



ONOMATOPOEIA  
A-S-T-R-O-B-L-E-M-E

The 25th Annual Putnam County  
**SPELLING BEE**



April 30 - May 9, 2021

**Celebration Theatre Company**

presents

# The 25th 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

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 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE**

is presented through special arrangement through

Music Theater International (MTI) 423 West 55th Street, Second Floor,  
New York, NY 10019, Phone: (212) 541-4684



# A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

When offered the opportunity to direct this production during a pandemic, I was hesitant. This show is tactile, loud, participatory, and in your face – how could I create a production that not only honors the original script, but also elevates it enough to give it a unique voice. This challenge is the very reason I accepted the offer. In June of 2016 I was in the middle of the rehearsal process for a production of Spelling Bee. On an off day I received a phone call that my dad had been struck by a car while on his bicycle and had not survived the accident. My director at the time just so happened to be Lena Feliciano, the creator of Celebration Theatre Company. After the funeral, I was unsure how to return to such a comedic, fun, lighthearted show following such a devastating tragedy. What I found was that this show is not just a surface level comedy. Each of these characters are written with a depth, and a heartbreak, and a truth that is often overlooked in many productions. During one of the most difficult times in my life, this show gave me an outlet and a home to explore tragedy and darkness through love and light. Directing a show during a pandemic is not something I ever thought I would do. However, when given the chance to bring the same sense of hope to an audience during a time that everyone has a need for it, I couldn't say no. This entire team has worked tirelessly to bring heart and truth to this off the wall script while ensuring we maintain the unparalleled zaniness of these iconic characters.

I hope this production at the very least gives you two hours of escape. I hope that it shows you that whether you're doing your worst, doing your best, winning, losing, or just existing – we have all had the conviction to make it where we are today – and that is what is important.

-Christopher Robinson

# THE CAST

Alphabetically (of Course)

William Barfée.....	<b>Garrett Williams</b>
Leaf Coneybear.....	<b>Jared Roys</b>
Mitch Mahoney.....	<b>Paul Naidas</b>
Olive Ostrovsky.....	<b>Jordan Grant</b>
Douglas Panch.....	<b>Justin Mousseau</b>
Marcy Park.....	<b>Meghan Ottomano</b>
Rona Lisa Peretti.....	<b>Hannah McGinley Lemasters</b>
Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre.....	<b>Mary Mackin</b>
Chip Tolentino.....	<b>Spencer Wrolson</b>
Swing.....	<b>Sarah Biggs</b>
Swing.....	<b>John Aric Cleland</b>
Swing.....	<b>Taylor Priday</b>

# THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....	<b>Chritopher Robinson</b>
Asst. Director.....	<b>Ethan Gresham</b>
Music Director.....	<b>Kit Cleto</b>
Stage Manager.....	<b>Jen Jakobi</b>
Choreography.....	<b>Kit Riffel</b>
Set Design.....	<b>Kyle A. Radabaugh</b>
Lighting Design.....	<b>Randall White</b>
Costume Design.....	<b>Russell Stephens</b>
Spotlights.....	<b>Cara Langston, Jesse Thomas Foster</b>

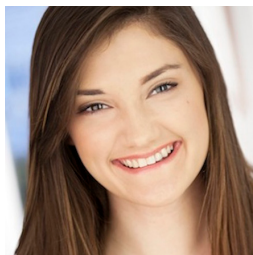
# CTCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President and Artistic Director.....	<b>Lena Feliciano</b>
Board Chair.....	<b>Russell Stephens</b>
Vice President.....	<b>Ethan Gresham</b>
Secretary.....	<b>Allison Storm</b>
Members-at-Large.....	<b>Victor Marinez &amp; Lillie Thomas</b>

There will be one 15 minute intermission

**Any video and/or audio recording of this production  
is strictly prohibited.**

# THE CAST



**SARAH BIGGS**



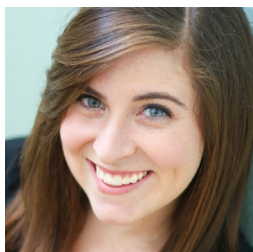
**JOHN ARIC  
CLELAND**



**JORDAN GRANT**



**HANNAH  
MCGINLEY  
LEMASTERS**



**MARY MACKIN**



**JUSTIN  
MOUSSEAU**



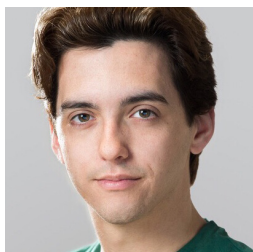
**PAUL NAIDAS**



**MEGHAN  
OTTOMANO**



**TAYLOR PRIDAY**



**JARD ROYS**



**GARRETT  
WILLIAMS**



**SPENCER  
WROLSON**

# A BIT ABOUT OUR SPELLERS

**Sarah Biggs** (u/s Olive Ostrovsky and Rona Lisa Peretti) is so excited to be a part of her first production with CTCO and in a dream show! Past favorite credits include Miss Honey (Matilda), Margo (Bright Star), and Catherine (Proof). She would like to thank Christopher, Ethan, Kit, Kit, Jen and Carly for creating such a warm and safe space during this process. Another huge thank you to the entire cast for being so welcoming and supportive. To Niko and Dennis, thank you for your constant love and friendship. And lastly, to Joey, thank you for your unwavering belief in me! I love you! Enjoy the show!

**John Aric Cleland** (u/s Leaf Coneybear and Chip Tollentino) is ecstatic to be spelling and making his CTCO debut with incredible company. Originally from Chicago, JAC received his BFA in Acting from Syracuse University where performance credits include Into the Woods, The Seagull, and Ragtime. He was also seen onstage at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in A Scarlet Letter and at Shakespeare's Globe in London in scenes from Much Ado About Nothing as a part of their higher education program. Since moving to Orlando, JAC has performed at Disney and Seaworld, but is elated to be back home on the stage and thanks you deeply for supporting live theatre. JAC would like to dedicate his performance to his incredible friends and family whom he loves so much. (insta @jacnotjohn96)

**Jordan Grant** (Olive Ostrovsky) is so E•X•C•I•T•E•D to be making her CTCO mainstage debut with this hilarious and talented cast! As an Arizona native, she is enjoying becoming a part of Orlando's diverse and exciting theater community. When she isn't working on the set of the next Mummy film or rehearsing for fake spelling bees, Jordan enjoys riding roller coasters with her friends and eating copious amounts of ice cream and other unhealthy goodies. Her previous theatrical credits include Vanessa (In the Heights), Esmeralda (Hunchback) and Ti Moune (Once on this Island). She would like to dedicate this show to her loving boyfriend, Joseph, for supporting her in all her pursuits and reminding her she can do anything she puts her mind to. Thanks to Chris, Ethan and the Kits for pushing her to unlock her buried childhood awkwardness and reminding her that she was bad at spelling when she was 10 and that she is bad at spelling now! Enjoy the show! @jordansophia123

**Hannah McGinley Lemasters** (Rona Lisa Peretti) won her 7th Grade Spelling Bee on the word "thesaurus" but got out in the third round at County. She is originally from right outside Nashville, TN, went to college at NYU/Tisch/CAP21, spent a few years travelling around doing theatre, and then landed in Orlando a little over 5 years ago. Some of her favorite credits include the Baker's Wife (Into the Woods), Smitty (H2\$), Annabel (Lucky Stiff) and Mrs. Wormwood (Matilda). Now sit back and get ready to be impressed by these SPELLERS!

**Mary Mackin** (Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere) is so excited to be a part of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee! She is originally from Castle Rock, CO, and moved to Orlando back in 2017. Her previous credits include Grace (What I Did Last Summer), Marcy Park (The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee), and featured ensemble in both Spamalot and Bonnie and Clyde. Most recently, she was seen in CTC's "Sweets and Songs Cabaret". Mary wants to thank her family, her students at Osceola Arts, Micaela, Elijah and Dashall (her dog) for their continued support throughout her career! Enjoy the show!

**Justin Mousseau** (Douglas Panch, u/s William Barfée and Mitch Mahoney) is electrified to be making his Celebration Theatre Company debut! A Central Florida theatre staple, Justin has appeared in shows at The Garden Theater (Violet), The Orlando Rep (Disney's Newsies, Elf: The Musical, Ella Enchanted), and Osceola Arts (The Odd Couple), in addition to performing at several theme parks across the Greater Orlando Area. He'd like to thank his lovely wife Casey, his friends and family for always supporting him, and Lady Merriam-Webster for coming up with the idea for the dictionary. His favorite word is "petrichor".

**Paul Naidas** (Mitch Mahoney) is excited to perform in his second CTC production, following the 2021 season opener, "Sweets and Songs." Mitch Mahoney has always been a dream role of his and he's excited to provide comfort for these spellers, one juice box at a time. While he never thought he'd end up becoming a "Florida Man" by moving to Florida, Paul came from Marlton, New Jersey after being hired into Walt Disney World Entertainment until the COVID-19 pandemic made like a Disney Channel Sitcom, and decided to "Shake It Up." Before moving to FL, Paul worked as the Public Relations Apprentice at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, PA. Previous credits include The Beast (Beauty and the Beast), Albert (It Shoulda Been You), and ensemble (Pippin) each with the Harrington Theatre Arts Company at Paul's alma mater, the University of Delaware. In his free time you can find Paul elbow-deep in a box of triscuits, brushing the crumbs off his chest while playing Mario Kart with his roommates. Shout out to Austin for being the most wonderful, encouraging, and open partner Paul could ask for. Insta: @paul.naidas

**Meghan Ottomano** (Marcy Park) is over the moon to be appearing as Marcy Park in this production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, her first role with Celebration Theater Company. This will be joining her list of favorite roles, among others such as The Scarecrow (Wizard of Oz), Zanita (The Music Man), and The Magic Carpet (Aladdin). When she's not up on the stage, you may find her being a girl boss as the co-owner of her small shop Cosmic Society (shop us on Etsy!). She can't thank her family and friends enough for always believing in her and helping her to be where she is today. And a huge thank you to Chris and Ethan for taking a chance on her and giving her a spot in this crazy spelling bee.

**Taylor Sage Priday** (u/s Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere and Marcy Park) is thrilled to be in her first production with CTC. She moved down to Orlando in July after touring the country for almost a year with Mis-soula Children's Theatre as a tour actor/director. She graduated in 2019 from Brenau University with her BFA in Acting where she got to perform in roles such as Dorothy (Wizard of Oz), Poppy (Noises Off), and Lucy (Avenue Q). She wants to thank God, her family, and friends for their support and hopes you all have one SPELL of a time! IG: @taylorsage

**Jared Roys** (Leaf Coneybear) is a current BFA Musical Theatre student at UCF. This is his first show with CTC. He has performed throughout the Orlando area, a few favorite credits include Gerard (American Idiot), Harold Bride (Titanic) and Saul (As Is). He is so happy to cross one of his bucket list roles off his list!

**Garrett Williams** (William Barfee) is a 22 year old from Georgia and this is his Celebration Theatre Company debut! When he is not driving back and forth on I-4 belting out show tunes, you can "Ski him on the slopes" over at Disney's Blizzard Beach. In his limited free time he plays video games, specifically Pokémon, a little more than an adult should. Some of his previous Florida credits include Uncle Fester (The Addams Family), and Ensemble and u/s Finch (How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying) at Osceola Arts. Some of his previous Georgia credits include Pugsley and u/s Fester (The Addams Family) for the Georgia Repertory Theatre, and Ensemble in Newsies and Elf: The Musical at The Springer Opera House. Garrett hopes that you find some form of optimism after watching this performance and that you find the fun, joy, and playfulness in your everyday life. Thank you for showing him and all the other actors your support! Wear a mask, get vaccinated, and be kind to everyone!



**Spencer Wrolson** (Chip Tollentino) is making his CTCo musical debut in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee! Some of his favorite shows include Little Women (Laurie), Spring Awakening (Hanschen) and Rent (u/s Angel, Ensemble). Spencer studied at Baldwin Wallace University, where he received a B.A. in Acting/Directing and a minor in Voice. Spencer is E-C-S-T-A-T-I-C to be performing again after a 3 year hiatus. He wants to thank his parents and sister Whitney, for being so supportive and pushing him to dream big in such a small world!

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Kit Cleto** (Music Director) is a voice teacher, performer, and music director in the Central Florida area. He has served on the creative teams of Sondheim on Sondheim and Next To Normal with CTCo. Kit also serves on the voice faculty at Valencia College, Central Florida Vocal Arts, and has his own private online voice studio. U of Illinois, MM; UCF, BM. Kit would like to thank Chris, Kit, Ethan, Jen and Carly for being a phenomenal production team to work with; and to my diligent and brilliant cast, have fun, sing out, and thank you for being equally talented as you are kind. As always, thank you to my family and friends for their continued love and support. Enjoy the BEE!

**Ethan Gresham** (Assistant Director) is pleased to be involved with this production. This is his first show as assistant director and couldn't be more proud to have the cast of Spelling Bee as his first. Ethan is also the Vice President of Celebration Theatre Company and is a sitting member of the board. His past acting credits include: Buck (Bonnie & Clyde), Emmett (Legally Blonde) and Ernst (Spring awakening). Offstage you can find him in entertainment with Universal Orlando! He would like to thank the cast of spelling bee for being the stars they are, as well as his one and only Meghan Ottomano.

**Jen Jakobi** (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on her first show with CTCo alongside her friends and coworkers. Jen graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a bachelor's degree in Stage Management in 2017. She moved shortly after to escape the cold and enter the magic of Orlando. She has worked on other productions such as Evil Dead: The Musical, O' Wondrous Night, Life is a Dream, and multiple cabaret productions. When not backstage or in the booth, you can find Jen solving mysteries at Universal Studios, or spinning props lit with LED lights or fire at your nearest party. Her catch phrases are "It's lit", "hold please", and "was that a g-o?" Jen would like to thank the director, Christopher Robinson, for inviting her to be a part of such an amazing show with an incredibly talented cast. Have a good show!

**Kit Riffel** (Choreographer) is excited to be making his Celebration Theatre Company debut! He is honored and eternally grateful for the opportunity to work with such an inspiring cast and production team. His previous choreography credits include... well, THIS IS THE FIRST!! A huge Thank You to his best bud for life, Christopher. "Thanks for believing in me and supporting me every step of the way." He'd also like to recognize the best drama teacher around, Krista Traver. The world just wasn't ready for our production of Legally Blonde. "Thank you for never doubting me and encouraging me to be creative." A special shout-out to The Michelle Alagna for showing him the ropes to this whole choreographer thing. You are the best role model a guy could ask for. "Thanks for taking me under your wing and teaching me the steps." Thanks to Hiccup and Gnocchi for always waiting up for him even after some of the latest rehearsals. And as always, thanks to the whole Famn Damily. "I love and miss you all."

**Kyle Radabaugh** (Technical Director) The arts are back; what a fantastic feeling! Kyle A. Radabaugh hails from Eastern Michigan University with a focus in Entertainment Design and Classical Voice Performance. Designing again after a pandemic has been challenging but so rewarding. Actor: Catherine (Pippin), The Sheriff (Bonnie and Clyde), Wallace Hartley (Titanic), Robbie Hart (The Wedding Singer). Design: Heathers (2016), Legally Blonde (2018), Spring Awakening (2018), Bonnie and Clyde (2019). He also serves as the technical director for Celebration Theatre Company. While not acting or designing, you can see Kyle performing his heart out at Walt Disney World and making magic for so many amazing guests. Stay vigilant. Stay safe. Wear a mask. Get the vaccine. Enjoy the show!

**Christopher Robinson** (Director) a BFA graduate from Michigan State University, Christopher is incredibly honored to revisit a familiar show in an unfamiliar time. Previous directing credits include Osceola Arts' production of How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and the award winning Orlando Fringe Festival production of A Showgirls Musical. On the stage, you may have also seen Christopher in recent Orlando productions of The Addams Family (Lucas), The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Leaf), S#it: An Unauthorized Musical Parody of Stephen King's It (Bitchie), or Celebration Theatre Company's very own production of Spring Awakening (Moritz). When he isn't working in the theatre, you can find Christopher solving mysteries at Universal Studios, wandering the aisles of TJ Maxx, or on his couch crying at reruns of Grey's Anatomy. Christopher would like to thank Celebration Theatre Company for trusting him to bring this incredible show to life, as well as the entire cast and production team for going on this journey with him during such an unprecedented time. And, lastly, he would like to thank you, the audience, for supporting local theatre and keeping the arts alive in central Florida.

Continue...

Much love to his Mom in Michigan for her unwavering support, his dogs on his couch for always alleviating his stress, and his Dad in his heart for being his anchor.

**Russell Stephens** (Costume Designer) is D-E-L-I-G-H-T-E-D to be back at the sewing machine. In addition to serving as CTC's Board Chair, Russell also directed and performed in *Sondheim on Sondheim* and designed the lighting for *Sweets and Songs*. Other recent performance credits: *A Class Act*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Violet*, and *Ragtime* (Garden Theatre); *Forever Plaid*; *Plaid Tidings* (Athens Theatre); cabaret performances at *Imagination House*, *The Abbey*, *Aloft Orlando Downtown*, and *IMP Huntsville*; and five seasons of *O Wondrous Night* at *SeaWorld*. With gratitude to Christopher for trusting me infinitely more than I deserve; to Cathy for coming to the rescue; and to Nora and Debbie for teaching me everything I know. IG: @BrazenOver-tures

**Carly Skubick** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a full time actor at Universal Orlando. She also worked at Disney World for 15 years, Seaworld Orlando & Legoland Florida. She has taught theater to children at the Athens theater, Orlando REP, Garden Theater & Orlando Shakespeare Theater. Favorite roles include *Charity* (*Sweet Charity*), *Cinderella* (*R & H's Cinderella*) & *Tigerlily* (*Peter Pan*). Thank you to hubby Vince & fur children Dinah & Leo for always being so loving & supportive.

**Randall White** (Lighting Designer) grew up in Los Angeles, California and studied Lighting and Audio Design at Cypress College. While not designing, Randall works as a Stage Technician and Stage Manager at *Sleuth's Mystery Dinner Shows* in Orlando, FL and most recently worked at Walt Disney World as a Stage Technician. He made his lighting design debut with *Celebration Theatre Company* in 2018 working on *Legally Blonde: The Musical* and has been designing for each show since. Shows include *Spring Awakening* (2018), *A Chorus Line* (2019), *Bonnie & Clyde* (2019), and *Next To Normal* (2019). It's nice to be able to design lights for a show again after the production freeze of 2020. Let's make 2021 bright and colorful!

*Celebration Theatre Company* is funded in part by United Arts of Central Florida, home of [OrlandoAtPlay.com](http://OrlandoAtPlay.com) and [UAArtsEd.com](http://UAArtsEd.com). This production is funded in part by the City of Orlando and by Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs.



# HEXED

A FEMME ROCK MUSICAL  
AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL BY ANDREW BARRET COX

**Celebration  
Theatre Co.**

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THE ORLANDO  
**FRINGE**  
FESTIVAL



**OCTOBER 22ND-31ST  
AT DR. PHILLIPS CENTER**





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