

Community Players of Salisbury



The 25th Annual
Putnam
County
Spelling
Bee

February 18-19

February 25-26

Directed by Jake Brittingham

Music and Lyrics by William Finn

Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

WorWic Community College

Additional Material by Jay Reiss

254th
Production

85th
Year

Community Players of Salisbury, Inc.
presents

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

Directed by **Jake Brittingham**

Wor-Wic Community College

Friday, February 11 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 12 - 2:00 & 7:30 PM
Friday, February 18 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 19 - 2:00 PM

Originally Produced on Broadway by
David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo
Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theater

Presented through special arrangement with
Music Theater International (MTI)
423 West 55th Street - Second Floor New York, NY 10019

This production was made possible, in part, by a grant
from the Salisbury/Wicomico Arts Council,
the Maryland State Arts Council
and the Coastal REALTORS Foundation.

Community Players' President's Message

Welcome to *The Putnam County Spelling Bee*, the second regular production of our 85th season, and thank you for supporting community theater!

The mission of Community Players is to encourage interest, education and participation in live theater, and to provide quality theatrical productions for local audiences. The cast, crew, and director, Jake Brittingham, have been working diligently to bring this show to life. I am positive that with this production we will succeed in our mission with excellence.

Don't miss our upcoming regular productions of *Senior Follies* on April 1, 2, 8 & 9 and *Jesus Christ Superstar* on June 17, 18 & 19.

We may have a few other special performances in the works to celebrate this special 85th season. But for now, sit back and enjoy the show.

Melissa Dasher

Community Players Officers

President.....	Melissa Dasher
Vice-President.....	Kel Nagel
Corresponding Secretary.....	Rusty Mumford
Recording Secretary.....	Darrell Mullins
Treasurer.....	Charlie Linton
Immediate Past President.....	Sharon Benchoff

Board of Directors

Sammy Barnes, Cass Dasher, Tom Robinson - Term Expires 2022
David Allen, Ken Johnson, Shelbie Thompson - Term Expires 2023
Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Robin Finley - Term Expires 2024

Director's Message

I welcome all of you to the Community Players production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

The cast and crew have worked extremely hard to put on this amazing show. It was difficult getting everything together during the pandemic, but our cohesion and commitment to the arts pulled us through. This play is just a small portion of all the intense work our team has done.

From our swings of filling in while members were sick, to various instrumentalists stepping in to help with music; it was a wild and stressful journey. However, I believe that this is one of the best productions I have ever been a part of. The raw talent, skill, and dedication to our craft can be felt while watching it.

I hope you all relax and enjoy this amazing production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Jake Brittingham

A “Special Thanks” for the help

A Grant from the Coastal REALTORS Foundation

Comic Editing by Junior “the comic” Boyer

Also a big thank you to our Patrons and Advertisers for their unwavering support over our eighty-five years. We are especially thankful for their contributions during the time of Covid, when we were unable to do almost any shows and had little revenue. They kept us financially afloat.

We can't thank them enough.

We also want to thank those individuals who also contributed to this production, but we have inadvertently omitted them.

Cast

The Spellers

Chip Tolentino/Jesus Kyle Hayes
Logainne Schwarzandgrubeniery Lauren Sulzbach-Oliveira
Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad Luke Schoellkopf
William Barfee Will Townsend
Marcy Park Abby Cuesta
Olive Ostrovsky Alana Troxell
Spelling Bee Contestants April Currey, Konnor Stever
Zachery Werner, Jessica Windsor

The Adults

Rona Lisa Perretti/Olive's Mom Susan Upton
Vice Principal Douglas Panch..... Pete Cuesta
Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad/Olive's Dad Joshua Smith

Production Staff

Director/Choreographer Jake Brittingham
Vocal Musical Director Jessica Windsor
Producer Shelbie Thompson
Stage Manager Cass Dasher
Stage Crew Melissa Dasher, Jayden Overton-O'Hara,
Ben VanMeter
Lighting David Allen
Props Melissa Dasher
Set Design Jacob Brittingham, C.H. Brittingham
Costumes Jenny Bratten Tusing
Sound Phil Gertz
House Manager Kel Nagel
Set Construction/Painting..... Pete Cuesta, Joshua David Smith,
Sharon Benchoff, Lilly Dasher, Cindy Brittingham, C.H. Brittingham
Publicity Shelbie Thompson, Pete Cuesta
Program Advertising/Layout..... Tom Robinson

Synopsis

Act 1

Each quirky contestant shares their background and how they came to represent their local district in the County Spelling Bee. The fun filled event turns into a high stakes situation as spellers are eliminated one by one. Only the top five spellers are still in the competition at the end of Act 1.

15 minute Intermission

Refreshments are available for sale in the lobby.

Act 2

The words get more difficult and tensions get higher as the competition draws to a close. Only one speller will be crowned the winner of the Putnam County Spelling Bee ... but who will be the Champion?

Musical Numbers

Act 1

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Company
The Spelling Rules/My Favorite Moment.....Panch, Rona and Spellers
My Friend the DictionaryPanch, Rona, Olive & Company
The First Goodbye Company
Pandemonium Chip & Company
I'm Not That Smart Leaf Coneybear
The Second Goodbye Company
Magic Foot Mr. Barfee & Company
Pandemonium (Reprise) Chip, Mitch, Rona & Company
My Favorite Moment (Reprise) Rona
Prayer of the Comfort Counselor Mitch & Company

Act 2

Chip's Lament Chip
Woe Is Me Schwarzzy, Schwarzzy' Dads & Company
I'm Not That Smart (Reprise) Coneybear
I Speak Six Languages Marcy & Girls
The I Love You Song Olive, Rona & Mitch
Woe Is Me (Reprise) Schwarzzy & Company
My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise) Rona
Second Rona, Olive, Barfee & Company
Finale Company
The Last Goodbye..... The Company

Who's Who in the Cast

Abby Cuesta (Marcy Park) is thrilled to join Community Players in another fantastic production! She has always loved being in musicals and plays since she was a 1st grader in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Now, as a senior at Parkside High School, she has performed in some wonderful productions in the All-County Musical Program, such as *Mamma Mia* and *And the Tony Doesn't Go To*. She is a proud member and one of the student directors in the Parkside Concert Choir. She has been a part of the Community Players for almost 8 years, both on and off stage, taking part in productions such as *Les Misérables*, *Fiddler on the Roof* as Shprintze, *Beauty and the Beast*, *South Pacific*, and *Matilda the Musical*. She most recently performed as Suzy in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* at Possum Point Players and in the *All Together Now* with Community Players. Abby is so very thankful to be amongst such a wonderful, supportive, and talented group of people. She would like to thank her family for their never ending love and support and her friends, new and old, for making this show one she'll never forget.

Pete Cuesta (Vice Principal Douglas Panch) is a podiatrist by day and has enjoyed the theatre for most of his life. He performed in high school with stops along the way to go to college and then medical school, he returned to the stage in Salisbury and thoroughly enjoys the world of imagination of theatre. His passion for Theatre continues with his family with his wife, Kim and his daughters, Madison and Abigail, all finding a love of performance. Madison has also started the path to directing. Past performances include: *Edgar Allan Poe: The Dark Side* (The Raven), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Director), *Cobb* (Ty), *Hate Mail* (Director), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Director), *South Pacific* (Lt. Harbinger), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Gangster 1), *Into The Woods* (Steward), *DeathTrap* (Director), *Mary Poppins* (Bank President), *Beauty and the Beast* (bookseller), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Avram), *Les Misérables* (Chorus), *They're Playing Our Song* (Chorus), *Oklahoma* (Will Parker), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Hugo Peabody), *Pippin* (Pippin), and *Cabaret* (Ernst Ludwig). In his spare time Pete teaches ska-punk bag piping to his inspiring daughters.

Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

April Currey (Spelling Bee Contestant/Swing) is thrilled to be joining Players for her second production, having recently performed in the *All Together Now*. An attorney by day, April recently returned to the stage after taking time to focus on school for several years. Some of her favorite previous performances include Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music* and ensemble/silly girl in *Beauty and the Beast*. April is thrilled to join such an incredibly talented cast and crew for this hilarious show and hopes everyone has a great time at the Bee!

Kyle Hayes (Charlito "Chip" Tolentino) is ecstatic to return to the Players stage in his first main stage production. He was previously seen in the *All Together Now* and has assisted behind the scenes building sets and working as tech crew for *Noises Off* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. When he's not acting, Kyle puts his degrees in industrial engineering to use at TidalHealth, working in their performance improvement department. In college, he expressed his love for music and performance in the Binghamton Vibes, an a cappella group that has been known to tour the tri-state area and even has performed at a venue that Lady Gaga once performed at! He is happy and honored that Community Players has welcomed him with open arms in his short time on the Eastern Shore.

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Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

Luke Schoellkopf (Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad) is delighted to join the stage with Players once again after previously performing in *Mary Popins*, *Matilda*, and *All Together Now*. Luke has also performed with Ocean Pines Children Theatre and The Theatre Academy of Delmarva, as well as taking part in his school's annual musical. His favorite roles include: Davey in *Newsies*, Michael in *Matilda*, Hans in *Frozen*, and Jesus in *Godspell*. Luke is a junior in high school and plans to pursue music composition in the future.

Joshua David Smith (Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad/Olive's Dad) has enjoyed a full life of performing even at the age of 29. Growing up the son of two music educators he began acting and singing publicly when he joined Players in *Footloose* in 2005. He also performed in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *A Murder is Announced* as Patrick Simmons, *High School Musical* as Ryan Evans, and *All Shook Up* as Dean Hyde. He also performed in Delmar High School's productions of *Back to the 80s* as Michael Feldman, and *Into the Woods* as The Baker. After graduating Josh had the privilege to attend West Virginia University to study and receive his Bachelors of Fine Arts in Acting. While there, he was in multiple productions including: *Guys and Dolls*, *The Crucible*, *Carmen* as Dancaïro, *The Liar* as Philiste, Shakespeare's *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2* as Peto and Earl of Douglas, and *Lend me a Tenor* as Max. After getting his B.F.A he was invited to perform regionally in productions of *The Producers*, *Floyd Collins* as Jewell Estes, *Bus Stop* as Dr. Lyman, and *Camelot* as King Pellinore. Joshua is very excited to be back where it all began, reconnecting with old friends as well as making new ones, looking forward to what the future holds.

Konnor Stever (Spelling Bee Contestant/Swing) is a junior at Snow Hill High School and has performed in a number of plays and musicals in the past, including school performances of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Play On*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *30 Reasons Not to be in a Play*. However, this is his debut performance with Community Players. Konnor is also in the Boy Scouts where he is currently working on his eagle project. His future aspirations are to go to college to one day become a youth counselor on the Eastern Shore.

Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

Lauren Sulzbach-Oliveira (Logainne Schwarzandgrubeniére) is so glad to be back in her 3rd show with Players! She debuted in *South Pacific* in 2018 and the following year played Hortensia in *Matilda*. When not on stage, you can find her on the football field, not with a ball, but with her tuba! As a freshman at Parkside High, she participates in Honors Symphonic and Marching Band. Not a stranger to the bright lights, she also leads her two youth groups in worship at Emmanuel Salisbury and Fruitland. Lauren hopes that you enjoy the show and crack some laughs at this hilarious production, all thanks to the wonderfully talented crew and cast, and her parents, who drove her to all the rehearsals!

Will Townsend (William Barfée) is excited to be back on stage for another production with Community Players. He is a Computer Science and Mathematics double major at Salisbury University, but enjoys all things theatre. He was last seen in Players' fundraiser event *All Together Now* and before that *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Pablo Gonzalez); however, his favorite was *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Billy Bibbit). He would like to thank all the cast and crew for making this show fun and memorable one to work on. He would also like to thank his family for supporting him throughout the preparation of the show. Creating Barfée was no easy task, but Will likes to think it's fate that William would be played by another William. Enjoy the show!

Alana Troxell (Olive Ostrovsky) has performed with Community Players for many years and is so excited to be back! She has performed in shows such as *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Jolene Oakes) and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Kitty). She has also performed all over the shore with notable roles such as Elsa in *Frozen Jr.* and The Leading Player in *Pippin*. She also studied Musical Theater for a year at Marymount Manhattan College and was Lynn in *Breathing Under Dirt* which was performed in NYC and directed by Larry Moss. She can't wait to perform with such a talented cast and share this wonderful show with the community!

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The use of devices with lighted screens, including texting, is prohibited.

Who's Who in the Cast (continued)

Susan Upton (Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive's Mom) has appeared in several Players' musicals, including *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Mrs. Tottendale), *Beauty & the Beast* (Wardrobe), and *Mary Poppins* (Miss Lark). She has also performed with the Salisbury Chamber Singers, Lower Shore Performing Arts Company, and Power Productions. She teaches Music, Piano, Voice, and Theatre to students of all ages as the owner/instructor at Boone's Tunes of Delmarva and has enjoyed sharing the stage for this show with several former and current students. She also teaches middle school Music at The Salisbury School. Susan would like to thank her family, friends, and students for supporting and cheering her on in her theatre pursuits!

Zachery Werner (Spelling Bee Contestant/Swing) is excited to be making his Community Players on-stage debut (after a nearly 15-year hiatus from the stage) amid an incredibly talented and hilarious cast. Originally from Berlin, Pennsylvania, his previous theater experience includes roles in *The Music Man*, *Brigadoon* (Andrew MacLaren), *Oliver!* (Mr. Bumble), *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakim), and *Hello, Dolly!* Zack works as a radiologic technologist, as well as, a high school soccer referee and collegiate women's lacrosse umpire. He would like to thank Jake for the opportunity to return to the stage, the crew behind the scenes for their hard work and dedication, and most importantly, his wife for her understanding for all of the extra time spent away from home at rehearsals.

Jessica Windsor (Spelling Bee Contestant/Swing) is excited to be back on the Players stage! Her Players debut was in November 2012 as an ensemble member for *Oliver! The Musical*, then in June 2013 as an ensemble member of *The Wizard of Oz*. Since then, she took a hiatus from performances with Players to focus on her studies. During that time, she has performed with ensembles in several venues across Maryland and Delaware, as well as in countries/US territories such as Jamaica, Barbados, and US Virgin Islands. She also has performed under the direction of several conductors in Michigan during her time as a summer counselor at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Jessica broke her performance hiatus because her time spent at Players was one of the reasons why she became a Music Teacher; she is so thankful that she got back into performing with an amazing cast and production team.

Who's Who Behind the Scenes

Jake Brittingham (Director/Choreographer/Set Designer) is a local realtor for the Maryland and Delaware Group of Long and Foster. He is excited to be directing "Spelling Bee" for Community Players. Some of his past roles include Freddy Bensen in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Jack in *Into the Woods*, Major General in *Pirate of Penzance*, Francis Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Bill Lewis in *Hot L Baltimore*, and Reuben in *Joseph*. He has a degree in Theatre Performance from Susquehanna University and previously ran the Drama Club while teaching at New Life Christian School. Jacob would like to thank his family and friends for all the support throughout the years as well as the cast and crew for all the hard work. Enjoy the show!

Jessica Windsor (Vocal Musical Director) has been more than honored to be the Vocal Musical Director for this show. While this is Jessica's first production as Vocal Musical Director, she is all too familiar with being a "Musical Director" in the classroom. Presently, Jessica is a fourth-year General Music teacher for Pre-K through 5th grade, as well as Director of Bands for 4th and 5th grade. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and is finishing her Masters of Education degree at Salisbury University this coming May! Jessica would like to thank the production team for giving her this opportunity to be onstage and behind the scenes of the show, as well as the cast for being amazing humans to musically direct.

Shelbie Thompson (Producer) is excited to be on the "other side" of the stage producing her second show with Community Players! Shelbie has performed in a number of Players shows, most recently starring as Brooke Ashton in *Noises Off* and Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is also on the Board of Directors and serves on many committees with Players. Shelbie would like to give a huge thank you to Sharon Benchoff for teaching her how to be a producer!

Video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Who's Who Behind the Scenes (Continued)

Cass Dasher (Stage Manager) has been involved in the technical side of theatre with Community Players since 2015. They have stage managed several shows for Players, including *Calendar Girls*, *The Dining Room*, *Matilda*, and 2021's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Cass wishes to thank Jake for inviting them along on this adventure, and the extremely talented and dedicated cast and crew for rolling with the punches on this "very big, very fraught, simple but it's not, very big undertaking!" They are looking forward to bringing this highly unique show to Salisbury audiences. And always, Cass also thanks their girlfriend Alyssa, for her constant support.

Melissa Dasher (Props Coordinator) is thrilled to be working on another musical with Community Players. She has worked behind the scenes since 2013 building, painting and moving sets and props; most recently as Producer for *The Dining Room*, Stage Manager for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Props Coordinator for *Death of a Salesman* and Back Stage Manager for *Matilda*. On stage she portrayed Nurse Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. She is also currently serving as President of the Board of Directors.
Enjoy the show.

AUDITIONS!



AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 27, 28, and 29

Community Players 5109 Nutters Cross Road, Salisbury, 21804

Visit our website: sbyplayers.org and Community Players Facebook
For all the details including place, time, audition song suggestions
and what to expect at auditions. Questions? Contact director
Sharon Benchoff at fresnelop@gmail.com

Who's Who Behind the Scenes (Continued)

Jenny Bratten Tusing (Costumes) regularly provides costuming assistance to Community Players, Wicomico County Schools VPA Theater program, and her children's school. Her most recent costuming credits are for *Noises Off* and *Matilda*, in which she also performed as Mrs. Zinnia Wormwood.

David Allen (Lighting) has been a member of Community Players since the fall of 1993, when he helped with lighting in *Oklahoma!* Over the years he has been involved as board member, vice president, president, stage manager, as well as helping with set building, lighting, sound, special effects, ticket sales, and the man in a boat during the tornado in Payers *The Wizard of Oz*. Here, he finds himself back in the lighting booth. Happy to see us doing shows again. David also has devoted time to local community arts productions and events with the Magi Fund, Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council, Eastern Shore Ballet Theatre, local schools and various other community groups over the years.

Phil Gertz (Sound) is thrilled to be involved with his third Community Players production! He previously ran sound for *Edgar Allan Poe: The Dark Side* and assisted with stage crew and set construction for *Noises Off*. Phil has also worked as stage crew for the Eastern Shore Ballet Theater's production of *The Nutcracker*. He is happy to once again be working with the extremely talented cast and crew of Players.



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**Community Players dedicates the
2021-2022
season to:**

Carol Alex - 1937-2021

Carol was born in Queens, New York and danced professionally at the Steel Pier in Atlantic City and as a Roxy Girl at Radio City Music Hall in New York. Carol was very active in Community Players, producing several plays and musicals, as well as helping back stage and with costumes.



Mary Veise - 1929-2022



Mary was a strong-willed woman with a childlike enthusiasm and zest for life. She brought boundless joy to Community Players since 1969, and will be forever remembered enjoying the view of each day's sunrise or sunset, usually wearing one of her many brightly colored hats.

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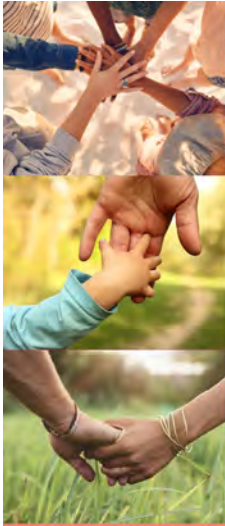


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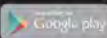
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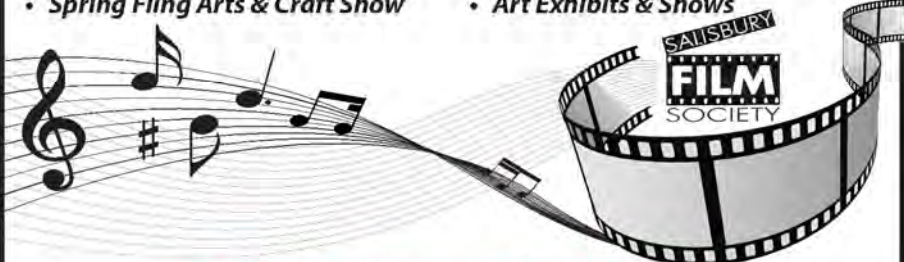
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