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## Musician Bios





Erik is a musician, composer and music director based in Edmonton. Alberta, Canada. His compositions and Music Direction have both been recognized with Sterling awards by Alberta's theatre community with his composition of Capitol Theatre's "Sleeping Beauty" and music direction, on Theatre Network's "The Last Five Years". He has also been nominated for Sterling's on five other productions. He has composed several musical scores with the Capitol Theatre, Thou Art Here, and Rapid Fire Theatre. He has performed with world class musicians including Simone Denny, Mitch Watkins, Andrea House and Martin Kerr including performances at the Edmonton Folk Fest, The Northern Jubilee Auditorium and The Winspear Centre. Erik has performed lots of improvised musicals both with Grindstone Theatre's "The 11 O'clock Number" and Rapid Fire's "Off Book the Improvised Musical". He is a rehearsal pianist at Ballet Edmonton and also played drums for Grindstone Theatre's "Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer." You can catch Erik this playoff season playing keys in the Barkells where they will be pumping up the Oilers fans at Rogers for their playoff run! Now let's spell some words!

#### **Amelia McLeod - Woodwinds**



Amelia McLeod (she/her) is an Edmonton-based saxophonist, pianist, and composer. She is currently in her 3rd year of undergraduate studies in saxophone performance at the University of Alberta and she is an alumnus of the Young Composers Project with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Beyond performing and writing, she teaches lessons and clinics in her free time and has a passion for musical theatre.

#### **Alex Downey - Drums**



Alex is ecstatic to be back for a 3rd production with the Grindstone. He played for Jason Kenney's Hot Boy Summer, (Thunder)CATS, and now the Spelling Bee! Every Friday night he hosts a weekly eclectic free-flow jam at the Black Dog Freehouse. Keep a look out for upcoming releases from "Jungle Money", and the "You hear wolves..." DnD podcast, two upcoming projects that Alex is a part of producing.



Hair has no gender, style has no bias

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## T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U



#### **GRINDSTONE STAFF**

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Programming Manager & Lead Producer: Jocelyn Anselmo

General Manager: Joses Martin Education Manager: Jules Pepin

Programming Assistant: **Trinity Locke** | Bar Manager: **Darren Peacock** 

Fundraising and Volunteer Coordinator: Kyle Parrotta

House Technician: Autumn Russell | House Manager: Jarin Ten Hove

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#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

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