

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
WILLIAM FINN
RACHEL SHEINKIN

BOOK BY
RACHEL SHEINKIN

DIRECTED BY **NOAH RACEY**
NOV. 3-12, 2023

SEASON SPONSOR:



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY





The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ 50, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Hilton Worldwide; and Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation.

Education and related artistic programs are made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
BY WILLIAM FINN AND RACHEL SHEINKIN

DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER—Noah Racey

MUSIC DIRECTOR—Victor Walters

SCENIC DESIGNER—Thomas Ray

LIGHTING DESIGNER—Jake Mosier

COSTUME DESIGNER—Jasper Day

SOUND DESIGNER—Patrick Middlebrook

PROPS MASTER—Avi Miller

STAGE MANAGER—Annabelle Gauthier

CAST

Hollis Andrew — Leaf U/S

Ethan Bowen — Barfee

Ethan Bowman — Leaf

Ash Campbell — Marcy Park U/S

Ruby Duka — Marcy Park

Nicolet Endean — Rona U/S

Scott Green — Carl Dad

Grace Hellman — Olive U/S

Nyssa Justis — Olive/Co-Dance Captain/Fight Captain

Laurel Ladzinski — Photographer

Robert Longo — Mitch/Barfee U/S

Kate Miller — Mom/Logainne U/S

Avery Rudman — Logainne

Ethan Strong — Panch

Adie Sutherland — Rona/Co-Dance Captain

India Thompson — Mother U/S

Tiernan Troyer — Chip

Peter-Manuel Young — Dan/Chip U/S

Eric Zertuche — Panch U/S

BAND

Jack Arman — Substitute Drummer

Matt Fox — Cello

Katie Hughes — Assistant Music Director and Synthesizer

Merrit Jones — Substitute Flute

Elise Renner — Flute

Victor Walters — Music Director and Piano

Damian Lesperance-Young — Alto Sax and Clarinet

DIRECTOR NOTES

Self-esteem and worth. They are our essential building blocks as we go about the messy process of becoming ourselves. This beautiful story aims right at the intersection of meaning and chaos that lives in the hearts of all of us in middle school. This mad little coliseum our little ones are thrown into, pit against the lions of knowledge, failure, and acceptance. What a perfect environment for a musical! Especially one by the ever unique and human Bill Finn and his collaborator Rachel Sheinkin. This is a beautiful look at a part of ourselves that has run the show for as long as we can remember: who will be the winner? A pressurized laboratory where all our strange, not quite formed, yet utterly exploding selves are perched at the edge of childhood and adultish-hood, searching through the clues that life, our friends, our parents have given us; and all the while desperately yearning for the one thing we subconsciously know to be real... connection.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Jasper Day (he/they) (Costume Designer) — Jasper holds a Bachelors of Science in Molecular Biology from the University of Denver and is currently working on a Bachelor of Arts in Costume Design and Technology at Colorado State University. Before designing *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at CSU, he was the assistant costume designer for CSU's production of *The Tender Land* by Aaron Copland in the Spring of 2023. He is an active cosplayer, and regularly attends conventions around Colorado.

Annabelle Gauthier (Stage Manager) — Annabelle is a third year Design & Technology and Psychology major. Her past credits at CSU include Assistant Stage Managing *The Wolves* and *The Tender Land*. This is Annabelle's first time Stage Managing at a collegiate level and her first musical here. Thanks to Alex and Anna for being stellar ASMs.

Patrick Middlebrook (Sound Designer) — Patrick is very excited to be participating in this performance of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He has been involved with previous shows such as *Machinal* (Sound Designer), *Spring Awakening* (Sound Designer), and *Lysistrata* (Sound Designer), and his credits outside CSU include Spoleto Music Festival (Venue Audio Engineer), Lighting Designer International (Production Assistant), and *Outside In* with Impact Dance (Sound Designer). He wants to thank everyone who has supported him at CSU and beyond.

Avi Miller (Props Master) — Avi is overjoyed to be involved in their first musical! They are a 4th year theatre major with a general theatre concentration and a minor in American Sign Language. Most recently, they were the Prop Master for *The Normal Heart*, and Henrietta understudy in *Silent Sky*. Their past credits include working in the prop shop for *Silent Sky*, *Machinal*, *Spring Awakening*, *The Wolves*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Così fan tutte*, and *She Kills Monsters* (CSU). They would like to thank their family, friends, and their cat.

Jake Mosier (Lighting Designer) — Jake is excited about his first CSU Musical as a Lighting Designer. He is a third-year student studying Projection and Lighting Design with a minor in Computer Science. Some of his past designs are *Silent Sky* (CSU), *The Normal Heart* (CSU), *Fall Dance Concert* (CSU), and *Fall Dance Capstone* (CSU). Jake would like to thank his friends, family, and mentors for all their support!

Noah Racey (Director/Choreographer) — Mr. Racey is head of Musical Theatre at Colorado State University and the Associate Artistic Director of OpenStage Theatre & Company. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is the second production of CSU's new Musical Theatre Concentration! Noah has been a part of the National and New York City theatre scene for 30 years, originating roles in Broadway shows like *Curtains*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (for which he was associate choreographer, helping Rob Ashford win the Tony Award for Best Choreography), *Never Gonna Dance* and the first revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*. He has given master classes, workshops and lectures all around the world. His latest collaboration with acclaimed writer/director Dick Scanlan, a memoir play with music entitled *Mountain Grove*, was the featured musical production in Theatre Aspen's Solo Flights. Noah has directed locally for Bas Bleu Theatre (*A Walk In The Woods*) and won the Opus Award for his direction of Kate Hamill's *Sense & Sensibility* at OpenStage Theatre & Company. Noah is a Boston Conservatory graduate and a product of - and a strong proponent for - arts funding in Public Schools

Thomas Ray (Scenic Designer) — Thomas is in his final year studying Theatre Technology and Design and is excited to have his first realized set design at CSU! He has worked in the UCA Scene Shop for most of his time at CSU having built over a dozen sets. He has also worked in the Electrics Shop and was Prop Master for *Machinal* by Sofia Tredwell. Thomas has worked locally as a Professional Stagehand at The Lincoln Center in Fort Collins and with Rhino Staging Colorado, working everything from local theatre and dance to Broadway Tours such as *CATS* and *Waitress* to some of the largest concerts in Denver, including Taylor Swift and Paramore. Thomas hopes to go on tour or work abroad after graduating. He would like to thank his family, friends and mentors for all their support.

Victor Walters (Music Director) — Victor is so excited to music direct his 3rd production at CSU. Victor has performed as a collaborative/rehearsal pianist, keyboardist, and music director all over the Northern Colorado Region. Additionally, he has worked for the University of Northern Colorado, OpenStage, Fort Collins Children's Theatre, Opera Fort Collins, Greeley Stampede Troupe, The Loveland Orchestra, The Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, The Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Midtown Arts Center, The Theatre Company of Lafayette, Jesters Dinner Theatre, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, and countless high school productions in the Northern Colorado area. Victor made his Carnegie Hall debut with the choir students of Fossil Ridge High School for the Choirs of America Conference in New York City in 2022. Victor's credits include *Pippin*, *Tick, Tick...Boom!*, *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Elf*, *Spring Awakening*, *A New Brain*, *All Shook Up*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *RENT!*, *A Grand Night For Singing*, *A Chorus Line*, *Shrek The Musical*, *Pippin*, *Into the Woods*, *My Fair Lady*, *Dames at Sea*, *The Roy Orbison Experience*, *Heart of the Holiday*, *The Music Man*, *Kiss Me*

Kate!, Beauty and the Beast, Man of La Mancha, Dogfight, Little Shops of Horrors, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Legally Blonde, Forever Plaid, and 42nd Street. You can find him next as conductor for Fort Collins Children's Theatre production of *The Addams Family* at the Lincoln Center. And he will also be music directing UNC's main stage production of *Seussical* in the Spring of 2024.

CAST BIOS

Ethan Bowen (William Barfée) — This is Ethan's fifth show with CSU and he is truly thrilled to be in this cast once more. He is a fourth-year theater-performance major and in the past, he has played Pugsley in *The Addams Family*, Javert in *Les Misérables* and Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Northglenn High School) as well as the Mansplainer in *Lysistrata* Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show* as well as appearing as Otto in *Spring Awakening* and even appearing in the opera, *The Tender Land*. This has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of his college career.

Ethan Bowman (Leaf Coneybear) — Ethan is thrilled to be in another production at CSU. He is currently a Junior musical theatre major and has been performing since the age of ten. Some of his past credits include Frank n Furter in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Billy in *Carrie the Musical*, Bruce Niles in *The Normal Heart*, Hanschen in *Spring Awakening*, and more. He wants to thank his friends, family, and teachers who have helped and supported him through this amazing experience.

Ash Campbell (Marcy Park U/S) — Ash is a sophomore majoring in musical theatre, and he is delighted to participate in his second production here at CSU! His previous roles include Jazz Singer in *Machinal* (CSU), Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me*, and Gloria Thorpe in *Damn Yankees*. He would like to thank his family, friends, and peers at CSU for their continuous support.

Scott Green (Carl Dad/US Mitch Mahoney) — Scott is grateful to continue performing on the CSU stage. He is a sophomore originally from Highlands Ranch, CO. Some of his previous credits include Sky in *Mamma Mia!* (Front Range Theatre), Kenickie in *Grease* (ThunderRidge Theatre), The Nutcracker in *The Nutcracker* (Colorado Dance Center), and Peter Pan in *Peter Pan* (Northridge Theatre). He would like to thank his family for pushing him to participate in what he loves, his friends for all the support they give him, and Noah Racey, alongside the entire cast and crew, for the opportunity to be on the stage in this laughable show. Enjoy!

Grace Hellman (Olive U/S) — Grace is incredibly excited to be working on her second show at Colorado State University! She has learned so much understudying Olive in this production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and is thrilled for everyone to see all of the hard work put in. She has had a long history with shows and is excited to continue to grow in this program. She hopes you enjoy this very heartwarming and hilarious show!

Nyssa Justis (Olive/Co-Dance Captain/Fight Captain) — Nyssa is unbelievably excited to bring this show to the stage with her incredible castmates. Some of her favorite credits include Thea in *Spring Awakening* (CSU Theatre), Martha in *Heathers* (Spark), and Perch Perkins in *SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical* (Spark). Nyssa also had the pleasure of assistant directing *Machinal* (CSU Theatre) under the incredible Debbie Swann. She wants to extend her thanks to her parents for their support.

Laurel Ladzinski (Photographer) — Laurel recently graduated in May of 2023 from Colorado State University with her degree in Theatre Technology and Design - Lighting Design. Alongside her growing lighting design expertise, including working locally at Lincoln Center as an electrics crew lead and Washingtons/The Armory as a concert lighting designer, she maintains a photography portfolio and writes on the side. She has stayed locally to support her fellow Rams and strives to act as a resource for other women working to gain credibility in the previously male dominated industry of lighting design.

Robert Longo (Mitch/Barfee U/S)—Robert is a fourth-year Theatre Performance and Computer Science double major and is thrilled to be performing again, this time showcasing his passion for standing menacingly to the side of the stage! You may have seen him before as Eddie in *The Rocky Horror Show* (CSU Theatre) or as the triple threat Adding Clerk, Bartender, and Second Reporter in *Machinal* (CSU Theatre), and if you're really obsessed with him the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* (NCHS Theater) - he won't ask you why you've followed him across state lines, don't worry! He has had a blast working with everyone in the cast and crew and is so excited to showcase the time and effort each and every one of them has put forth to make this show great. He would also like to thank his family, friends, and partner for their unconditional love and support. He prefers pineapple juice boxes.

Kate Miller (Mom/Logainne U/S) — Kate has been performing and singing on stages across Colorado since she was 7 years old. This is her first CSU production, and she is ecstatic to be welcomed to the team and share the stage with such a talented group! If you participated in the December 2020 Virtual Thespian Convention, you might have seen her as The Beggar Woman in The Arvada Center's production of *Sweeney Todd*, or more recently as Whatsername in Synthesis Theatre Production's debut production of *American Idiot* in 2022. She would like to

express her biggest thanks to her family and to her incredible boyfriend for all their continued love and support. Enjoy the show!

Ruby Duka (Marcy Park)-Ruby has been performing in theatre since she was 11 years old and is beyond excited to be performing in her first musical here at CSU! She is a 3rd year majoring in Theatre with a dual concentration in Musical Theatre and Design & Tech. She has worked as the Sound Designer for *The Normal Heart* (CSU), Assistant Sound Designer for *Spring Awakening* (CSU), A1 for *CATS* (Candlelight), *The Little Mermaid* (Candlelight), *CATS* (The Academy), *The Little Mermaid* (The Academy), and *Million Dollar Quartet* (Candlelight). She currently works in the paint shop for the Theatre Department and is heading into her next show, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, as Candlelight's A1. Ruby is incredibly grateful for all the opportunities CSU has given her to fulfill her love for the arts both on and off stage, and thanks her friends and family for all of the constant love and support.

Avery Rudman (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre) — This is Avery's last production at CSU, and she is so excited for what's next after graduating this upcoming December. Some of Avery's previous credits include Wendla in *Spring Awakening* (CSU), Lysistrata in *Lysistrata* (CSU), and Medium Alison in *Fun Home* (HAA). She is so thankful for all of the support from her family and friends and can't wait for her mom to read this bio. Avery has loved being a part of this company, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Ethan Strong (Panch)- Ethan is excited to be performing in his second stage role in the part of Vice Principal Douglas Panch in this production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. He is currently in his fourth year as a performance major and his fifth year as a CSU student, having also completed a major in graphic design. He would like to thank his fellow cast and crew for being so welcoming, and his family and friends for their ongoing support.

Adeline Sutherland (Rona Lisa Peretti and Co-Dance Captain) — Adie is a senior Theatre Major with a concentration in Musical Theatre. This will be the sixth production Adie has acted in at Colorado State. Past credits at CSU include Anna in *Spring Awakening*, Phantom Ensemble in *The Rocky Horror Show* and Lampito and Old Woman One in *Lysistrata*. She would like to say a big thank you to her friends and family for their continuous support and love.

India Thompson (Mother Understudy) — India is very excited to be a part of this production with it being her third show at CSU. She is currently a 3rd year musical theatre major. Some of her past credits include *Spring Awakening* (CSU Theatre), *Machinal* (CSU Theatre), and *On the Brink's Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (CSU Theatre). Thank you to her mom and friends for always supporting her dreams.

Tiernan Troyer (Chip)— Tiernan is filled with bittersweet, melancholic delight to be performing in his final CSU production— *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!* A senior double-major in Theatre Performance and Music with an emphasis on voice, his past credits at CSU include Prosecuting Lawyer in *Machinal*, Melchior in *Spring Awakening*, and Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show*. He'd like to thank his parents and his voice teacher, Dr. Asel, for all their support, and he'd like to thank his first and second grade spelling bees— at which he placed *2nd, two years in a row*— for teaching him the true meaning of pain from a young age.

Peter-Manuel Young (Dads/US Chip) — Peter is a Fourth-year performance major with a Creative Writing Minor. He goes by He/Him/His pronouns and lives in Denver, Colorado. Some past credits include Ned Weeks in *The Normal Heart* (CSU), Michael in *Tick Tick Boom* (Little Theatre of the Rockies), and Moritz in *Spring Awakening* (CSU). He would like to thank his family and friends for their unwavering support.

Eric Zertuche (Panch U/S) — Eric is grateful and excited to have the opportunity to participate in this production. His most recent CSU credits include Assistant Directing *Silent Sky* earlier this fall as well as playing Mickey in *The Normal Heart*, Dieter/Ensemble in *Spring Awakening*, and Phantom in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Eric would like to thank his castmates for the love and laughter and for welcoming him into their process. He'd also like to thank Academic Success Coordinator, Caitlin Kotnik, for her continued support on- and off-stage.

CSU THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR—Dr. Megan Lewis

PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR—Steven Workman

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER—Elise Kulovany

CUTTER/DRAPER—Rebecca Evans

MASTER ELECTRICIAN—Wes Halloran

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER—Matt Grevan

SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST—Karl Hermanson

HEAD OF PROPS—Melissa Centgraf

MASTER CARPENTER—Johnie Rankin

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR— Matt Bush

ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR—Katie Hughes

ASSOCIATE SCENIC DESIGNER— Ashley Moore

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER—Annecy Wood

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER—Henry Ledbetter, Alex Zega

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER—Joshua Moore

STUDENT PRODUCTION ELECTRICIAN—Spencer Ammon

WARDROBE HEAD—Annecy Wood

HAIR AND MAKE UP HEAD—Britney Juarez

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER—Anna Cordova, Alexandra Pruitt

ELECTRICS SHOP TEAM—Spencer Ammon, Katherine Barr, Carlos Gutierrez,
Caelum Janski, Danae Johnson, Jessie King, Katie Simonson

PAINT SHOP TEAM—Ruby Duka, Peyton Farnum, Josie Karet, Courtney LaFontano,
Dani Ranisate, Kelsey McKercher

COSTUME SHOP TEAM—Ethan Bowman, Jasper Day, Charlotte Daysh, Maddie Engeman,
Sherri Garrett, Callie Hartell, Helen Jewert, Nyssa Justis, Ethan Strong, Adie Sutherland

SCENIC SHOP TEAM—Ethan Bowen, Terran Flynn, Savannah Jackson, Robert Longo,
Ashley Moore, Alaina Noble, Thomas Ray, Ayanna Reshawn

PROPS TEAM—Amber Campbell, Kaleb Chaney, Annie Hennen, Avi Miller, Libby William

AUDIO TEAM—Rei Belmont, Lana Greeness, Patrick Middlebrook, Joshua Moore, Alex
Pruitt, Tessa Snyder, David Walters, Chandler Webb,

A1 Mixer and Sound Board Operator—David Walters

A2—Alex Zaga

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR— Cooper Cox

SPOT LIGHT OPERATOR—Amelia Hines, Rene Padilla

WARDROBE CREW—Val Garcia-Ferreya, Auden Henning, Zy Roberts

DECK CREW— Mac Castillo, Mason Chamberlain, Kaileen Gruber, Bolu Saliu

SPECIAL THANKS: SIGNARAMA

HELP SUPPORT CSU THEATRE
STUDENTS!

DONATE TO OUR
RAMFUNDER



By giving to the Theatre Department's Student Advisory Council, you not only benefit **scholarships** and **travel to nationwide competitions** but **grow our program** for years to come! Your contribution goes directly back to the hard-working students.

<https://ramfunder.colostate.edu/project/38825>

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

fairview

Mar. 1

OPENING



By Jackie Sibblies Drury

A GLORIOUS, SCARY REMINDER OF THE UNMATCHED POWER OF LIVE THEATER TO RATTLE, ROIL AND SHAKE US WIDE AWAKE.” —THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEASON SPONSOR:



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

MAR.

1

through

MAR.

8

THURS 3/6

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS

AT

7:30 p.m.

MATINEES

3/2 AND 3/3

AT

2:00 p.m.

STUDIO THEATRE / UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS
1400 REMINGTON STREET, FORT COLLINS, CO

GUEST DIRECTED BY

RAY BLACK

FOR TICKET AND STREAMING INFORMATION

[CSUARTSTICKETS.COM](https://www.csuarts.tickets.com)

NO CHARGE FOR CSU STUDENTS!

SHOW YOUR CSU RAMS PRIDE.



Your Pride Should Go Where You Do.

Show your pride year-round with our exclusive CSU Visa®

Debit Cards, free with any FNBO Checking Account.

Visit us online, or stop by a branch to open your account today.



The Bank
of CSU

fnbo.com/csu