# Auditions for 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' presented by Little Theatre of Owatonna!

Title: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

**Authors:** Music & Lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin, Conceived by Rebecca Feldman with Additional Material by Jay Reiss.

## Artistic Director: Will McIntyre

Music Director: Taylor Wesseln

Choreographer: Madi Rappe

Tech Director: Victoria Bartkowiak

Show Dates: February 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22 at 7:30 PM February 16 & 23 at 2:00 PM

## Audition Dates:

Tuesday, December 10 ~ 6:30 - 8:30 PM Wednesday, December 11 ~ 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Audition Location: Little Theatre of Owatonna - Sharon Stark Auditorium: 560 Dunnell Dr. Owatonna, MN 55060

## **Audition Requirements:**

- Must be 18+ to audition for this production!
- Please prepare a song from the audition packet!
- Please be prepared to move/dance, so please dress in comfortable clothing!
- Please be prepared to read sides/scenes from the show!

#### **Rehearsals:**

Rehearsals begin Monday, December 16 - December 19, for one week of learning music before Holiday break! Then rehearsals will be Monday-Thursday beginning January 6. (Potential Friday rehearsals may be added if necessary, but we will work hard so this does not need to happen!) Actors must be present at every rehearsal after February 3rd when we begin incorporating technical aspects! Actors must be present for all tech rehearsals & performances.

## Show Synopsis:

This heartfelt musical comedy follows an eclectic group of six children who compete 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 "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!

# Character Breakdown: (Most characters also play small roles here and there during the duration of the musical!)

## **The Spellers**

- Chip Tolentino (Male Presenting, Vocal Range: C3 B4) An athletic, social, boy scout and champion of the 24th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. He reuters to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment.
- Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniere (Female Presenting, Vocal Range: A3 F5) 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.
- Leaf Coneybear (Male Presenting, Vocal Range: A2 A4) The second runner-up in his district, Leave 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.
- Marcy Park (Female Presenting, Vocal Range: C4 E5) 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.
- William Barfee (Male Presenting, Vocal Range: E3 B4) 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.
- Olive Ostrovsky (Female Presenting, Vocal Range: B3 F5) 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.

## The Adults

- Rona Lisa Peretti (Female Presenting, Vocal Range: B3 F5) The #1 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.
- Mitch Mahoney (Male Presenting, Vocal Range: E3 A5) 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.
- **Douglas Panch (Male Presenting, Non-Singing)** 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 a judge. There was an "incident" at the 20th 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.

All actors must audition with one of the short monologues listed below! You do not need to memorize these short monologues–But please try to embody the character the best you can!



*Please fill out as much of the requested information below as possible, or circle the appropriate choice where applicable. If you prefer to be part of the backstage crew, please see the technical director.* 

Full name:			Age:	
Height:	Hair Color:		Pronouns:	
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:		
Email:				

## **PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE / ROLES (**you may use a separate sheet of paper)

1st choice role:	2nd choice role:
Would you consider other roles? YES NO	
Would you consider a role of the opposite sex?	YES NO

#### **MUSIC EXPERIENCE**

**Can you read music**? YES NO | **What voice part do you sing**? SOPRANO ALTO TENOR BASS **What is your vocal range**? (*You may use the provided staff below to assist you*)

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(5		Can you play any instruments?				
) <b>9</b> :		Numbers of years studied?				
		Skill Level? BEG	NNER	INTERMEDIATE	AD	VANCED
		DANCE EXPER	ENCE			
BALLET TA	AP JAZZ	CONTEMP/MOD	ERN	HIP-HOP	BAL	LROOM
Style (if other)	# of Years	s Skill Leve	I: BEGINI	NER INTERMI	EDIATE	ADVANCED
		<u>SPECIAL SKI</u>	<u>LLS</u>			
STAGE COMBAT	JUGGLING	GYN	INASTICS	(	CHEERLE	ADING
Other skills to n	ote:					

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Full name:			Relationship:			
Home phone:			_ Cell phone:			
Email Address:						
Parent or Guardian ir	nfo (if under 18): _					
Doctor Name and Ph	one (if applicable)	):				
<b>Potential Medical or</b> phobias we should be		to note: (Are you	diabetic? Asthmat	ic? Severe Allerg	ies? Any	
Are you currently per	rforming/rehears	ing anything now	? (Please note the sh	now and dates belo	ow)	
Are there any potent	ial scheduling co	nflicts you're awaı	re of?			
How did you hear about our auditions?						
NEWSPAPER	WEBSITE	FRIEND	TEACHER	FLYER	OTHER	

Thank you for your interest in our production!

We appreciate you sharing your talents and gifts with us, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you!

# LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

## -Little Theatre of Owatonna

<u>Safety Volunteer Background Checks must be completed for all volunteers 18 years and older</u> <u>at no cost and will be completed every 3 years.</u> **RONA LISA PERETTI MONOLOGUE:** (Host of the Bee) Ladies and gentlemen, all the children you see on stage are here because of their extraordinary ability and love of language – but only one of them can go on to compete in the National Spelling Bee! And this year, to celebrate our silver anniversary, our local sponsors, the Putnam Optometrists, are offering today's winner a two hundred dollar savings bond toward his or her future education. I'd like to take this moment to ask you to please turn off all cell phones and other distracting devices, and put away cameras – sorry, no photos at the bee. I'm Rona Lisa Peretti, and I'm pleased to be back for my 9th consecutive year as your host. Unfortunately, our usual word pronouncer, Superintendent Spriggs, has fallen ill, so please join me in welcoming back Vice Principal Douglas Panch from Lake Hemingway Junior High.

**LEAF CONEYBEAR MONOLOGUE**: (read this like a goofball) (picks up the phone) Hello, Leaf speaking. Uh huh. Uh huh. You're kidding! I'm going to represent the Basin in the Bee? Wow, I can't believe it. (puts down the phone) Mom, Dad, Marigold, Brook, Pinecone, Raisin, Landscape, Paul – you're not going to believe this! I made the county finals in the spelling bee! I know that I came in third in my regional competition, but they just called and said that the person who came in first has to go to their Bat Mitzvah and the person who came in second has to attend the Bat Mitzvah, so they want me to do it!

**OLIVE OSTROVSKI MONOLOGUE**: (read this very innocently) I'm thinking about does flagellate have one L or two – and also about how if you take the "w" of answer and the "h" in ghost and the extra "a" in aardvark and the "t" in listen, you could keep saying "what" but nobody would hear, 'cause the whole word would be silent. (A cell phone rings.) Oh – sorry – it's mine – it's my dad – can I answer? I know it's against the rules, but Miss Peretti, maybe you could answer to tell him I made the finals. Oh, and that I need the twenty-five dollar entrance fee! My mom couldn't make it because she's in an ashram in India. But I hope that she'll send for me soon...

# WILLIAM BARFEE SCENE: (very boastfully)

PANCH Mr. Barfee.

BARFEE - It's Barfée - (pronounce this BarFAY)

PANCH "Lugubrious."

BARFEE Yes, of course. Lugubrious, meaning extremely sad and droopy?

PANCH More or less, yes.

BARFEE A topic I am all too familiar with. One moment please. (BARFEE should spell out the word on the floor using his foot to create the letters as he spells.)

BARFEE Lugubrious. L-U-G-U- Lugu! B-R-I-O-U-S – Lugubrious.

PANCH That is correct.

BARFEE I know. My fake mom Sheila thinks my hobbies are weird, but my real mom Joan says this science will one day pay off. And also I will grow up to be incredibly handsome.

MITCH MAHONEY MONOLOGUE: You can't comfort these damn kids. They don't yet know that the good don't always win, so there's nothing you can say to cheer them up when they lose. I want to tell them disappointment doesn't last, but from what I've seen disappointment lasts like hell. I want to tell them words don't matter; but from what I've seen words can get you killed. I just want to beat them up a little, so they understand that pain has degrees, and this is nothing, this is nothing, you little freaks. But that would violate my parole. So I do what I can. I give them a hug and a juice box. I'm here to give comfort. VICE PRINCIPLE DOUGLAS PANCH MONOLOGUE: Thank you Rona, and I would like to say as to the incident 5 years ago, I'm in a much better place now. \*[Ad lib note: Here, the actor reading for Panch has the option to ad lib some reference to "the incident" at his digression. As originally written, the line reads: "It's amazing what a change of diet can do for a man. Thank you." The original line would be a fine choice, but you have the option to change it] And may I add, Ms. Peretti here is not only one of Putnam County's top realtors, she's also a former spelling champion herself. Beautiful. And now for the Pledge of Allegiance led by our comfort counselor, (Checks writing on the palm of his hand) Mr. Mitchell M. Mahoney

MARCY PARK MONOLOGUE: Camouflage. (to herself) Dear Jesus, can't you come up with a harder word than that? (responding to JESUS's voice, which she hears clearly in her head) Jesus? Hi! How are you? Jesus ... I was wondering what would happen if I didn't win today. What I mean is, would you be disappointed with me if I lost? You're saying it's up to me then?(she returns to spelling) Camouflage. C-A-M ... O-U (still deciding) F-L. .. A ... J (and as soon as she dares miss the first letter, she takes more and more joy in getting it wrong) ... Z!!. .. H!!! Camaflajzh!

**CHIP TOLENTINO MONOLOGUE**: Tittup. T... I... (reluctantly, but he knows it) T... U – Oh wait. Two t's. You heard both, right? Backing up, T-I-T-T-U-P. Tittup (Ding) No, but, I wasn't sure if you heard both t's. I obviously know how to spell it...That's not fair. I got it right. I can't get out on a word I spelled right. Miss Peretti, can I have one more chance? Please?

LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERE MONOLOGUE: This bee is as confusing for me as Father's Day! As the daughter of 2 gay dads, I'd like to know who scheduled Father's Day and Gay Pride weekend, within 7 days of each other?! Well anyway, to celebrate Gay Father's Pride week, which is what we call it in my family, we went to go see "Cinderella Man" starring Russel Crowe - but it wasn't exactly what we were expecting...





14. PANDEMONIUM





Spelling Bee

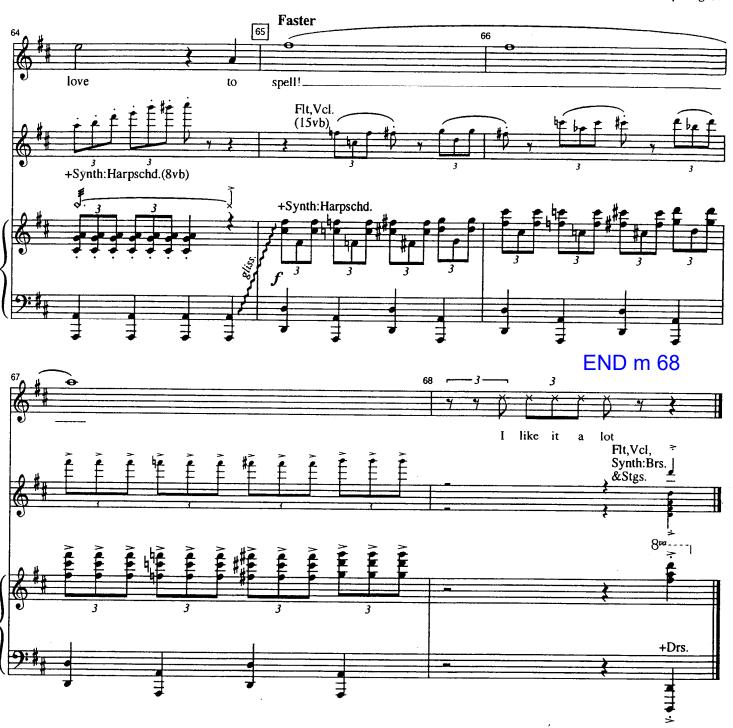


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# 6. PRAYER OF THE COMFORT COUNSELOR



# 7. PRAYER OF THE COMFORT COUNSELOR



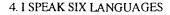


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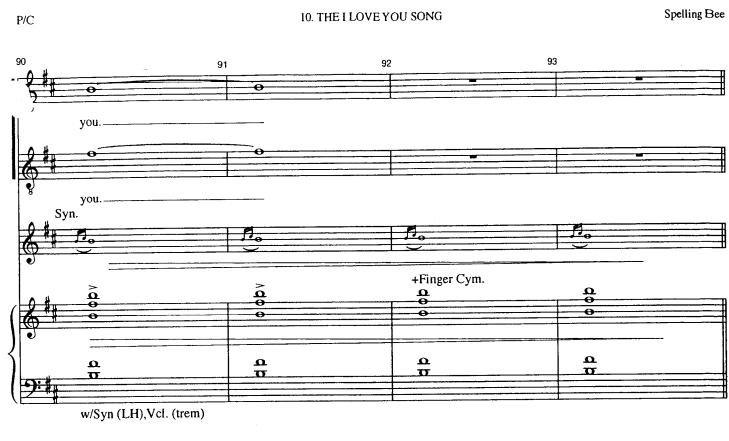




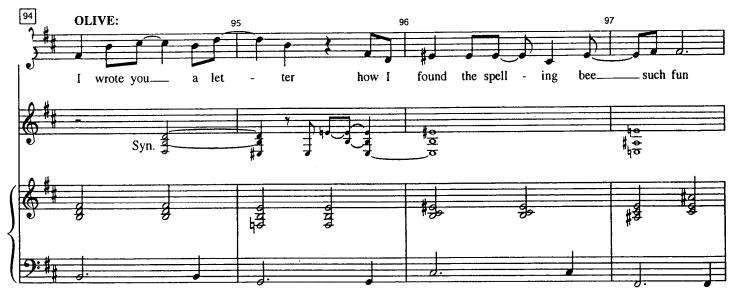


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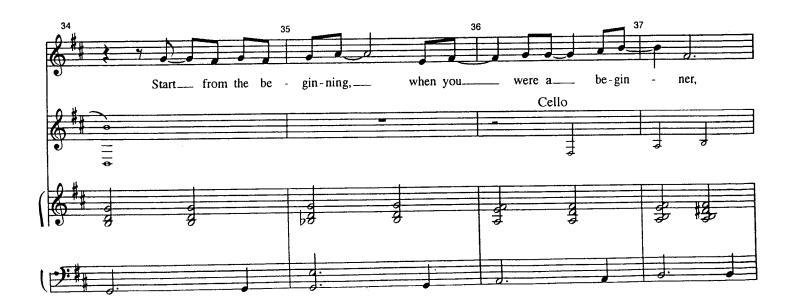












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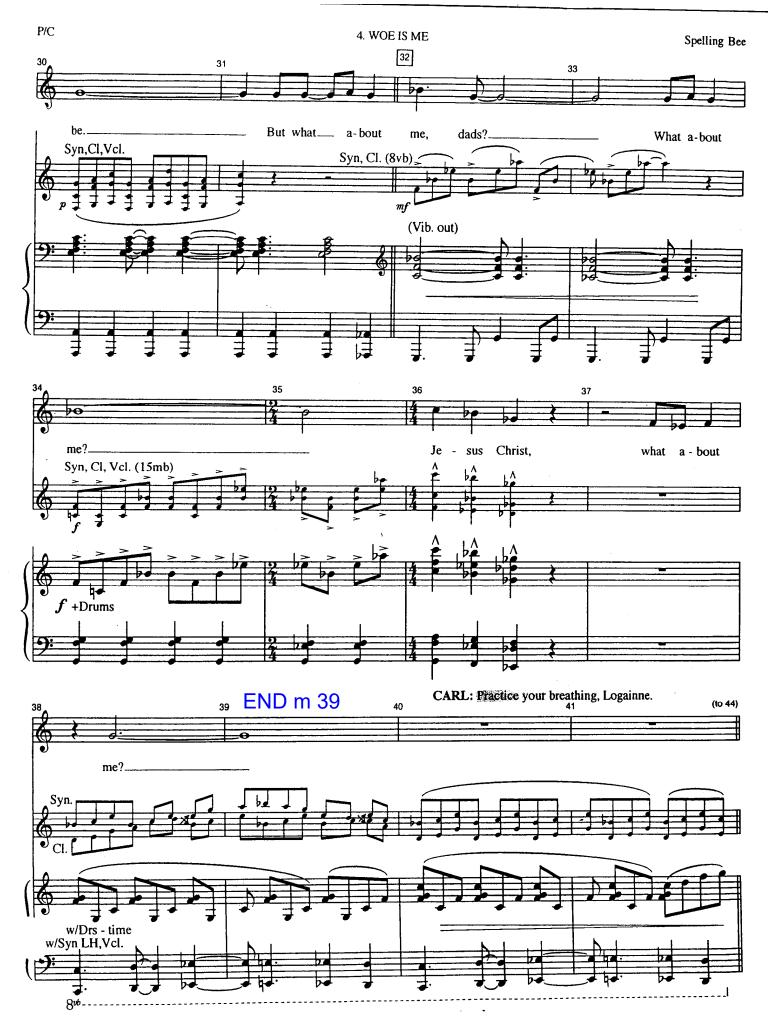






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