

GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

The 25th Annual
Putnam County



SPELLING BEE

Conceived by Rebecca Feldman • Music & Lyrics by William Finn
• Book by Rachel Sheinkin • Additional Material by Jay Reiss •



November 7, 8 & 9, 2019
7:00 pm

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented
through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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GENEVA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE

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



Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by the Form

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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Geneva Community High School

416 McKinley Avenue
Geneva, Illinois 60134

Phone: (630) 463-3800
Fax: (630) 463-3809



Dear Friends of Geneva's Theatre Productions:

Welcome to Geneva Community High School's performance of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. We're trying something new this year – a musical in the fall. Our cast, crew, and directors have devoted themselves to the creation of this production, and we appreciate their inspired performances and dedication. Their commitment to the drama program underscores the rich tradition of excellence and success in our performing arts endeavors.

I invite you to support our theatre programs through membership in the Geneva High School Theatre Boosters. They enrich our students' experiences by making things like this playbill possible and have been enhancing our theatre program with other "extras" for many years now. They would appreciate your help.

Thank you very much for your attendance as loyal patrons of Geneva's theatre productions. We hope you enjoy the performance this evening.

Sincerely,
Tom Rogers
Principal

Lilly, It is an absolute JOY every chance we get to see you perform! Enjoy the show and know that you will never have to worry about saving us a seat because we will always get tickets to watch you do what you love!
Love, Mom, Dad, Charlotte and your whole family! BAL!



GO-TO GREEN SMOOTHIE

2 SERVINGS - 10 MINUTES

ingredients

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- 1 Apple
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- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- Ice Cubes (optional)

*My go to brands are Vital proteins collagen or Sun Warrior Warrior Blend, you may also sub 1 serving hemp seeds.

directions

Place all ingredients in a high speed blender and blend til smooth. Enjoy!




feed

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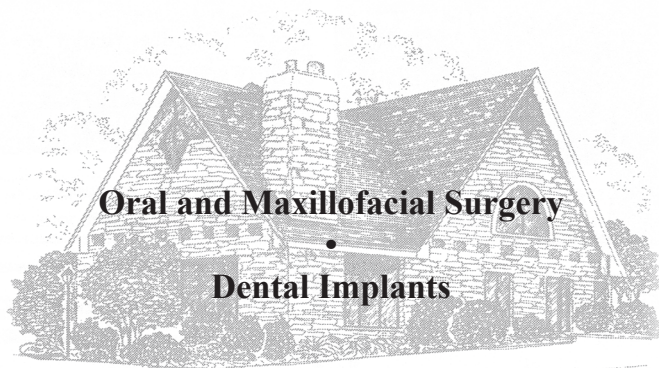


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Director's Notes

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a musical comedy centered around a fictional spelling bee set at Putnam Valley Middle School. The 2005 Broadway production, directed by James Lapine, was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning two, including Best Book. The musical was based on an original improvisational play called C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E created by Rebecca Feldman before turning it into the full length musical.



*Konnie Kay Sherry
 Director/Choreographer*

The adolescents at the bee are using the competition to figure out who they are and where they will fit in, in the up and coming adult world. The adults are trapped as well in their childhood personas, trying to find where their next path in life will lead them. We find throughout this wonderfully scripted musical the desperate desire by some parents to push their children (some at any cost) to be “number one” validating their lost opportunities that alluded them from their own childhood, as well as some who have no parental guidance, and how they learn to cope. We then see the final outcome of both children and adults as they continue to grow on the great stage of L-I-F-E.

Doing a show where there is going to be unscripted moments has been quite unusual and exciting. Working with these amazing actors has been a joy! Thank you to our assistant director Ella, our vocal director Luke, our dance captain Alli, and all the parents who helped put this remarkable and different show together. I look forward to you having as much fun watching Putnam County Spelling Bee, as we have had performing it!

Konnie Kay Sherry
 Director/Choreographer


GHS Student Directors


Ella Kobylecky..... Assistant Director
 Alli McCallDance Captain
 Luke Vrba..... Vocal Director


Cast




Reed Anderson Ensemble/Dad Carl Grubenierre/Olive’s Dad
 Caroline Atkinson Ensemble/Olive’s Mom/Brooke
 Nathan Castagna William Morris Barfée
 Zach Davies Ensemble/Pinecone
 Matt Ellis Ensemble/Dad Dan Schwartz
 Maddie Gartrell Ensemble/Leaf’s Mom
 Addie McDonald Rona Lisa Peretti
 Lily Mehren Marcy Park
 Lilly Nowak Olive Ostrovsky
 Katie O’Brien Logainne Schwartz and Grubenierre
 Sam Sanchez Mitch Mahoney
 Jay Jay Santiago Chip Tolentino/Jesus Christ
 Sam Sennett Vice Principal Douglas Panch
 Jenna Sowinski Ensemble/Marigold
 Luke Vrba Leaf Coneybear

Luke, 
 We are so proud of all
 your hard work on stage
 and behind the piano for the
 “Spelling Bee”!
Love, Mom, Dad and Johnny

Reed, 
 We are so proud of you
 and all the work you put into each
 production. Good luck to the cast
 and crew! Break a leg!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Marcella

Katie O., 
 We are all so proud of
 you! Break a leg!
Dan, Melissa, Danny and Elly!

Sweet Caroline - Congratulations
 on your great performance. We are
 so proud of you!
*Love, Granny and
 Grandpa Atkinson* 

Synopsis

Life is “Pandemonium” in this fast-paced and irreverent Tony Award-winning comedy. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* follows an eclectic group of students as they vie for the title of regional spelling bee champ — hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake.

This witty coming-of-age story is bursting with heart, and an unforgettable experience that chronicles all the joy, torment, and passion of those who love to compete. 12 spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box...

Musical Numbers


Act 1

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” Company
 “The Rules” Panch, Spellers
 “My Friend the Dictionary” Olive
 “Pandemonium” Spellers
 “I’m Not That Smart” Leaf
 “Magic Foot” Barfée
 “Pandemonium (Reprise)” Spellers
 “Rona Moment #2” Rona
 “Prayer of the Comfort Counselor” Mitch, Company

INTERMISSION

Act 2

“Chip’s Lament” Chip
 “Woe is Me” Logainne, Company
 “I Speak Six Languages” Marcy
 “Jesus” Marcy, Spellers
 “Spelling Montage” Company
 “I’m Not That Smart (Reprise)” Leaf
 “The I Love You Song” Olive, Mom, Dad
 “Woe is Me (Reprise)” Logainne
 “Rona Moment #3” Rona
 “Second” Barfée, Olive, Spellers
 “The Champion” Company
 “Finale” Company

Maddie, what is this like your 20th play you’ve been in since you were 4 yrs old? It never gets old and we wouldn’t miss it for the world!
*Love, the two adults at home who support you financially...
 with love of course!* 



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| Kyla Cass | Kaylee Jorgensen | Delaney Rooks |
| Cameron Cronkhite | Liz Karth | Daphne Schow |
| Bernadette Danek | Gus Larson | Allie Soeder |
| Abbie Giblin | Emily Leon | Leianne Strah |
| Ben Gitchell | Lindsay Miller | Clayton Wagner |

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jon Richert | Technical Director |
| Soren Gonzalez | Stage Manager |
| Isaac Martin | Lighting Operator |
| Keilan McCann | Audio Operator |
| Jackson O'Connor | Assistant Stage Manager |
| Grayson Schmedes | Camera Operator |
| Connor Spidle | Audio Operator |

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Papa, Mom, and Ingrid



Special Thank You To ...

A heartfelt thank you to the Geneva community who has so proudly supported our theatre program here at Geneva High School for many years. Thank you to those businesses who have made the printing of this playbill possible by placing advertisements within it. Thank you to all the businesses that have hung our promotional posters in their windows.

To our beloved audience, please consider shopping at or utilizing the services listed within these pages. Thank you so very much. We are most appreciative of your attendance here this evening. The cast, technical crew and directors have worked endless hours to entertain you. We hope that you enjoy the show.

- Thank you to Fagans Graphic Design & Printing for their amazing cover artwork, playbill and poster design and printing.
- Thank you to Kim Ayars and Cathy Ostergard for their beautiful photography of our cast, crew and directors.
- Thank you to ALL the parents of cast and crew. We couldn't do it without your talented kids and YOUR support.
- Thank you to Mr. Rogers for his positive encouragement and support of the performing arts.


	
	
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Special Thank You To ...

- Thank you to Lisa Stone, Christina Estrada and the entire office for their tireless support.
- Thank you to Laura Sprague and all the employees and board members of Geneva School District 304 for their endless help.
- Thank you to the GHS security and custodial staff for their invaluable help throughout the entire theatre process, from auditions through the actual production.
- Thank you to Dane County Design for the printing of the outdoor banner.
- Thank you to Cardinal Printing for the printing of the custom tee shirts.
- Thank you to The Button Man for the printing of the tech week buttons.
- A standing ovation for the incredible directors of our show this evening, Mrs. Connie Kay Sherry and Mr. Jon Richert.
- Thank you to the 2019-2020 GHS Theatre Boosters, committee members and volunteers. We appreciate everything you do to support the students and directors throughout the entire season.
- A shout out to Junior, Ella Kobylecky, our Assistant Director, and to Senior, Luke Vrba, our Vocal Director, and to Sophomore, Alli McCall, our Dance Captain, for their dedication to this production.

2019-2020 GHS Theatre Boosters Board:

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Cast Bios




Reed Anderson (*Ensemble/Dad Carl Grubenierre/Olive's Dad*) is a Junior at GHS and is still very surprised he got this far in both theatre and school in general. You may have seen him in past performances as that one character who was funny but still nobody remembers the character's name, as Monsieur D'Arque in *Beauty and the Beast*, or Josh Johnson in *The Rimers of Eldritch*. Reed Anderson is very happy that you could attend tonight, and hopes you enjoy the show. Huge shout out to his family for putting up with him for the past weeks.




Caroline Atkinson (*Ensemble/Olive's Mom/Brooke*) is a Senior and is portraying a speller/Olive's Mom. She could be seen as Mary in last year's fall production, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, and as a spoon in *Beauty and the Beast*. When she's not onstage, she can be found on the Robotics team, with the math team, or sewing one of her many projects. She'd like to thank her friends, family, birds, cast and crew for a great performance!



Nathan Castagna (*William Morris Barfée*) is a senior at Geneva High School and is excited to be a part of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*! Nathan is portraying William Morris Barfée. Nathan was most recently seen as the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* at GHS, Jack in *Into the Woods* at GHS, and Shrek in *Shrek the Musical*. Nathan is also currently co-president of the International Thespian Society. Nathan has also worked professionally in productions of *Cheaper by the Dozen* and *Christmas on Broadway*. You can also catch him working at Gia Mia! He would like to thank the cast, crew, and creative team for all their hard work, and he would like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him!

We are so proud of you **Sam!** Your first musical, in High School, and you saved it for your Senior year! Congratulations! Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa and Grandeb 

CONGRATULATIONS LUKE,  "Spelling Bees" must be in your "Gene Pull!" Haha! We love you, Grandpa Ron and Grandma Joy



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Cast Bios



Zach Davies (*Ensemble/Pinecone*) is so excited to be a part of this show! This is his fifth theatre performance, and he has had so much fun getting to know the cast and crew. When not in theatre, he enjoys spending time with his friends and family, listening to music, drawing, and making pottery. He hopes you enjoy the show!!



Matt Ellis (*Ensemble/Dad Dan Schwartz*) is a Junior at Geneva High School. You might have caught him playing the iconic role as Eggman in *Beauty and the Beast*. He is excited to perform in this fall's musical, and hopes you enjoy it too!



Maddie Gartrell (*Ensemble/Leaf's Mom*) is a sophomore and has been in theater since she was the age of 6. She has participated in many shows such as: *Legally Blonde*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Maddie loves *Spelling Bee* because she gets to act like a little kid again. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Ella Kobylecky (*Assistant Director*) is a junior at GHS and thrilled to be apart of this production! She has been doing theatre since she was 4 years old and is very excited about participating from the directing point of view. Ella is also the president of Drama Club and a part of the International Thespian Society. She would like to thank Konnie for giving her this opportunity, and the cast for all their hard work they put into the show! She hopes you enjoy!

EVAN!!! We can't express enough how proud we are of you. You have done an amazing job and have been so dedicated with tech crew.

Love you, Mom, Dad, Ethan, Evan, Ian, and Belle.



Congrats To All The Performers!



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Cast Bios



Alli McCall (*Dance Captain*) has been dancing since she was three years old and doing theatre for four years. She had a blast dancing in last year's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She loved working with the cast and directors for this production. It has been a wonderful experience helping with the dancing and watching this show come together!



Addie McDonald (*Rona Lisa Peretti*) is a senior at Geneva High School. She feels so lucky to be in such a hilarious show, with all these wonderful people. Addie has always loved being on stage whether she was dancing, singing, acting, or doing all three. Some of her most recent roles include Silly Girl (*Beauty and the Beast*), Cora (*The Rimers of Eldritch*), and Lucinda (*Into the Woods*). She would like to thank all the people who have made this show possible, and her loving family and friends. She would also ask that you sit back and relax because the bee is about to be(e)gin.



Lily Mehren (*Marcy Park*) is making her GHS debut in *Spelling Bee*. Lily has been in previous shows such as *Annie* as Annie, and *Frozen* as Anna. Lily loves theatre and hopes to continue to be on stage for the rest of her life.



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Cast Bios



Lilly Nowak (*Olive Ostrovsky*) is a junior and has a passion for performing! Her recent roles include Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Patsy in *The Rimers of Eldritch*, Gertrude McFuzz in *Suessical*, and Little Red in *Into the Woods*. Lilly often performs in the community and was recently selected as a National Finalist for the Songbook Academy. Lilly would like to thank her director, cast, and crew for an amazing experience. She also would like to thank Olive for teaching her to find comfort in the power of words. Enjoy the show!




Katie O'Brien (*Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre*) is a sophomore at GHS, and she's stoked to be a part of this production. She's a member of Varsity Choir and Jazz Choir. She was seen in last year's fall play *The Rimers of Eldritch* as Martha Truit, and she was Chip in the spring musical *Beauty and the Beast*. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Spelling Bee* for working together to put on such a fun show!

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Cast Bios




Sam Sanchez (*Mitch Mahoney*) is a senior this year at GHS. He is extremely thankful that his parents always encouraged him to follow his dream. Sam is doing his first high school performance this year and extremely excited to bring you all a great show. Sam is also active outside of school playing baseball for the school and outside of school. Sam also would like to thank Konnie and Bill for taking a chance on him.



Jay Jay Santiago (*Chip Tolentino/Jesus Christ*) is a senior at Geneva High School. When not fearing college and forgetting homework, he is mastering a character who is something he was never: athletic. He'll never give up, shut up, or admit his obvious faults, because that's the determined young man Jay Jay is. Thank you for coming and enjoy.



Sam Sennett (*Vice Principal Douglas Panch*) Hey there! Whenever Sam gets the chance to be in a theatre production, either in or outside of school, he'll take it because he loves to be onstage and express himself. It gives him the opportunity to be somebody who he'd never imagined he'd ever get to be. Sam has been in three productions at the high school. He was in *Into The Woods* (Cinderella's Father), *The Rimers of Eldritch* (Peck Johnson), *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth (twice), and Maurice), and also in the *One Acts*, and the talent show last year. He wants to thank the directors for helping out with this show. It was so fun to get to go through the process of learning the show. Thank you and enjoy the show!

Caroline, So proud of our amazing senior! It's been quite the journey with all your performances over the years, from kindergarten to today. You never cease to amaze us with your talent. We are always looking forward to your next performance.
Love - Mom, Dad and Danny 

Cast Bios





Jenna Sowinski (*Ensemble/Marigold*) has always loved acting, and would like to thank her friends, family, and castmates for the opportunity to participate in her second show at GHS. A few of her past roles include Miss Corry in *Mary Poppins*, and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, watching anime, and spending time with family and friends. She's looking forward to an awesome performance!




Bravo! Congrats on all of your hard work!

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Cast Bios



Luke Vrba (*Leaf Coneybear/Vocal Director*) is a senior and is thrilled to be both vocal directing and playing Leaf in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*! Luke's GHS theatre credits include: Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*, Student Director of *James and the Giant Peach*, Student Director of *The Rimers of Eldritch*, Stage Manager of *Into the Woods*, Ensemble/Waiter in *Hello, Dolly!* and Director/Actor for several *One Act Plays*. Luke is the Co-President of the International Thespian Society, which honors student achievement in the theatre arts. He is a classically trained pianist and a member of Varsity Choir and the President of Jazz Choir. Luke will continue his education in choral music, instrumental music, and theatre in college. He would like to thank his family and friends for their avid support as well as the company, crew, and directorial team for their tenacity, diligence, and enthusiasm. Enjoy the bee!



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Contact Debra Nowak at debra.nowak@yahoo.com or Christina Vrba at cmvrba@gmail.com for more information on how to become involved.

OUR 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13

ALL MEETINGS START AT 7PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM.

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