



25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE AUDITION RESOURCES

THIS IS A BEANSTALK AFTER DARK PRODUCTION

I. General Information

- a. 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee was selected by the BeanStalk Community Theatre (BSCT) board of directors.
- b. Auditions are open to all community members.
- c. BSCT and its board of directors serve as producers of these performances, which will take place at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 5th and Friday, December 6th, and at 2:00pm on Saturday, December 7th at Harvest House Performing Arts Center in Boone, NC.
- d. Andrea McDonough, co-founder and executive director of BSCT, will direct the production.
- e. Chris Watson, board member and music teacher at Green Valley and Valle Crucis Schools will serve as music director.
- f. Amy Beane, co-founder and creative director of BSCT, will choreograph the production.
- g. Mel Grant will serve as Stage Manager and Elizabeth Cole will be your props master and costumer.
- h. There will be an audition workshop held on Saturday, August 17th at 2:00pm at Hardin Park. The workshop is not required, but it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**.
- i. No roles are pre-cast. Initial auditions will take place on Saturday, August 24th at 2:00pm at Hardin Park School. For this audition, please prepare one of the monologues and songs offered at the end of this document. The song samples with and without lyrics can be found at www.beanstalknc.com/auditions/audition-resources.
- j. Callbacks will be held on Sunday, August 25th at 2:00pm Hardin Park School, if needed.
- k. Some production positions are yet to be filled. If you are interested, please contact Mel Grant at mel.bsct@gmail.com.
- l. This show is for an adult cast. **NO CHILDREN MAY AUDITION**. Anyone age 16-17 will need parental permission in writing in order to audition. There will be no one under the age of 16 allowed to audition.
- m. If you are unable to attend the audition, please send a video submission to info@beanstalknc.com. There will be **NO EARLY or LATE** auditions. The video submission is the only option if you cannot attend and must be submitted along with the audition form before the audition date. The audition form can be found at www.beanstalknc.com/auditions/audition-resources.

II. Rehearsal/Performance Schedule (Location TBA)

- a. Our first read through will be Sunday, September 8th. Rehearsals will run September 9th through November 28th.
- b. There are **NO ABSENCES** allowed from November 18-December 6. We will **NOT** rehearse on Thanksgiving. If you know you have conflicts during these weeks, **DO NOT AUDITION**. You will be wasting our time and yours as you **WILL NOT** be cast.
- c. Music rehearsals will run through mid October on Mondays and Wednesday only from 6-8. All other rehearsals will be from 6-8 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
- d. Specific schedules will be given via email and at the read through.
- e. Tech week will begin November 30th.
- f. Due to the costs involved in this performance, **NO COMPS** will be provided to company members.

Synopsis of 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

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. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box. A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful den of comedic genius.

III. Breakdown of the Characters in 25h Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Chip Tolentino

An athletic, social, boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment.

Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniére (Schwartzzy)

Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. She is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year.

Leaf Coneybear

The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and spells words correctly while in a trance.

William Barfee

A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy, bullying personality. He develops a crush on Olive.

Marcy Park

The ultimate over-achiever, Marcy has never been given another option. She comes from a family where excellence is expected and so simply produced. A parochial school student, she assumes God, too, expects perfection. She sees herself as a mass of problems but she keeps them to herself. Having moved often because of her parents' work, she knows she can beat the local competition. Her many talents include piano, dance, martial arts, baton twirling, and/or whatever special gifts you can find in your casting pool.

Olive Ostrovsky

A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. Having found comfort in its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms.

Rona Lisa Peretti

The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children, but she can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Vice Principal Panch and his feelings for her. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward.

Douglas Panch

The Vice Principal. Frustrated with his life, he finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, but she does not return his affections.

Mitch Mahoney

The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He has no idea how to offer comfort, but does find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better.

Carl Dad

Schwarzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzy's fathers. Normally played by actor playing Leaf.

Dan Dad

The more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzy's fathers. Normally played by the actor playing Mitch.

Jesus Christ

Deity invoked by a speller in need. Normally played by the actor playing Chip.

Leaf's Mom, Dad, And Siblings

All more academically gifted than Leaf, they are even more surprised than he is by his success. Normally played by the spellers and audience volunteers as indicated in the script.

Olive's Dad

A fantasy version of Olive's dad coming to the bee from work. Normally played by the actor playing Mitch.

Olive's Mom

A fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India. Normally played by the actor playing Rona.

VI. Monologues (MUST BE MEMORIZED):

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MONOLOGUES TO MEMORIZE FOR YOUR AUDITION AFTER YOU SING. THE MONOLOGUE YOU PERFORM DOES NOT HAVE TO BE FOR THE CHARACTER YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO PLAY. YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM MORE THAN ONE MONOLOGUE. REMEMBER: SPEAK WITH LOTS OF EXPRESSION!!!

Mitch: You can't comfort these damn kids. They don't yet know that the good don't always win, so there's nothing you can say to cheer them up when they lose. I want to tell them disappointment doesn't last – but from what I've seen, disappointment lasts like hell. I want to tell them words don't matter; but from what I've seen, words can get you killed. I just want to beat them up a little, so they understand that pain has degrees, and this is nothing – this is nothing, you little freaks. But that would violate my parole. So I do what I can. I give them a hug and a juice box. I'm here to give comfort.

Rona: Ladies and Gentlemen, all the children you see on stage are here because of their extraordinary ability and love of language – but only one of them can go on to compete in the National Spelling Bee! And this year, to celebrate our silver anniversary, our local sponsors, the Putnam Optometrists, are offering today’s winner a two hundred dollar savings bond toward his or her future education. But remember, to get here, each child had to win – or place – in their own district bee – so each of them is already a winner.

Barfee: The name’s Bar-fay. William Bar-fay. Not Bar-fee. (begins scratching) Were there peanuts in the brownies? Cause they said there wouldn’t be peanuts in the brownies! (stops mid-scratch) Yes of course, Hasenpfeffer (pronounced hass-en-feffer). A highly seasoned rabbit stew, often served with sour cream. Something I’m familiar with. Hassenpfeffer. H.A.S.E.N.P.F.E.F.F.E.R.

Olive: I’m Olive. It’s a fruit. Did you know if you switch the first two vowels in “Olive” it becomes “I love”? (awkward pause) Flagellate? I’m thinking about does flagellate have one “L” or two – and also about how if you take the “W” of answer and the “H” in ghost and the extra “A” in aardvark and the “T” in listen, you could keep saying “what” but nobody would hear, because the whole world would be silent. (another awkward pause) Flagellate. F.L.A.G.E.L.L.A.T.E. Flagellate.

Coneybear: (on the phone) Hello. Leaf speaking. Uh, huh. Uh, huh. Uh, huh. You’re kidding! I’m gonna represent the Basin in the bee? Wow, I can’t believe it. (to family) Mom, Dad, Marigold, Brook, Pinecone, Raisin, Landscape, Paul – you’re not going to believe this. I made the county finals in the spelling bee! They just called and said the person who came in first has to go to their bat mitzvah and the person who came in second...has to attend the bat mitzvah, so they want me to do it!

Panch: Miss Park, the word is Phylactery: either of two small square leather boxes containing religious texts traditionally worn on the left arm and head by Jewish men during morning weekday prayers. “Billy, put down that phylactery – We’re Episcopalian.”

Logainne: (with a lisp) I’d like to take one moment to thank my two fathers, Daniel Schwartz and Carl Grubenierre (Groo-ben-yare) who’ve been so supportive of me and all my endeavors. Thank you, dads. AS the daughter of two gay dads, I would like to know who scheduled Father’s Day and Gay Pride within seven days of each other. Well, anyway, the Schwartzandgrubenniere household will be referring to the event as Gay Father’s Pride Weekend.

Marcy: I don’t speak 5 languages. I don’t care what my file says. Does it say that I only sleep three hours a night, and I hide in the bathroom cabinet, and I’m not allowed to cry? (pause) Because it should. (pause) Jesus, I was wondering what would happen if I didn’t win today. Would you be disappointed in me if I lost? (pause) So it’s up to me then...Camouflage. C.A.M...O.U.F.L...A...J...Z!...H!!! Camouflage.

Chip: The name’s Chip. Chip Tolentino. I was the National Champ of last year’s bee. I know they’re going to try to trip me up. Omphaloskepsis (OM-pha-lo-skep-sis)? Wait a second, didn’t the kid with the head lice just get “Mexican”? And those are rated the same level of difficulty? (take a breath) Omphaloskepsis. O...M...P...H...A...L.O.S.K.E.P.S.I.S. Omphaloskepsis.

V. Songs (Must Be Memorized)

Songs may be from the same character as the monologue you are performing or you may choose a song for a different character. Remember, you are not just singing. We need to see the character in the song as well as in the monologue. Be familiar with all songs as you may be called back to sing for a different role.

Mitch – Prayer of the Comfort Counselor

My friend you will be missed
 But now go with dignity
 This ends but first on our list
 You can go with pride
 You've been the best looking dude we've had
 all day
 You're a real smart dude as well
 Now go home and spell
 Give you squeeze some affection
 Come on make a connection
 Spell with patience and care

Rona – Rona Moment 2

Good lord
 That's what's swell about spelling bees
 I am floored
 By how last years big cheese
 Becomes this years disaster
 And exit with new humilities
 Its a wide open jamboree
 When winners lose surprisingly
 Now I love what I see
 I see hope and possibility
 When the favorite loses 1, 2, 3
 That's my favorite moment of the bee

Barfee – Magic Foot

Magic Foot
 Take me to the final round
 Magic Foot
 I barely lift it
 Off the ground
 Magic Foot
 I do it without making a sound
 Magic Foot
 Write the letter
 Magic Foot
 Write the perfect letter
 Magic Foot
 It's an alpabetter way to spell

Olive – My Friend the Dictionary

I saved a chair for my dad
 In the fourth row on the aisle
 And it may take him a while
 But when he gets here
 That's his chair
 Cause my mother's in an ashram
 In India
 I saved a chair for her too
 But it's merely symbolic
 As daily she washes herself in the Ganges And I
 live in a house
 Where there's an oversized dictionary
 That I read
 As a girl
 On the toilet

Coneybear – I'm Not That Smart

I'm not that smart
 My siblings have been telling me that for years
 That I'm not smart
 We're schooled at home
 They see who's bright
 It breaks my heart
 I'm not that smart

I have a gentle personality
 Which you'll all agree
 Is anathema to my more aggressive Family
 Family

Logainne – Woe is Me

I hope you can love me, America
 I'm gunning for first prize!
 Here's why you should love me, America
 My needs I cannot overemphasize
 I make myself crazy
 Being what my dads hope I'll be
 But what about me dads'
 What about me'
 Cheese and Fries!
 What about me'

So I practice yoga
 I don't breathe
 I try not to disappoint
 But still I
 Disappoint the dads
 Who my friends mock
 Kids are mean
 Kids'll talk
 All my so-called friends roll their eyes
 They're incredibly petty
 Because my dads are my dads
 And alright enough already

Woe is me
 Woe is me
 Which is why I gotta win
 This spelling bee

Marcy – I Speak Six Languages

I Speak Six Languages
 Every language easy
 Easy as the recipe for making Jell-O
 I Speak Six Languages
 And I can say hello
 In at least seven more
 To excel in athletics is not difficult if one has
 the temperament
 Apparently
 I have the temperament

Yes I score some goals
 So unfazed am I
 As my life Unscrolls
 Unamazed am I
 I don't like to brag
 And I won't 'cause I don't have to
 But I Speak Six Languages

All-American in hockey
 And anything I do
 I do without getting sore
 I Speak Six Languages
 And I like the theme from Rocky
 Though I play Mozart more

Chip - My Unfortunate Erection

It is tradition
 That the person eliminated
 From the competition
 Is fair game for derision
 Especially the alpha-male
 Will sell goodies at the bake sale

Anyone for brownies
 Anyone for chocolate chips
 Anyone for anything
 That isn't dated
 How could I have been
 Eliminated'
 You wanna know how'
 You wanna know how'
 You wanna know why'

My unfortunate erection
 Is destroying my perfection
 It is my recollection
 That everything I once did
 I did perfectly
 (spoken) Last year's champ defeated!
 (sung) Because of
 Marigold Coneybear
 Because there's something and not a thing
 between us
 I don't blame my brain but I do blame my penis

Panch – Non Singing Role