

CARSON VALLEY COMMUNITY THEATRE
and
DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPT.
presents

The 25th Annual Putnam County
SPELLING BEE

Music & Lyrics by
WILLIAM FINN

Conceived by
REBECCA FIELDMAN

Book by
RACHEL SHEINKIN

Additional Material by
JAY REISS

Directed by
AMY SANDO

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



Friday & Saturday evenings
7:30 pm

March 18, 19 & 25, 26

Sunday Matinees
2:00 pm

March 20 & 27

CVIC Hall 1602 Esmeralda Avenue, Minden



Douglas High School Theatre Dept.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. (www.MTIShows.com)

**Any taping, filming, recording or broadcasting of this play
(musical or otherwise) is strictly prohibited.**

Board of Directors

Lucille Rao, President
Jeff Basa, Vice President
Diana Jones, Secretary
Ann Delahay, Treasurer
Michon Chandler, Director
Marti Creveling, Director

Production Crew

Producer	Barbara Eubanks
Director	Amy Sando
Musical Co-Director	Mark Porter
Musical Co-Director	Cameron Tolbert
Student Musical Co-Director	Freddie Baker
Choreographer	Francesca Melander
Warehouse Manager	Norris Edson
Construction Manager	Joe Harder
Stage Manager	Auryn Deem
Publicity	Marilyn Boettger
Lighting & Sound Design	Mike Haskins
Follow Spot Operator	Kyle Littlefield
Costumes	Michon Chandler
Props Manager	Carolyn Michiels
Graphic Designer	Ginger Winters
House Manager	Debbie Cole
Bar Manager	Judy Toenies

Special Thanks to:

Hilltop Community Church for the donated risers.
Kurt Hildebrandt and Sarah Drinkwine - Record Courier
Duane Hayward - Nugget Casinos (COD Billboard)

From the Director - Amy Sando

Two years ago in March, we had to deal with the heartache of canceling this show the week before we were to open, due to the lockdown. It was truly an awful moment for all of us involved, especially the actors who had put in 2 ½ months of rehearsal.

I fell in love with this musical the first time I saw it several years ago. Then I saw it again and again. I laughed out loud, teared up a few times and I grinned throughout.

This comedy musical has so much to keep you entertained: unique and lovable characters, witty one-liners, and touching moments. Although most of us have never competed in a spelling bee, most of us can relate to the intense pressure caused by expectations from others and ourselves. We've dealt with losing and winning. I hope we can all empathize with the characters in this show.

I want to thank Lucille Rao who approached me on collaborating with the Douglas High School Drama Dept. It has been a nice change to work with students on a musical. Thanks go to Mark Porter, Cameron Tolbert and Freddie Baker as our musical directors and vocal coaches. I want to thank Francesca Melander who came along beside me to choreograph this show and all the other students who have had to balance a school schedule, other extra-curricular activities and sports, and work schedules. I also would like to thank the adults in the cast, and the crew, for taking the time from their schedules and families to be in this production.

Sit back and enjoy the show. I hope that you, the audience, leave this show with more joy than you came in with and enjoy this production as much as I have.

CVCT Mission & Vision

As an all-volunteer, not-for-profit, performing arts theatre production company, Carson Valley Community Theatre's (CVCT) mission is to present theatrical productions for the entertainment and cultural education of the Carson Valley community and the surrounding area, to develop and showcase local talent, and to provide opportunities for residents of the region to participate in all aspects of live theatre production.

Carson Valley Community Theatre's vision is to be recognized for its high level of artistry and professionalism by consistently producing and performing quality theatrical and related events.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a musical comedy with music and lyrics by William Finn; playwright Rachel Sheinkin; conceived by Rebecca Feldman; and with additional material by Jay Reiss. The show centers on a fictional spelling bee, set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. The play was originally published in 2005.

Characters

(in order of appearance)

RONA	Jenn Keim
PANCH/DAN (Week #1)	Kyle Littlefield
PANCH/DAN (Week #2)	Cameron Tolbert
BARFEE	Freddie Baker
LEAF CONEYBEAR/CARL	Ryan Stockton
CHIP/JESUS	Zephyr Delgado
LOGAINE/SCHWARTZY/GRUBENIERRE	Amara Brown
MARCY	Jewely Palmer
OLIVE	Athena Gribbin
MIDGE	Francesca Melander

Place

Putnam County Middle School, Putnam County, USA
High School Auditorium

Time

The present

Bios



Amy Sando (Director) has been involved in theater most of her life with her first acting role in 3rd grade and her first directing job at 19. She has been on the stage before with CVCT as an actress in the *Savannah Sipping Society*, but this is her first time directing for them. She has worked with the Dakota Organization as both an actress and director. As head of the Theater Department at Douglas High School and Whittell High School before that, she has directed over 40 plays and musicals. In addition, she sponsors Thespian Troupe 990 and an Improv team at the high school, as well as a short film festival. Her favorite roles have been directing *Rabbit Hole* and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* twice. Amy wants to thank her past and present drama students who were the inspiration for directing this musical. She loves its humor and sentimental moments. She hopes you leave this show with more joy than you came in with.



Freddie Baker (Barfee) has been in two productions with Douglas High School (DHS). She acted in *Everyone Gets Abducted by Aliens* and she directed and acted in *Everyone Gets Eaten by Sharks*. This is Freddie's first time in a production with a theatre outside of school. She is the Drama Club President at DHS and the captain of the Comedy Improv Club. She also sings as a third year member of the Douglas Dynamics. Music and acting have always been her passion and serve as a way to express her intense emotions. After high school, Freddie wants to join the Nevada National Guard and serve part time while she works for her master's degree in musical performance and stage acting at UNR. After that, she plans to go to the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts or Julliard and see the East Coast. Her dream is to one day play a lead on Broadway. She'd like to thank her family for putting up with her very loud singing, and Amy Sando for giving her the opportunity to be in such a fun production.



Athena Gribbin (Olive) is a native Nevadan; her family has been residents of the Valley since 1950 and is a 2nd generation American on her mother's side. Athena's grandmother was born in Belfast, Ireland and migrated to the U.S. when she was six years old. Athena was born in Reno, but was raised in Carson Valley. Her artistic background includes the Douglas High School Dynamics, the DHS Marching Band. She also enjoys developing her artistic talents in ceramics and welding. Athena aspires to attend UNR to start her college journey to get a business degree and to one day own her own welding fabrication business. This is her first theatrical endeavor and she's so excited to be a part of this production! Athena would like to first thank her family. Her mom has supported her through all of her endeavors and she thanks her for giving her

most of her musical talents. Thanks for the genes Ma! Her stepdad is awesome and provides the family with more than enough. As far as her siblings go, she loves them. Now she would like to thank her friends. They are amazing and “thank you” for supporting me! Hope you all enjoy the show.



Jewely Palmer (Marcy) grew up in Gardnerville, but her family comes from the Netherlands. She likes to ski and has been doing so since she could walk. Jewely’s favorite subjects in school are math and English. She enjoys writing her own songs and playing the Kalimba. She loves putting together puzzles and playing Sudoku. Jewely’s parents have always been supportive and push her to be her best.



Cameron R. Tolbert (Panch/Dan/Co-Musical Director) has been acting with CVCT since his very first part as Charlie Brown in *You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown* back in 2017. Since then, Cameron has been a part of three more CVCT productions, two UNR opera productions, and the World Percussion Ensemble. Cameron is currently serving both Douglas and Washoe County school districts as a Middle and High School substitute teacher and is pursuing a Bachelor of Music Degree at UNR.



Ryan Stockton (Leaf Coneybear/Carl) took a serious liking to performing on stage in 2017 as part of the Imagination Syndicate--a theater group in Carson City. Later that year, he became hooked on theater, particularly musical theater, performing in the ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast*, as Ryan in *A Christmas Chaos*, as Bela Zangler in *Crazy for You* and in the ensemble in *Matilda*. In his spare time, Ryan takes tap dance classes at the Douglas County Community Center and plays games on Play Station. Ryan would one day like to give a shot at directing a musical. Ryan would like to give a special shout out to his niece and nephew, Sadie and Archie, and would like to dedicate his performance to his grandmother, Nancy Reynolds.



Zephyr Delgado (Chip/Jesus) is a 14-year-old Douglas High student who loves family, friends and video games. He has a passion for music and singing. This has always been a natural talent for Zephyr. Now, with the launching of this play, there may be an avenue for him in drama. He wants to thank his family for supporting him through the last couple of months, especially his mom and dad, Ashley, and JR Delgado.



Amara Brown (Logaine/Schwartz/Grubenierre) is a senior at Douglas High School. Music has been one of her passions since she was little. Amara was born and raised in Carson Valley. This production will be her entrance into the world of musical theatre. She has taken part in chorus since 6th grade and plans to continue to broaden her musical experiences in college. Amara couldn't be more excited to take part in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!*



Jennifer (Jenn) Keim (Rona) Woe is me!!! Jennifer's life is often in a state of pandemonium. As a busy working mom and wife, she doesn't always follow the rules, and, truth be told, she feels that she's not really that smart. But with the help of her two very best friends, the dictionary and her magic foot, she has moments of greatness. She attributes most of her accomplishments to the support of her husband, also known as the most interesting man in the world, and her two not-so-little-anymore kiddos. To Preston, Ethan, and Avva, I wouldn't be "me" without you.

Francesca Melander (Midge/Choreographer) was born and raised in Nevada, and was Nevada's 2nd place State Spelling Bee Champion in 2016 (exactly the placement she wanted because she didn't want to put in the work to go to the national bee). She has been in productions with many local theatre companies, including DHS Drama, Western Nevada Musical Theater Company, and the Kings of Reno; and has been dancing at local studios for ten years. In her free time, she likes to roller skate, embroider, read, knit, and explore the outdoors. She is so excited to be choreographing a show for the first time and so proud of everyone in this show for bringing the choreography to life.

Kyle Littlefield (Panch/Dan) has been seen in many productions at CVCT and PPI, including *The Underpants* (CVCT) and *Four Weddings and an Elvis* (PPI). He is a real trouper and a true friend to CVCT. He has saved our hide for the first week of this production by stepping into this role with less than two weeks to learn the lines and music. CVCT loves you Kyle! You rock!

Mark Porter (Musical Director) is currently in his first year as the band and choir teacher at Douglas High School. A Louisiana native, he recently graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor's of Music Education. Prior to his role as one of the musical directors for *Putnam County Spelling Bee*, he served as a pit musician for musicals such as *Curtains*, *Peter Pan*, *Shrek the Musical*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *The Little Mermaid*.

Thinking about getting involved? Please sign up at carsonvalleycommunitytheatre.org. We need help in all areas including fundraising, box office, stage hands, set construction and painting, props and publicity. Onstage and offstage, there is a job for everyone! Additionally, donations of any size are always welcome! Of course, bigger is always better!

Coming Attractions

At the CVIC Hall

July 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 - **Nonsense Second Coming**

Schedule subject to change

If you've enjoyed this show and want to keep up to date on future productions, please fill out an interest sheet at one of the front tables, or log on to our website and sign up to receive our emails at:

carsonvalleycommunitytheatre.org

Support

You can easily help support the arts in our community! Visit smile.amazon.com on your web browser and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. Choose CVCT as your charity and start shopping! To join AmazonSmile from the mobile app, open the app and find "settings" in the main menu. Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone. You can also choose CVCT to receive a percentage of your grocery shopping sales at Smith's by choosing us on their website or going to their customer service counter and requesting they add CVCT to your rewards card. Of course, there is always the good old-fashioned way to support us...write us a check or give us cash! Your donations go directly to all our shows and programs as we are an all-volunteer non-profit corporation!

YOUNG THESPIANS

The education of and outreach to children and the public are significant missions of the community theatre. CVCT works with the Douglas High School Music and Drama Departments to encourage participation on and off stage.



The Annex venue, located in the Copeland Cultural Arts Building, serves as an arts incubator for Carson Valley Community Theatre. It has been used by a wide variety of local artists for concerts, rehearsal space and as a location for classes such as: textile painting, stained/fused glass making, theatre improvisation and an on-going comedy workshop. The space has also

hosted a variety of concerts and performances, allowing local artists the chance to perform, practice and grow. The Annex is used as a rehearsal space for all CVCT activities and for Board meetings for CVCT and the Carson Valley Arts Council. The Annex is available for rent to the public and offers our area a low-cost, easily-accessible location for a wide variety of activities. We are proud to offer this location and to help the artists of our area grow and explore their potential. For information and rates contact: cvctheatre@gmail.com