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The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics by William Finn
Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman
Additional Material by Jay Reiss

Directed by Bernie Schuneman
Music Directed by Nika Plattos

Thur-Sat, Sept 9, 10, 11 at 8 pm
Thur-Sat, Sept 16, 17, 18 at 8 pm
Matinees, Sept 12, 18, 19 at 2 pm

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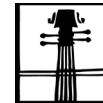
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Scandinavian Splendor

Saturday, October 2, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
This concert is supported in part by WNIU/WNU.

Halloween Concerts

Saturday, October 30, 2010, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. - Free Admission
This concert is supported in part by Prairie View Dental of Sycamore.

Winter Wonderland - Holiday Pops Concert

Saturday, December 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
This concert is supported in part by the George & Betty Dutton Foundation.

The Arthur D. Montzka Young Artists Concerto Competition Concert

Saturday, March 5, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
This concert is supported in part by the Mary E. Stevens Concert Trust.

The "Titan" & the "Jupiter" Symphonies: The First & Last of Two Legendary Composers

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
This concert is supported in part by the Ideal Industries Foundation with a generous gift from Jean Judy.

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COMING SOON

PUMPKIN FEST COSTUME CONTEST

Stage Coach Players will hold its annual Children's Costume Contest and wagon ride during this October's Pumpkin Fest Parade in Sycamore. The contest is open for children up to age 13.

Trophies will be awarded to the best costumes in three age ranges, and awards will be given to all kids. To show off all of their fabulous costumes, kids and their parents will be able to ride in the wagon owned by Lake Run Farm in Batavia.

The costume contest will be held at the Ideal Industries parking lot in Sycamore, located at the corner of Becker Place and Park Avenue, at noon on Sunday, October 31. The parade begins at 1pm. For questions, please contact Mandy at scpworkshops@aol.com.

CHRISTMAS CAROL AUDITIONS

Auditions for Stage Coach Players annual production of the holiday classic, A Christmas Carol, will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 11 and 12, from 1 to 4 pm and on Monday, September 13, from 7 to 9 pm. Auditions will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 511 Russell Road in DeKalb.

The play was adapted from the Charles Dickens' novel by Stage Coach members Patrick Spradlin and G. Scott Morris.

Children of all ages are welcome to audition. Rich Bryan of Sandwich is directing. For more information about auditions or any Stage Coach Players production, visit our website at www.stagecoachers.com.

IMPROVISATIONAL WORKSHOP

Stage Coach Players will be holding its first improvisational workshop this fall. In this six-part "crash course" into improv, participants will learn thinking on the fly, forming new characters, and building scenes through various games and exercises. The class will meet on October 10, 12, 19, 21, 26, 28, and will culminate in an improv performance in front of a live audience at Stage Coach Theater on Saturday, October 30.

Matthew Aldis, a founding member of GreenRoom, based in Elgin, will be leading the workshop. Registration is open to anyone 16 years of age or older. For more information, or if you are interested in participating in this fabulously comic endeavor, contact Tim at scpworkshops@aol.com or visit Stage Coach Players website at www.stagecoachers.com.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When it began to look as if we might actually get the rights to *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, I talked to dozens of people about it. I was amazed at the response! After all, at its most basic level, it's simply a show about some kids at their local spelling bee, right? But everyone had their own spelling bee story. These were stories of the inequity of the format, the unbelievable good luck of the winner, the unfairness of their own bad luck, and the inevitable sad ending as someone else walked off with the trophy.

And here, all these years, I had thought that I was the only one who had been scarred emotionally by the process. Granted, it was over forty years ago (Bradford Grade School, 1969), but dang ...it still stings! That's what makes this such a compelling story. There can only be one winner at each Spelling Bee, and the rest of us walk away empty-handed.

This show follows six young misfits who find out the hard way that "life is random and unfair," and that it IS true that "the very best spellers don't necessarily win." That's what we all hold onto, isn't it? We might truly BE the very best speller. It was just the luck of the draw, our words were MUCH harder, and the words given to the winner were incredibly easy in comparison. We knew all of THOSE words!!!

These thoughts are hard enough for those of us who have already lived through the pain, and harder still for the "kids" in this show who are struggling with them for the very first time. We watch as the nasally-challenged science nerd, the overly confident Boy Scout, the perfectionist newcomer, the girl with two dads, the home-schooled earth child, and the neglected latch-key kid learn some hard lessons about life through the Spelling Bee. But relax, this is a musical comedy, not a Greek tragedy, and those very struggles are what should have you laughing right along with us, all the way to the end.

BERNIE SCHUNEMAN, Director

Bernie has been a Stage Coach member since 1989, and has acted, directed, built sets, and worked backstage in any number of capacities. He was last seen on stage as Tevye in this year's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, his dream role come true. Other favorite roles include the MC in *Cabaret*, Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and R.P. McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Bernie has served on the Stage Coach board as treasurer, board member, and president. He received the Stage Coach of the Year award in 1995, and the Lucille Aikins Lifetime Achievement award in 2009. An NIU employee since 1982, Bernie lives in Sycamore with his very lovely, understanding, and supportive wife, Nancy, and his darling daughter, Sara. He is absolutely thrilled to be able to work with Sara again, their first time on stage together in eighteen years.

Best of Luck!



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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
The action takes place in one act, in the Putnam County Grade School gymnasium.
Please note that there will be no intermission.

The Cast

Rona Lisa Perretti	Kim Moorman
Chip Tolentino	Jeff Heider
Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre	Callie Johnson
Leaf Coneybear	Kevin Gum
William Barfée	Ryan Morton
Marcy Park	Lisa Silberhorn
Olive Ostrovsky	Sara Schuneman
Douglas Panch	Greg Anderson
Mitchell M. Mahoney	Vicente Vasquez

The Crew

Director	Bernie Schuneman
Assistant Director / Stage Manager	Jan Booth
Musical Director	Nika Plattos
Choreographers	Elise Johnson, Kristin Taylor
Pit Band	Chris Komos, Nika Plattos, Denny Vaupel, Jimmy Zucker
Properties	JoAnne Landshaft
Set Design	Barb Kolb
Costume Design	Laurie Hunyard
Lighting Design	Mark Hunyard
Sound Design	Tom Grady
Sound Operators	Mark Hunyard, Bernie Schuneman
Light Board Operator	Barb Kolb

Set Construction

Greg Anderson, David Booth, Jan Booth, Bob Cain, Kevin Gum, Jeff Heider,
Barb Kolb, Sam Kolb, Aaron Moorman, Kimberly Moorman, Ryan Morton, Dave Pearson,
Nika Plattos, Bernie Schuneman, Sara Schuneman, Lisa Silberhorn, Denny Vaupel

Special Thanks

David Booth, Huntley Middle School, Immanuel Lutheran Church,
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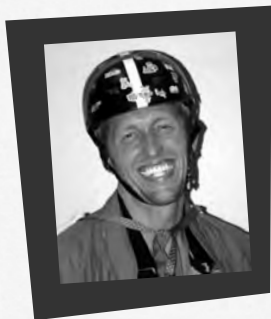
CAST BIOS

GREG ANDERSON as Douglas Panch

Greg is happy to be in another of Bernie Schuneman's productions. He previously worked with Bernie in *Noises Off* and *Don't Dress for Dinner*, and was last seen at SCP as Prosecutor Horace Gilmer in 2009's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Greg is a former Stage Coach president and board member, and is currently in charge of fundraising. Greg was named Stage Coacher of the Year (SCOTY) in 2004. He is Director of Career Opportunities & Development and an adjunct faculty member at NIU College of Law.



KEVIN GUM as Leaf Coneybear / Carl Grubenierre



In the sixth grade, Kevin placed fifth in the Porta Middle School spelling bee, eliminated on the word "wagging." Fortunately, he now teaches high school math and not spelling! Kevin is appearing in his third SCP production, having performed in *Hello Dolly* as Cornelius and in *The Music Man* as Harold Hill. He has also worked with the Springfield Muni Opera, Summer Place Theater, and Tempo Players. Kevin thanks his family and friends for their infinite love and support, and hopes you enjoy the show!

CREW BIOS

JAN BOOTH, Assistant Director / Stage Manager

Jan has been involved with SCP for many years, most recently appearing on stage as Clairee in last summer's *Steel Magnolias*. Other stage credits include *Stepping Out*, *Rumors*, *Murder on the Run*, *Quilters*, and *Postmortem*. Jan has worked backstage in many capacities, has served on the Stage Coach Board of Directors, and has received the SCOTY award. When not at the theater, Jan enjoys spending time with her husband, David, her four dogs and three cats, and her fifth grade students.

NIKA PLATTOS, Music Director

Nika has enjoyed directing music for her second Stage Coach production. She has been involved in many shows; some of her favorites include *The Music Man*, *Nunsense*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Footloose*. Nika teaches general music at Kaneland's McDole and John Shields elementary schools. When she's not teaching, Nika sings with the Dekalb Festival Chorus, and spends her summers as the music director for the Fox Country Players Fine Arts Academy.

ELISE JOHNSON, Co-Choreographer

Elise has worked with SCP since the summer of 2004, performing, choreographing and directing. She was last seen on stage playing Nurse Jane in this season's production of *November*. Elise recently graduated from Northern Illinois University with bachelor degrees in Theatre Studies and English Education. She currently works for Interlochen Center for the Arts in Interlochen, Michigan.

KRISTIN TAYLOR, Co-Choreographer

Kristin is enjoying her sixth choreographing experience with SCP, having worked most recently on *The Music Man*. In addition to choreographing with SCP, she and Elise have enjoyed working with the DeKalb High School theatre and their award-winning *capella* groups. Kristin works for the DeKalb School District and has four children. She sends special thanks to Elise for being a fun and inspirational co-choreographer.

To Cast and Crew: Your Word is A-W-E-S-O-M-E!!!

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VICENTE VASQUEZ as Mitchell M. Mahoney / Dan Schwartz / Olive's Dad

Vicente is thrilled to be making his SCP debut with the Bee! An Iowa native, he currently lives in Chicago as he pursues his BFA in graphic design at Columbia College Chicago. Previous roles include Sgt. Hing, Matt Galloway and others in *The Laramie Project*; Ripper in Disney's *High School Musical*; Eugene in *Grease*; Jack in *The Stinky Cheese Man*; and the Ethnic Father in *South Dakota*, a film by Lions Gate Films.

Vicente thanks his family and friends for their love and support.



JEFF HEIDER as Chip Tolentino / Leaf's Brother / Jesus

Jeff is glad to be back at Stage Coach! Previous roles include Jack in *Into the Woods*, Albert in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and his all-time favorite, Smudge in SCP's *Forever Plaid*. A former skipper on Walt Disney's *Jungle Cruise*, he now works as a bank teller in Geneva. Jeff's performance is dedicated to the memory of Skipper Joe Daversa, who "encouraged me to get back on the stage and convinced me I really can be funny."

Jeff thanks his relatives and friends for their constant encouragement.



NOTICE: Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre. *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. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY, 10019, Phone: 212-541-4684, Fax: 212-397-4684, www.MTIShows.com. The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

CALLIE JOHNSON as Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre / Leaf's Mom

Callie last appeared at Stage Coach as Shelby Eatenton in *Steel Magnolias*, and recently played the Witch in Genoa Community Showcase's *Into The Woods*. She is an alumni of Genoa-Kingston High School, and currently attends Columbia College Chicago as a musical theatre major. Callie has appeared as Hunyak the Hungarian in *Chicago*, Sadie Day in *Essential Self-Defense*, and as an ensemble member in Columbia's main stage shows, Maxim Gorky's

Summerfolk and Michael John LaChiusa's *The Wild Party*.




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KIM MOORMAN as Rona Lisa Peretti / Olive's Mom



Kim was last seen at Stage Coach as Dolly in *Hello Dolly* and as a Caroler in *A Christmas Carol*. She recently directed *Alice in Wonderland* at Huntley Middle School, where she teaches choir. Previous roles include Lady Beckonsfield in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Marion in *The Music Man*, Laurie in *Oklahoma*, and Aunt Nettie in *Carousel*. Kim has extensive singing experience with her music degrees from NIU. In 2006, she was part of *Voci d'estate*, a summer program in Verona, Italy for emerging operatic singers. Kim lives in Oswego with her husband, Aaron. She thanks her family and friends for their love and support.

SARA SCHUNEMAN as Olive Ostrovsky / Leaf's Sister



Sara started at Stage Coach at age seven in *Cabaret*, and has worked mostly backstage since then. Favorite shows that she has worked on include *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *The Moon is Down*, and *Forever Plaid*. Sara lives in Sycamore with her border collie, Moses. She thanks the wonderful cast and crew, her voice teacher, Kerri, her mom, Nancy, and her brother, Matt, for their love and encouragement, and her dad, Bernie, for believing in her and instilling in her a love of theatre. Sara dedicates this performance to her beloved friend, Ryan, who could always make her laugh.

RYAN MORTON as William Barfée / Leaf's Dad

Ryan is making his Stage Coach debut as this unique character. His favorite previous roles include Valjean in *Les Miserables*, the Baker in *Into the Woods*, and the title role in *Oliver*. Ryan's love for acting led him to radio, where he can be heard on WSPY and WSQR as their News Director. He majored in journalism at Northwestern University. Ryan feels incredibly lucky to have found Stage Coach and looks forward to many more productions. He thanks his family and friends for their support and advice. He also thanks the bullies in grammar school for preparing him for this role.



LISA SILBERHORN as Marcy Park / Leaf's Sister


Lisa most recently played Hippolyta in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Storefront Shakespeare, and the Ghost of Christmas Past in SCP's *A Christmas Carol*. Previous roles have included Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Lisa holds a BA in music from North Central College and serves as director of vocal and general music at Clinton Rosette Middle School. When she's not teaching, acting or singing, Lisa takes lessons in Egyptian belly dancing and is part of "Shakti," a student troupe through Emergence Dance Theatre.




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