Columbus Redbud Players 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

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

Aug. 22/23, 2014-7:30 PM
Aug. 24, 2014-2:00 PM

Directed by:
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Redbud Players, Inc.

Presents

The 25th Annual
Putnam County
Spelling Bee

Music and Lyrics by: William Finn
Book by: Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by: Rebecca Feldman
Directed by: Mark D. Lefeber

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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Redbud Players
2014-2015 Season

August 16—Secret Garden
(Columbus Middle School)
August 22-24—The 25th Annual
Putnam County Spelling Bee
(Columbus Middle School)

September 14—Annual Meeting 7:00 PM
(United Methodist Church)

October 2-4—Columbus Cabaret: Broadway
(Napoli’s Italian Restaurant)

November/December—Fall Play TBD
(Location TBD)

December 18-20—Columbus Cabaret: Christmas
(Kestral Ridge Golf Course)

February 5-7—Columbus Cabaret: Love Songs
(Napoli’s Italian Restaurant)

April 2-4—Columbus Cabaret: Animated Film
(Kestral Ridge Golf Course)

Remember to turn off cell phones during the performance and refrain from texting.

Flash photography during this production is strictly prohibited.

Smoking on school property is prohibited by state law.
When I was a boy my mother was constantly on my case about correct spelling and grammar. Before I was born she was a secretary, so she has been my proofreader for almost everything. I remember finding these corrections mostly annoying. I also recall being told to erase my mistakes better, so that no one would know I made a mistake in the first place.

Though it was frustrating at the time, I quickly realized the importance of good grammar and spelling (I even took second place in a school-wide spelling bee in middle school). Although I find myself typing more often than handwriting now, the bit about fully erasing my mistakes stuck with me.

A spelling bee, including today's, is a prime example of how one little mistake can cost you. Even though we can tell ourselves that nobody is perfect, that does not prevent us from trying, and sometimes trying too hard, or worse yet, pushing someone else to try too hard. Try as we might, “the best speller won’t necessarily win.”

Live theatre is a great place to see these beautiful imperfections. People miss lines, and notes, and light cues. Here in a small town community theatre, and on Broadway, it is inevitable. The possibility for those imperfections makes theatre fun and interesting, and when everything lines up in a perfect moment of syzygy, it makes it much cooler.

It has been a great community theatre directing debut for me, bringing actors in from all over southeastern Wisconsin to perform. I was pleasantly surprised to end up with a cast of nine actors from six different cities (Columbus, Beaver Dam, Hustisford, Waupun, Fond du Lac, and Sheboygan).

I hope you enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed preparing it,

Mark D. Lefebre, Director
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The Columbus Redbud Players sincerely appreciate the support of our donors. Your financial support allows us to produce quality shows at reasonable ticket prices, making the arts accessible to everyone in the community. Please help the Redbud Players by becoming a donor. See the program insert for more details.

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Cast
Rona Lisa Peretti ........................................... Niiki Hakala
Chip Tolentino ............................................. Kevin Cushing
Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre .................. Morgan Braithwaite
Leaf Coneybear ............................................ Cody Lindau
William Barfeé ............................................ Raymond Moyer
Marcy Park .................................................. Elizabeth Morris
Olive Ostrovsky ............................................ Sarah Huebner
Douglas Panch ............................................. Ron Wilkie
Mitch Mahoney ............................................ Ryan Madala-Klug

Pit Orchestra
Piano .......................................................... Kelly Ihde
Synthesizer .................................................. Ryan Senger
Reeds .......................................................... Jim Skaleski
Cello .......................................................... Susan Hebgen

Crew
Stage Manager ................................................ Westley Roth
Sound .......................................................... Noah Johnson
Lights .......................................................... Henry Elling
Spotlights ..................................................... Noah Johnson,
Isaac Schepp, Angela Tompach

Production Staff
Director ..................................................... Mark D. Lefeber
Pit Orchestra Conductor ................................. Beth Hellpap
Choreographer .............................................. Johnathan Turba
Publicity ...................................................... Valerie Johnson
Costume Designer ........................................... Angela Tompach
Technical Director ........................................ Noah Johnson
Program ..................................................... Mark D. Lefeber
**Act I**

**Setting:** Putnam County Middle School Gymnasium

_The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee_

_The Spelling Rules_

_My Favorite Moment of the Bee_

_My Friend, the Dictionary_

_Pandemonium_

_I'm Not That Smart_

_Magic Foot_

_Pandemonium (Reprise)_

_My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)_

_Prayer of the Comfort Counselor_


15 minute intermission

**Act II**

_Chip's Lament_

_Woe is Me_

_Spelling Montage_

_I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)_

_I Speak Six Languages_

_The I Love You Song_

_Woe is Me (Reprise)_

_My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)_

_Second_

_Finale_
MORGAN BRAITHWAITE (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre) This is Morgan’s first show with Redbud. She is a Sophomore at UW-Milwaukee going for a BFA in Musical Theatre. Recent roles include Aunt May in Italian American Reconciliation and Tiger in Cementville both at UWM; Smitty in How to Succeed... at Fond du Lac High School; and a Soul Girl in Fond du Lac Community Theatre’s Jesus Christ Superstar. She would like to thank her mother and father for always supporting her through all her crazy ideas and show. She hopes you enjoy the show.

KEVIN CUSHING (Chip Tolentino) First, Kevin would like to thank all of you for coming to the show. While he has had roles in the past, such as the Butler and a Brother in Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre’s Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, the pressure was on in one of his larger roles, with a tighter rehearsal schedule. He has had a wonderful time working with an inspired director and his talented band of cohorts. He hopes we (he) do(es)n’t disappoint.

NIKI HAKALA (Rona Lisa Peretti) This is Niiki’s first production with the Columbus Redbud Players. She has been on stage with many other community theatre productions, including last summer’s BDACT production of Joseph... Niiki is the 5-12 band director for the Hustisford School District and also plays in many community bands. “Thank you Mark for the opportunity to perform in such a fun show!”

SARAH HUEBNER (Olive Ostrovsky) This is Sarah’s first production in this area of the state. She is a native of the lake shore, growing up in Manitowoc and currently living in Sheboygan. She has been performing in theatre for 15 years in the lakeshore area and was last seen in Jesus Christ Superstar in Fond du Lac. During JCS she met a few of her current cast members who convinced her to audition for a show an hour and half away from home, “but it’s been totally worth it.”

CODY LINDAU (Leaf Coneybear) This is Cody’s first show with the Redbud Players. He recently co-choreographed the summer musical review in Beaver Dam. He is currently attending UW-Platteville majoring in Forensics Investigation and minorin in Music Theatre. He would like to thank the director, Mark, and the rest of the cast for making him feel so welcome. He would also like to thank his cat for dealing with all the serenading of the show he has done to him.

RYAN MADALA-KLUG (Mitch Mahoney) Ryan Madala-Klug is thrilled to make his Redbud debut as Mitch Mahoney, after having joined the board as Vice President. A 25 year veteran of the theatre, favorite roles include The Beast, Snoopy, Joseph, Mrs. White in Clue the Musical and Psuedelus in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Ryan is spearheading the Columbus Cabaret series this next school year, and the Redbud Revue next summer, working with high school aged directors on creating their own shows. Much love to wife and child, and various other family and friends. Except you, ...you know what you did.
ELIZABETH MORRIS (Marcy Park) Elizabeth Morris has been seen in Redbud Players shows since fourth grade. Some of her roles have been Annie Oakley in Annie Get Your Gun, Mrs. Potts in Beauty and the Beast, and Sally Brown in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. She will be attending Wartburg College next fall.

RAY MOYER (William Barfeé) Raymond Moyer is excited to be in the show. He has been in all of his high school shows, some of which include The Seussical, Its Murder in the Wings, and Hello Dolly. This is his first community show. "It could not have been a better first show!"

RON WILKIE (Vice Principal Douglas Panch) Ron thanks Mark for casting him in the show and is thrilled to be part of such a wonderful cast during his first Redbud production. Ron's community theater highlights include several roles at BDACT including; twin brother and sister Gunner and Trigger Johnson in A Don't Hug Me County Fair, as Selsdon Mowbray in Noises Off, Teddy Brewster in Arsenic and Old Lace, Poitphar in Joseph... , Sgt. Carlino in Wait Until Dark, and Sven Yorgensen in A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol.
Acknowledgements

Printed Materials Designer ............................................... Mark D. Lefeber
Poster Placement ................................................................................................. Valerie Johnson
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Mina Kianovsky, Ann Taurick, Gary Taurick
Set Design .............................................................................................................. Mark D. Lefeber
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