

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PLAYERS AUDITIONS
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Music and Lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Director: Aimee Diehl Music Director: Jen Allred

Audition Dates: January 12 and 13 (auditioners need only attend one day), with callbacks January 15 in the evening

Time: 1 p.m.-4 p.m. (Please arrive at 1 p.m. to register.)

Location: Middlebury Fitness, 175 Wilson Rd., Middlebury
*Park in lower lot and use lower entrance.

Requirements: Seeking teens (minimum 14 years old and in high school) and adults comfortable with improv and comedy.
*If younger than 18 years old, actors must have a parent/guardian signature on their audition form.

Production Dates (at Town Hall Theater, Middlebury):

Thursday–Sunday, April 25-28 and May 2-5, 2019

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances at 8 p.m.

Sunday performances at 2 p.m.

Show Synopsis: A Tony-Award-winning musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* explores the many challenges of growing up through the lens of a middle-school spelling bee. Six awkward tween competitors spell their way to self-discovery, while three quirky adults run the show. This musical is fast-paced and funny, with catchy songs and clever dialogue, and has elements of improv and surprise: At each performance, four audience volunteers are called on stage to spell (and dance!) along with the actors, which adds to the fun.

Auditions: This is a show about young children, but it does not include roles for young child performers. **Teen actors must be at least 14 years old and in high school to audition.** Actors younger than 18 years old must also have a parent/guardian signature on their audition form.

Actors may audition on either afternoon. Auditions will consist of learning and singing a 16-bar cut, reading from the script, and learning and performing a dance combination. No special preparation is required. If actors are called back, they will receive specific instructions for their next audition.

Roles: Most performers in Spelling Bee stay on stage for the show's entirety. Each character performs a featured solo and sings multiple songs with the ensemble in tight harmony. There are a few opportunities for smaller roles and/or non-singing roles with less stage time, as noted. Full descriptions on reverse.

Casting Decisions: We will notify all auditioners as soon as possible after auditions, but no later than 8 p.m. on Friday, January 18. Please provide complete contact information on your audition form so we can reach you!

Read-through: Read-through will be Sunday, January 27, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Middlebury Fitness.

Rehearsals: Other rehearsals will begin the week of January 21, 2019, and will likely be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. in Middlebury, and possibly in Weybridge later in the spring.

Tech week will be Sunday, April 21 through Wednesday, April 24. This is a closely knit ensemble show: All actors must be available for all rehearsals and performances! *A mandatory brush-up rehearsal may be called between the first and second week of shows. **Please provide all rehearsal conflicts and information about other extracurricular activities on your audition form.**

Late or Absent? We will do our best to work around your schedule whenever possible. It is imperative that you provide all of your availability and conflict information on your audition form so that we can create an accurate rehearsal schedule. This is an ensemble show that only works when everyone is present and prepared: Please be on time or early.

Costumes/Other Help: You may be asked to provide parts of your own costume or make-up, help with set construction/painting, share social media posts, or put up posters. All actors will help strike the set after the final show.

Other Notes: If you are cast, please do not make significant changes to your appearance (haircuts or coloring, visible tattoos or piercings, and so on) without first consulting the director!

More Questions? Please contact the director, Aimee Diehl: vtsongbird@gmail.com.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE ROLES

Teen actors must be at least 14 years old and in high school to audition.

We hope to cast actors in the 14- to 20-year-old range as spellers, but all actors will be considered for all roles.

Some adult stage ages are flexible.

Chip Tolentino (male, stage age 12-13). An athlete, scout, popular kid and returning spelling champ, Chip expects things to come easily. He does not expect, however, to be so distracted by a pretty girl in the audience. Solo and ensemble singing, high notes, significant stage time.

Logianne “Schwartz” Schwarzandgrubenniere (female, stage age 10-11). The youngest participant, Logianne has self-confidence despite her lisp. She wants to make her two dads proud by winning the bee. Solo and ensemble singing, lisp, significant stage time.

Leaf Coneybear (any gender, stage age 12). A homeschooler who reaches the finals on a technicality, Leaf is an accident-prone free spirit who makes their own clothes, is prone to daydreaming, and wears a helmet at their mother’s insistence. Solo and ensemble singing, physical comedy, significant stage time.

William Barfee (male, stage age 12-13). Armed with a secret spelling weapon—his “magic foot”—William is defensive, loud, and friendless. An allergic reaction knocked him out of last year’s bee. Solo and ensemble singing, physical comedy, significant stage time, dancing a plus but not required.

Marcy Park (female, stage age 12). New to town and her parochial school, Marcy is the best at everything because she’s never been given any other option. She’s an overachiever who is realizing that winning may not be all it’s cracked up to be. Solo and ensemble singing, showcasing of unusual talents, significant stage time.

Olive Ostrovsky (female, stage age 12). A quiet, only child, Olive considers words to be her most faithful friends. She spends most of her time alone, since her mother has abandoned the family and her father is usually at work. Solo and ensemble singing, significant stage time.

Rona Lisa Perretti (female, stage age mid-30s to early 40s). An enthusiastic former winner turned local real estate agent, Rona Lisa likes being “Queen” of the bee. She keeps the action moving while providing motherly guidance to the young spellers. Solo and ensemble singing, comedic flair, significant stage time, dancing a plus but not required.

Vice Principal Douglas Panch (male, stage age mid-30s or older). A frustrated, awkward, authoritative man who had an embarrassing incident at a previous bee, Panch has returned this year as Rona Lisa’s reluctant, unintentionally funny sidekick. He’s also always had a bit of a crush on her. Ensemble singing (optional), comedic flair, significant stage time.

Mitch/Meg Mahoney (male or female, stage age 18 or older). Eliminated spellers are escorted off stage by the bee’s comfort counselor, who is anything but comforting. Forced to come to the bee as part of court-ordered community service, s/he grows into his role in a big way. Usually cast as a physically imposing male but can be interpreted in other ways. Solo and ensemble singing, featured Gospel/soul number, significant stage time with very few spoken lines.

Mrs. Ostrovsky (female, stage age mid-30s or older). Olive’s mom, who has left for an ashram in India. Solo and trio singing in one featured number, five minutes of stage time, no spoken lines. (Can also be doubled by Rona Lisa.)

Mr. Ostrovsky (male, stage age mid-30s or older). Olive’s dad, who is always at work. Solo and trio singing in one featured number, five minutes of stage time, no spoken lines. (Can also be doubled by Mitch when cast as male.)

Carl Grubenniere (male, stage age mid-30s or older). The more intense and competitive of Schwartz’s dads. Two important scenes, solo and ensemble singing, five minutes of stage time.

Dan Schwartz (male, stage age mid-30s or older). The gentler, more laid-back of Schwartz’s dads. Two important scenes, ensemble singing, five minutes of stage time.

Jesus Christ (any gender, stage age mid-20s). The deity invoked by a speller in need of assistance. One important scene, no singing, five minutes of stage time. (Can also be doubled by a speller.)