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THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY
SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics By
William Finn

Conceived by
Rebecca Feldman

Book by
Rachel Sheinkin

2025 Season Sponsor

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Music and Lyrics By
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Directed by: Rachel Brown
Produced by: Kurt Percy

July 25-26 & Aug . 1-2 at 7:30pm
July 27 & Aug. 3 at 2pm

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre
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The Cast

Chip Tolentino Ben Essex
Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre . Kaci Lovejoy
William Barfee Ian Williams
Marcy Park Michaela Back
Leaf Coneybear Sebastian Black
Olive Ostrovsky Melissa Harrell
Rona Lisa Peretti Kim Toft
Douglas Panch Jason Lakes
Mitch Mahoney Jillian Northern



The Crew

Director	Rachel Brown
Asst. Director	Tyler Wadkins
Stage Manager	Waverly Clark
Producer	Kurt Percy
Set Design	Tyler Wadkins
Costumes	Abby Kinnebrew Smith
Props	Grace Conkel
Wardrobe Supervisor	Karen Eifert
Lighting Design	Ben Trader
Light & Sound Board Op	Tyler Wadkins
Technical Support	ErinMarie Suscheck
Box Office	Jay Mills
House Manager	Kurt Percy,
Concessions	Tracie Mills
Program	Elizabeth Ray
Artwork	Brahm Corstanje



Cast Bios

Ben Essex

Chip Tolentino

Ben is *synonym for excited* to be making his debut at Lebanon! Hailing from Cleveland, Ben has been performing in some regard since he was 8 years old. Some past favorite roles of his are Jimmy Harper in *Reefer Madness*, Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Oliver in *Puffs*. Ben would like to thank the production team for letting him work with all these new people! Most of all, he would like to thank his wife Emma, for somehow putting up with him.

Kaci Lovejoy

Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre

Kaci Lovejoy is excited to be buzzing back on stage at Lebanon Theatre Company as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee! LTC has been a special part of her life since 2016, when she first appeared in *Leading Ladies of Lebanon*, and she's thrilled to return to the theatre that feels like a second home. Past LTC credits include *Guys and Dolls*, *110 in the Shade*, and many more. When she's not spelling (or singing) her heart out on stage, Kaci works as an Inbound/Outbound Call Specialist at SVG Motors in Beavercreek. She holds a Vocal Performance Minor from Wright State University and a Bachelor's in Organizational Leadership, with training in classical, jazz, opera, and performance voice since 2013. Much love and gratitude to this amazing cast, crew, and the LTC family for keeping the joy of live theatre alive!



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Ian Williams

William Barfee

Ian Williams has enjoyed his time doing *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with LTC. From Springfield, his recent previous credits include Macduff, Brad Majors, Rev. Parris, Squidward, JD, Nigel Bottom, and Pippin. He would like to thank his incredibly supportive family and friends that indulge in him playing pretend.

Sebastian Black

Leaf Coneybear

Sebastian feels supersonic to be performing in his first show at LTC! Although remaining consistent in his passion for theater, *Spelling Bee* will be his first production in four years. Off the stage, he pursues his love of analyzing and creating film at Ohio State University. He would like to thank his friends, family, and fellow cast and crew mates for making this possible. Most importantly, he would like to dedicate every performance in memory of his grandfather, Gregory Black. Enjoy the show!



Michaela Back

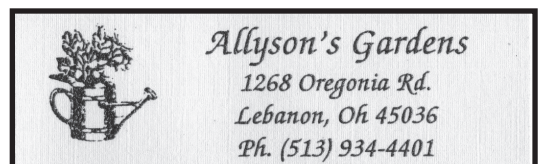
Marcy Park

Michaela is thrilled to be making her debut with Lebanon Theatre Company. In the 2024-2025 season Michaela was seen on stage as Whatshername in *Green Day's American Idiot* and as Janet in *Richard O'Brian's Rocky Horror Show*. She most recently directed INNOVAtheatre's spring production of *Seussical the Musical*. She sends love and gratitude to her family, friends, and the incredible LTC team.

Jason Lakes

Douglas Panch

Jason is excited to make his LTC debut, reprising one of his favorite roles! He has recently appeared as The Lecturer in Beaver Creek Community Theatre's production of *Reefer Madness!*, as The Proprietor in Springboro Community Theatre's production of *Assassins* and as Dom Claude Frolo in INNOVAtheatre's award-winning *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. A veteran of both community and professional productions, his other favorite credits include La Comedia's productions of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Vice-Principal Panch), and *Shrek the Musical* (Shrek), and other local productions of *Mary Poppins* (George Banks), *Assassins* (Samuel Byck), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast) among others. He encourages you to support the arts at all levels of education and thanks you for supporting this production!



Melissa Harrell

Olive Ostrovsky

Melissa Harrell is so excited to be taking part in her first production in Ohio, after moving to the area from Texas two years ago. No stranger to the stage, she has been performing for 30 years in both musical theatre productions and professional variety shows. Some of her favorite roles include Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, Mimi in *RENT*, and Diana in *Next to Normal*. Outside of the theatre, Melissa is a busy mother to the #harrellhive. She has five children (yes five) and is married to the love of her life and biggest fan, Steve. She has worked full time in the travel industry for six years and is very passionate about exploration and travel planning. In her very limited free time, Melissa enjoys reading, serving in her church, and watching her kids' activities. She'd like to say a huge thank you to LTC for such a delightful experience from start to finish. She could not imagine performing this show without this insanely talented and FUN cast and crew!



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Kim Toft

Rona Lisa Peretti

Kim Toft is thrilled to step into the role of Rona —Putnam County's proudest real estate agent and overly enthusiastic spelling enthusiast. Having been active in the local community theatre scene for almost 25 years, she continues to find joy in storytelling, collaboration, and the creative spirit of the stage. She is especially grateful to work alongside such a talented cast. This show is full of heart, humor, and unexpected charm— she hopes you enjoy every moment. Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.” — Isaiah 12:5

Jillian Northern

Mitch Mahoney

Jillian (Jill) Northern (she/her) is thrilled to be a part of her first Lebanon Theatre Company show, especially after her four year performance hiatus through college. She is a recent Miami University Theatre graduate, where she concentrated on stage management, and dabbled in the costume world! This summer, Jill has furthered her passion in costumes through her work with Kings Island Live Entertainment as a costume technician. She would like to thank her fabulous directors Rachel and Tyler, wonderful stage manager Waverly Clark and spectacular cast-mates for creating such a warm, supportive environment. Jill is very excited to share this remarkable show with the Lebanon community!





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Crew Bios

Abby Kinnebrew Smith

Costume Designer

Abby is a graduate of Florida State University's Theatre Department and has been involved in all aspects of theatre for most of her life. Her past LTC directing credits include: *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare; Abridged* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Abby would like to thank this incredible team for making a beautiful show. Thanks also to Evan, Kinna and Elliott for their support and to Gita for starting this journey with her over 20 years ago.



Karen Eifert

Wardrobe Supervisor

After graduating from Miami University, Karen (affectionately known as 'Broadway Karen') moved to NYC, got an apartment, got a shrink, and had a 50-year career in wardrobe for Broadway, movies, and television. She recently returned to Ohio, bought her first car, moved into a house, and discovered LTC, where she gets to do for free what she used to be paid union wages. She is happy.

Waverly Clark

Stage Manager

After a brief hiatus to play Tessy in *The Miss Firecracker Contest* (2025), Waverly is backstage helping the show run smoothly once again. You wouldn't have been able to see her backstage for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *Deathtrap* here at LTC. She has also worked backstage in Indiana on *Next to Normal* & *The 39 Steps* while also appearing onstage in the ensemble for *Julius Caesar* (2023) & *Mamma Mia* (2022). When she's not around the theatre Waverly works as a mechanical engineer and hangs out with her dog Freyja and cat Loki. She hopes you enjoy this hilarious musical about one of the things she's terrible at, spelling (autocorrect is the best invention ever). A big thank you to the director Rachel for bringing her on and all the talented actors for making this show one to remember!

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Rachel Brown

Director

Rachel Brown is excited to return to LTC for her second show. She co-directed *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* last fall, and she couldn't wait to come back to direct *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (for the second time!). Performing and directing credits include *Merrily We Roll Along* (Mary Flynn), *Oliver!* (Nancy), *Dracula: the Musical- World Premiere* (Narrator), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel), *Little Women: The Musical* (Beth), *Little Lessons For Lina-World Premiere* (Lina/Director), and *The Last Five Years* (Director). Huge thanks to this incredibly talented and hilarious cast and the production team who made this show possible, and in particular Tyler Wadkins, Assistant Director (and husband).



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Tracie Mills

Concessions

Tracie has been involved with LTC for years, having appeared in most musical events. For the last 3 years (and counting) you could find her Managing LTC's front of house. In May of 2016, she played Jessie Morton in *Leading Ladies* and was also in the cast of *Roar of the Greasepaint*. She has made three appearances at the Middletown Lyric Theatre in *MusicaliTea* and *Raise Your Voices* and most recently in *Blues in the Night* as Bessie. She currently works at Wal*Mart.

Jay Mills

Box Office

Jay Mills, a founding board member of LTC, has served as music director for many of our LTC shows as well as for the Middletown Lyric Theatre. Jay also plays piano and organ for Bethany UCC and Bethel AME churches in Lebanon.

For tickets and information about LTC and our season of shows, we invite and encourage you to visit:

LTCplays.com!!



Phone: (513) 228-0330 libertytax.com

Grace Conkel

Props

Grace is excited to be back in Lebanon. She previously appeared in *Rumors* at LTC (you may remember her as the pre-show frisking cop), *I Hate Hamlet* at Troy Civic Theatre, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* in Centerville, and several plays at X*ACT. In addition to being on stage, she enjoys helping productions backstage with props, sets, costumes and other various roles. She would like to thank her family for their support and encouragement, and the amazing cast and crew for their hard work and passion for theatre!



Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Photo Courtesy of Wayne Dunn



Kurt Percy

Producer

Spelling Bee marks Kurt's 71st show with LTC over the last 22 years (but who's counting?) LTC has been his second home, where he has made life-long friends and has had numerous opportunities to challenge himself artistically. Kurt has been seen on stage in such shows as *Putting it Together* and *Into the Woods*, designed sets for *Boeing, Boeing* and *Guys and Dolls*, and directed *Almost, Maine* and *The Bridges of Madison County*, among others. He wants to thank his wonderful partner, ErinMarie Suscheck, for all of their support both at home and at the theatre. Thank you also to the tremendous support of LTC's patrons and volunteers for making this a very special place that it is.

Tyler Wadkins

Asst. Director/Set Designer Light & Sound Execution

Tyler Wadkins is excited to be back in the theatre after his era defining performance of Andrew Carnes in his middle school production of *Oklahoma!* Tyler would like to thank his wife (and director) Rachel for putting up with him, and their dog Juniper.



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Ben Trader

Light Design

Ben Trader (he/they) is a recent graduate of Miami University in Oxford, OH with a BA in Interactive Media Studies and a Minor in Theater Arts. He was involved in many mainstage productions at Miami as well as other smaller projects working in Lighting, Scenic, or Projection Design. Since graduation, Ben has started working at Kings Island in Mason, OH as an Entertainment Technician. This is his first show with Lebanon Theatre Company and he is so excited to have been welcomed with open arms and to share his work!

ErinMarie Suscheck

Technical Support

ErinMarie's first show was *Boeing Boeing* in 2018. Their most recent show was *Unnecessary Farce*. LTC has been their home for 7 years, and they have met their best friends here, including their partner, the incredibly talented Kurt Percy. ErinMarie works as a professional stage manager at various theatres throughout the Dayton-Cincinnati area and as a CSS at UCHealth. They would like to thank everyone who has been involved in LTC over the years for making it truly feel like home.



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