

Armidale Drama and Musical Society Presents:

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County  
**SPELLING BEE**



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The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County  
**SPELLING BEE**

Music & Lyrics by  
WILLIAM FINN

Book by  
RACHEL SHEINKIN

Conceived by  
REBECCA FELDMAN

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

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Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by The Farm

The Barrington Stage Company workshop of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman

The Farm was founded in 2000 by Rebecca Feldman, Artistic Director. It is a collective of writers and performers, including Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg. The Farm's interest is in the role of improvisation in creating new work for the theatre. The Farm initially designates a two-week intensive period in which to discover, develop, and rehearse a play from the impulses borne mainly out of the pressure of a deadline. Previous projects include "Super" (at Atlantic Theatre Studios), "Why I Hate Florida" (workshop at White Wave in DUMBO) and "C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E" (at the Present Company Theatorium in October 2002), on which "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is based. The character and original dialogue of "Beth Marguiles," "Vice President Douglas Panch," "Mr. Barfee," and "Logan Schwarzengrubenierre" were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.

## Musical numbers

### Act I

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee  
The Spelling Rules  
My Favorite Moment of the Bee  
My Friend, the Dictionary  
The First Goodbye  
Pandemonium  
I'm Not That Smart  
The Second Goodbye  
Magic Foot  
Pandemonium (Reprise)  
My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)  
Prayer of the Comfort Counselor

### Act II

My Unfortunate Erection (Chip's Lament)  
Woe is Me  
Spelling Montage  
I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)  
I Speak Six Languages  
Marcy's Epiphany  
The I Love You Song  
Woe is Me (Reprise)  
My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)  
Second  
Finale



# Directors note

I am beyond proud and excited to be presenting the first show of the Armidale Drama & Musical Society's 2025 season, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. It is a delight and a privilege to be working with some of the most dedicated and talented actors, musicians, and tech crew in the New England. Spelling Bee is one of the most entertaining shows that I have ever encountered. Watching six adults access their inner children in the most awkward ways possible has been an absolute treat, and more than that, it's just so so silly.

I'd like to thank the wonderful Kees Grenyer for not only the deceptively difficult music, but also putting up with my madness. Thank you to the insanely talented Amelia Munro who managed to make awkward teen choreography look stupid and hilarious and somehow also polished and professional. Thank you to Neil Horton, my supportive producer who has kept me on track logistics wise. A huge thank you to Ida Topic, my right hand woman on this production, who has gone above and beyond stage managing, and forayed into props, costumes, set, and therapist throughout this production.

I'd be remiss not to mention my parents, Regina and Paul, for putting up with my chaos and giving up a whole room to props and costumes for the better part of the past three months. Thank you for your support and mostly your patience.

To the beautiful, fantastic people on stage. Thank you for trusting me, thank you for your dedication, thank you for embracing the silliness.

I have absolutely loved this production, I hope that you see a part of yourself in the characters, but mostly, I hope you have fun!

Katherine Frazier  
Director





# Creative Team



## Director - Katherine Frazier

Katherine is an Armidale local who has been involved in Armidale Drama & Musical Society productions since 2019 across many roles both on and off stage. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is her directorial debut, and she feels fortunate to have such an incredible production team supporting her. A Masters student at the University of New England, Katherine has an extensive performance background that has influenced her directing style. She hopes you have as much fun watching the Bee as she has had putting it together.



## Musical Director - Kees Grenyer

Kees is a dedicated classroom music teacher based in Armidale. Studying at the University of New England, Kees completed three qualifications on his journey to become a music educator, recently completing his Bachelor of Education (Secondary Music) in 2025. He has completed Orff Schulwerk accreditation and applies this child-centred way of learning in his classroom programs. Whilst working as a piano accompanist across the Armidale school network, Kees began playing in the orchestra or band of musical productions, including PLC Armidale's *Wicked* (2021) and Armidale Secondary College's High School Musical (2024). Kees was the musical director for the Armidale Drama & Music Society's production of *Les Misérables* (2022), and *Into the Woods* (2023), and is delighted to return to this role with 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.



## Choreographer - Amelia Munro

Amelia has been involved with ADMS as a performer since 2022, most recently playing the role Patsy, and the cast Dance Captain, in *Crazy for You*. Putnam is her first foray off the stage and onto the production team and she has greatly enjoyed letting her creative juices flow putting together the choreography in this show. Amelia has an extensive dance background, with 16 years of training in a variety of styles including modern ballet, contemporary, jazz ballet, Broadway jazz and tap. She hopes you enjoy laughing along with the cast in this fabulous production.

# Production Team

Director - Katherine Frazier

Musical Director - Kees Grenyer

Producer - Neil Horton

Choreographer - Amelia Munro

Stage Manager - Ida Topic

Lighting Design and Operation - Nathan Mark

Set Design - Katherine Frazier, Ida Topic

Props & Costumes - Katherine Frazier, Ida Topic

Publicity - Katherine Frazier

Photography - Nathan Mark, Terry Cooke

Front of House Coordinator - Emily Moore

Stage Hands- Jess Rothschild, Joe Lennox, Zoe Barker-Smith





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# The Kids



## Kayla Laing as Olive Ostrovsky

Kayla is ecstatic to join the fabulous cast of 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee as the quirky and kind Olive. She was performing long before she could get on stage and some of her favourite shows to be a part of with ADMS were *Heathers* in 2018, *Les Misérables* in 2022, and *Into the Woods* in 2023 where she understudied her dream role of the Baker's Wife. When not on stage you can find her out at the boarding kennels trying to sneak her favourite dogs home with her or performing a one woman show in her car. Kayla is overjoyed to be working with this amazing cast and crew and thoroughly hopes you enjoy the show!



## Nick Troon as William Barfée

Nick is a soon-to-be UNE graduate, completing his studies with a Bachelor of Arts. As well as studying, Nick also works full-time at UNE Life as the Student Programs Coordinator. He has been performing in Armidale since 2013 with Putnam being his 38th local show, and his 12th production with ADMS. Some of Nick's previous credits include *Into the Woods* (ADMS, *The Baker*), *Crazy for You* (ADMS, Lank Hawkins), *The Pillowman* (UNE, Katurian), & *School of Rock* (O'Connor, Dewey Finn). In addition to performing, Nick also hosts a theatre-based radio show with the UNE's TuneFM, talking with theatre practitioners about their experiences and thoughts on the creative process of upcoming productions. Last, but certainly not least, Nick will be directing a production of *Twelfth Night* with ADMS later this year. Nick has loved playing the lovably irritating William Barfee, and can't wait to show off his magic foot!



## Geneva Stocker as Logainne Schwartz and Grubenierre

After moving to the New England area in 2013, Geneva quickly joined ADMS and has taken part (whether onstage or back stage) in every major musical since, including *Legally Blonde*, *Mamma Mia*, *Heathers*, *Spamalot*, *Les Mis*, *Company*, and, *Into the Woods*. She has enjoyed taking on the anxiety-inducing role of Schwartz. Geneva is absolutely thrilled to be a part of another ADMS show with such a fantastic cast of people.

She hopes to win the spelling bee and be this year's c-h-a-m-p-i-o-n!

# The Kids



## Belle Meyer as Marcy Park

Belle is an 18 year old that recently graduated from The Armidale School. Belle grew up in the United States where she was first introduced to music theatre at a young age. She moved to Australia with her family in 2022 and continued to participate in music theatre whenever she could. She first played in the ensemble in ADMS's production of Les Miserables, and then played Paulette in Legally Blonde and Roxie in Chicago at TAS. She is currently on a working gap year, but she plans to go to university to study music theatre and psychology. Belle plays the overachieving Marcy Park, who excels at everything she does. Marcy comes across as stuck up and serious, but deep down she has a desire to escape her perfection and become free to not meet the high expectations that are set for her. Belle is in this production with her father James , who plays Chip. She is very excited to be performing in this production.



## Calliden Hunter as Leaf Coneybear

Cal is a local actor who has pursued theatre since childhood. In 2022 Cal completed Bachelor of Theatre & Performance with Honours at UNE. They now teach for O'Grady Drama New England. Cal has acted in various productions with ADMS including Heathers, Les Miserables, Company, Into The Woods, Crazy For You, Things I Know To Be True, and Clue. Some of their other memorable productions include The Winter's Tale (Empty Space), RENT (TMS), and Spring Awakening (Little Fish). They directed Brokenville with ADMS in 2023, and will be directing for Stage Whispers and Next To Normal in 2025. Cal won their middle school spelling bee with the word "hierarchy."



## James Meyer as Chip Tolentino

James Meyer is unapologetically loving his mid-life performing arts revival/crisis, and so the opportunity to portray an over-achieving teen who is dealing with his own age-related changes has been as great as it has been cathartic! Since immigrating to Armidale with his family from Denver, Colorado, USA in early 2022, he has been honoured to have been cast in five incredible ADMS productions: as a member of the amazing Les Miserables Ensemble (2022), as Harry in Company (2022), as a cast member & featured singer in the variety shows There's No Business Like Show Business (2023) and We've Got Rhythm (2024), and most recently as Colonel Mustard in Clue (2024). He particularly loves being on stage with other members of his family, although his fellow ADMS performers have come to fit that description as well.

# The Adults



## Emily Waldron as Rona Lisa Peretti

Emily has performed in six ADMS Musicals (Enid Hoopes in Legally Blonde 2015, Ensemble Singing in the Rain 2019, Lisa in Mamma Mia 2021, Ensemble Les Miserables 2022 and Susan in Company 2022, Patricia Foddor in Crazy for You 2024) as well as performing as a soloist for ADMS gala nights and concerts and performed plays (Nikki in Appleton Ladies' Potato Race 2024 and Pip in Things I Know To Be True 2024). Emily has also directed two shows for ADMS, Into the Woods 2023 and Clue 2024. She has also performed in a number of plays in Armidale with Felt Tip Theatre, Veracity Theatre and UNE Theatre. She has a Bachelor of Theatre and Performance from UNE.



## Neil Horton as Douglas Panch

Neil has been keen for the ADMS to do a small cast musical for some time and this year there 'll be two! He is thrilled to get the chance to get back on the stage again, after last appearing on stage as Jean Valjean in our 2022 production of "Les Miserables". Being part of a cast of some of the best local talent has been a fun and exciting under the sure hand of Katherine Frazier and looks forward to seeing the ADMS do more of these type of shows, alongside bigger musicals in the future. Neil has played leads in many shows over almost 30 years with the ADMS. Including Sam in "Mamma Mia" and Tito in "Lend Me a Tenor" one of the great modern farces, and looks forward to directing perhaps the best one, "Noises Off" by Michael Frayn to be staged at the TAS Hoskins Centre in October.



## Doug Rumble as Mitch Mahoney

Doug was bitten by the acting bug at the tender age of 7, debuting as the White Rabbit in a local revue. He performed in Armidale while at University before taking roles in Brisbane and Sydney including Jesus (Jesus Christ Superstar), King Arthur (Spamalot), Simon Stride in Jekyll and Hyde) and Tevye in (Fiddler on the roof), To name only a few. Most recently Doug played Javert in Les Miserables the Mysterious man (Into the woods) with ADMS and in the role as "Man" in Breast Wishes.



# The Band



Kees Grenyer - Musical Director, Keyboard  
Robyn Bradley - Keyboard 2  
James McKay- Flute, Saxophone, Oboe  
Caleb Murray - Cello  
Fumie Takahashi - Percussion, Drums



# About the Show

Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie 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, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful den of comedic genius. The small cast and unit set make this a perfect option for high schools or community theatres. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a fast-paced crowd pleaser and an instant theatre patron favorite.

# Thank you to:

The Armidale Playhouse  
UNE Printroom  
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Sarah Meyer  
Richie Kiehne  
Amy Showell  
Maddie Meyer  
Pat Bradley  
Hadi Hussein

## The Odd Jobs Extraordinaire

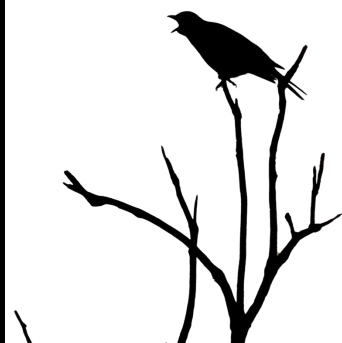


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## Oz Eye View



# Upcoming from ADMS

*The Shakespearean classic with a modern flair*

## TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare

**Directed by:**

Nicholas Troon & Jess Waters

**Musical Direction by:**

Kees Grenyer

**4th - 12th July,  
TAS Hoskins Centre**

