

2021-2022 Theatre Season

A Year of Unlikely Heroes

Blinn College Division of Arts, Kinesiology & Agriculture
Brenham Campus

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee



Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Music and Lyrics by William Finn

Directed by Jennifer Patrick

Music Direction by Jill Stewart

Technical Direction by Kevin Patrick

Costume, Makeup, and Hair Design by Jennifer Patrick

Publicity by Brad Nies

Resource Guide

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. With this in mind, please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.

The Blinn College-Brenham Theatre Arts Program

Presents



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Performance Dates

April 28 & 29

7 p.m.

April 30 & May 1

2 p.m.

High School Preview Performances

April 28 & 29

1 p.m.

Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center
Brenham, Texas

All plays and dates subject to change.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at

www.blinn.edu/BoxOffice,

by calling 979-830-4024,

or by emailing BoxOffice@blinn.edu

Produced by Special Arrangement with

Music Theatre International

Synopsis of
*The 26th Annual Putnam County
Spelling Bee*

Join six eclectic middle-schoolers as they all vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, each tween charms the audience through songs, wit, and humor. This riotous musical has been called a delightful den of comedic genius!

Rachel Sheinkin. Playwright

Rachel Sheinkin received her BA degree from Brown University. While attending Brown, she was fortunate enough to study with Pulitzer Prize Winning playwright Paula Vogel. Sheinkin received her MFA in playwriting from the Yale School of Drama, where for five years she taught libretto writing for musical theater. In addition to writing librettos for operas, she is also writing a novel.

William Finn, Composer

A composer who always writes his own lyrics, William Finn is especially known for his work on what was to become a trilogy of short musicals entitled, *In Trousers*, *March of the Falsettos*, and *Falsettoland*. The latter two musicals opened on Broadway in 1992 and won two Tony Awards for Best Original Score and Best Book of a Musical. Finn is a member of the NYU Tisch Graduate Program in Musical Theater Writing faculty.

The Production History of

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee opened Off-Broadway at the 2nd Stage Theatre on February 7, 2005. The show closed on March 20, 2005 and reopened on Broadway at the Circle in the Square Theatre on April 15, 2005. The Broadway production closed on January 20, 2008 after 1,136 performances and 21 previews. The play was the recipient of the Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical, and the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical.

The Film Version of

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

In 2021, Walt Disney Pictures announced their plans to create a musical film adaptation of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The work is to be produced by Dan Lin and Jonathan Eirich, who produced the blockbuster-hit live-action *Aladdin* remake. Ryan Halprin, who appeared in a college production of the musical, will serve as executive producer.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Goes Abroad!

While the 2006 touring production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* was quite successful, the musical did not limited itself to productions in the United States. Below are some of the show's more notable performances in other countries:



The Playhouse Arts Center in Melbourne, Australia



The Sydney Theatre in Sydney, Australia



The Camarata Music Company in Seoul, South Korea



The Hong Kong Singers, Hong Kong, South China



The Donmar Warehouse, London, England



AACI J-Town Playhouse Theatre, Jerusalem, Israel



Hey, Teachers!

Please review the following rules with your students to assure that all audience members enjoy the show!

- 1. Be on time by being in your seat 10 minutes before the performance is scheduled to begin. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the theatre and in locations chosen by the theatre.**
- 2. Remain seated until intermission and until curtain calls are completed. If an emergency requires leaving your seat, please remain outside the theatre until allowed to return by the theatre's staff.**
- 3. Finish and/or discard all food and drinks before entering the theatre. Please be respectful of others by disposing your trash.**
- 4. Silence or turn off all electronic devices, including cell phones, beepers, and watch alarms. You are encouraged to share your theatre experience via social media, but you must refrain from sharing or texting during the performance. The glow from all media is easily discernable in the dark theatre and is distracting to your neighbors and the actors.**
- 5. Video and flash photography of live performances is not allowed. Actors will generally be available for photographs after the show.**
- 6. Please refrain from talking during the performance.**
- 7. Your courtesy is much appreciated as it allows for the ultimate experience of theatre productions for all our patrons.**



Sources

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