

FOOTHILL MUSIC THEATRE

PRESENTS

THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
PUTNAM COUNTY

SPELLING  
BEE

MUSIC & LYRICS BY

WILLIAM FINN

BOOK BY

RACHEL SHEINKIN

CONCEIVED BY

REBECCA FELDMAN

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY

JAY REISS

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



February 27 – March 15

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022



PHOTOS: DAVID ALLEN



## W-E-L-C-O-M-E

Welcome to Foothill Music Theatre's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, we couldn't be H-A-P-P-I-E-R to have you join us at the Bee! As we step into this fun and funny journey with each of the spellers as they try and win the Bee, we are also reminded of our own insecurities and how we attempt to navigate them. Our spellers are unique and determined, each finding their own path to success in charming, awkward, heart wrenching, and hilarious ways. Change and personal growth are life's journey for each of us. And, we can always be open to seeing the champion in everyone, sometimes the person we least expect.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is based on the play *C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E* by Rebecca Feldman, book writer Rachel Sheinkin and lyricist/composer William Finn

who have crafted a truly playful evening in the theatre, with a select few audience volunteers participating in the Bee. With their addition to the story, each of us can truly identify with those awkward moments life can bring, whether as an adolescent or an adult.

Thank you for supporting FMT and live theatre. Enjoy! We're glad you're here.

### **MILISSA CAREY**

Director





**BOGDANIC**



**BREWER**



**BROOK**



**BYLSMA**



**COPE**

# THE CAST



**FRIEDMAN**



**GALLARDO**



**LANNIN**



**LEE**



**LIU**



**MACDONALD**



**McDONALD**



**MOMBOISSE**



**MURRAY**



**NINO**



**PAGEE**



**REYES**



**WAMBU**

Foothill Music Theatre

presents

# 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

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

## CAST

Olive's Dad, Dan Dad ..... Milovan Bogdanic  
Vice Principal Douglas Panch ..... Doug Brook  
Rona Lisa Peretti ..... Sarah Bylsma  
Leaf Coneybear, Carl Dad ..... Andrew Cope  
Marcy Park ..... Crystal Gallardo  
Chip Tolentino ..... Ryan Liu  
Olive Ostrovsky ..... Mackenzie Macdonald  
William Barfee ..... Daniel Rees McDonald  
Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre ..... Melissa Momboisse  
Midge Mahoney, Jesus ..... Naomi Murray  
Olive's Mom ..... Lucy Nino

## UNDERSTUDIES & SWINGS

William Barfee ..... Milovan Bogdanic  
Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre, Olive's Mom ..... Ayanna Brewer  
Olive's Dad ..... Andrew Cope  
Leaf Coneybear ..... Liran Friedman  
Olive Ostrovsky ..... Katie Lannin  
Marcy Park ..... Joy Lee  
Rona Lisa Peretti, Jesus ..... Lucy Nino  
Chip Tolentino, Carl Dad ..... Michael Pagee  
Mitch Mahoney, Dan Dad ..... Alexander Reyes  
Olive Ostrovsky, Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre (Swing) ..... Sharon Wambu

**SETTING:** The Putnam County High School Gymnasium



## CAST

**MACKENZIE MACDONALD (Olive Ostrovsky)** is ecstatic to be making her FMT debut as Olive in *Spelling Bee!* Recent shows include *9 to 5* (Ensemble/Doralee u/s - performed), *Legally Blonde* (Whitney/Vivienne Kensington u/s), *Cruel Intentions: The 90s Musical* (Ensemble/Cecile Caldwell u/s, Ray of Light Theatre), *Something Rotten!* (Hillbarn Theatre), and *Be More Chill* (Chloe Valentine, Vanderbilt University). Fun fact - she went to an all-girls high school where she had the unique opportunity of playing Chip Tolentino in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, so she's excited to be back in the show 12 years later playing a totally different character. Next up, you can see her as Karen Smith in *Mean Girls* at Ray of Light Theatre. Happy spelling! @kenziritotheburrito on IG

**ANDREW COPE (Leaf Coneybear)** is delighted to return to Foothill Music Theatre! He previously performed at the Lohman playing Emmett Forrest in *Legally Blonde*. Other recent theater credits include *Jersey Boys* (Bob Gaudio, Palo Alto Players), *Urinetown* (Bobby Strong, South Bay Musical Theatre), *Next to Normal* (Henry, Ray of Light), *Something Rotten!* (Nigel Bottom) and *Assassins* (Samuel Byck, Hillbarn Theatre), and *Elf* (Buddy, Los Altos Stage Company). He previously participated in a spelling bee in sixth grade, where he was eliminated in the first round by misspelling "Giraffe."

**MELISSA MOMBOISSE (Logaine Schwartzandgrubenierre)** is thrilled to be back at FMT after appearing as Brooke Wyndham in *Legally Blonde* and Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Other favorites include: *Funny Girl* (Fanny Brice, Throckmorton Theatre), *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles, Los Altos Stage Company), *Ruthless* (Tina Denmark, New Conservatory Theatre Center), *Once* (Girl, Tabard Theatre),

*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Cynthia Weil, CMTSJ Marquee), *Newsies* (Katherine), *Anything Goes* (Hope Harcourt) and *Gypsy* (June, Hillbarn Theatre), *Singin' in the Rain* (Kathy Selden) and *No, No, Nanette* (Nanette, South Bay Musical Theatre), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet Van De Graaff) and *Something Rotten!* (Portia, WVLO Musical Theatre Company). [www.MelissaMomboisse.com](http://www.MelissaMomboisse.com)

**RYAN LIU (Chip Tolentino)** is thrilled to be making his return to FMT after playing Jack in *Into the Woods* in 2023. Other favorite credits include *Head Over Heels* (Musidorus, City Lights Theater Company), *Pippin* (Pippin, West Valley Light Opera), *A Little Night Music* (Henrik Egerman, South Bay Musical Theatre), and *Sweeney Todd* (Anthony Hope, Sunnyvale Community Players). He also enjoys playing piano and has performed in multiple community theater pits, including *Jesus Christ Superstar* (SCP) and *Matilda* (Palo Alto Players). By day, he works as a software engineer in San Francisco. When he's not performing or at work, Ryan enjoys solving puzzles, cooking, and baking.

**CRYSTAL GALLARDO (Marcy Park)** is buzzing to make her third appearance with Foothill Music Theatre, having previously appeared as a Delta Nu/Ensemble in *Legally Blonde* and most recently as Shelby in *The Prom*. Her other recent credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (Ensemble, Sunnyvale Community Players) and *The Wizard of Oz* (Tree/Ensemble, Palo Alto Players). Offstage, Crystal works as a dental assistant at Mowry Dental and speaks six languages in her spare time. She is endlessly grateful for the love and support of her family, friends, and boyfriend!

**DANIEL REES MCDONALD (William Barfee)** is excited to be making his Foothill Music Theatre debut alongside this talented cast! Most recently, he appeared in *Annie*

at Palo Alto Players. Other previous credits include: **Legally Blonde** (Warner Huntington III, West Valley Light Opera), **Pippin** (Lewis, West Valley Light Opera), and **Big River** (Huckleberry Finn, Cypress College). He extends his heartfelt gratitude to his husband, family, kitties, friends, and students (along with their families) for their constant love and support.

**SARAH BYLSMA (Rona Lisa Peretti)** (she/her) is delighted to return to FMT in this production of **Spelling Bee**. Select favorite credits include **Annie** (Miss Hannigan, Berkeley Playhouse), **Legally Blonde** (Paulette, FMT), **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** (Mrs. Gloop), **School of Rock** (Patty), **Mary Poppins** (Bird Woman), **Kinky Boots** (Pat), **Matilda** (Mrs. Wormwood) and **Mamma Mia!** (Rosie, CMTSJ). She obtained a B.A. in Theater with a dance minor from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. During the day, she works full time as a senior account executive at Heffernan Walton Insurance Services and she is the parent to her lovable fluff child, Winnie. She hopes you have a wonderful time at the Bee!

**NAOMI MURRAY (Midge Mahoney)** is very E-X-C-I-T-E-D to be back at Foothill for The Bee! A CA native, Naomi's been involved with many productions throughout the Bay Area. A few past favorite credits include **12th Night the Musical** (Olivia, LASC), **Once on This Island** (Mama Euralie, Pear Theatre), Ken Ludwig's **The Game's Afoot** (Madge Giesel, CLTC), and **Miss You Like Hell** (Pearl, CLTC & Teatro Vision). Naomi holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University, with a minor in Musical Theatre. All her love to Hubby and Pip <3

**DOUG BROOK (Vice Principal Douglas Panch)** Past Foothill credits: **On the Twentieth Century**, **On the Town**, **She Loves Me**, **How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying**, **Fiddler on the Roof**. Doug recently appeared in **Urinetown** (Officer Lockstock, SBMT), **Fiddler on the Roof** (Tevye, Lyric Theatre; Lazar Wolf, PAP), Ken Ludwig's **A Comedy of Tenors** (Tito Merelli, Lighthouse), **Kinky Boots** (Mr. Price, CLTC), and the one-man play **Shylock** (SVS). He's directed many musicals and plays, most recently **Brigadoon** and **Big River** (SBMT), and **[title of show]** (LASC, TBA Awards finalist). Past Executive Director of Silicon Valley Shakespeare and Artistic Director

of Theatre Chevruta. He's written twenty plays staged nationwide, including two plays off-off-Broadway. An Alabama native and Dramatists Guild member, he studied writing and theatre at Carnegie Mellon University. [brookwrite.com](http://brookwrite.com)

**MILOVAN BOGDANIC (Barfee u/s, Olive's Dad, Dan Dad)** (he/him) is excited to return to Foothill Music Theatre after appearing in **The Prom**. Milovan has performed in 10 choirs, three states, and three countries. His most recent musical was **Little Shop of Horror** (Sunnyvale Community Players). Previous musical credits include **Guys and Dolls: In Concert** (Benny Southstreet, Sunnyvale Community Players), and **The Drowsy Chaperone** (Ensemble, West Valley Light Opera). Milovan is very happy to be a part of FMT's production of **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**. He's had a great time working with the cast and is excited to showcase the work they've put in to make the show great.

**AYANNA BREWER (Logainne u/s)** is elated to be working with FMT for the first time! She had the best time working with her friends and making new ones while doing this bucket list show. Other credits include **Cinderella** (Gabrielle, Hillbarn Theatre), **All Shook Up** (Lorraine, WVLO), and **Ragtime** (Sarah, Lyric Theatre). She would like to thank her family and all of her best friends for always being a part of her fan club!

**LIRAN FRIEDMAN (Leaf u/s)** is very excited for his first FMT show! He loved musical theater as a kid, but only started his theater performance journey about a year and a half ago. He has been loving it ever since! His favorite credits are **Almost, Maine**, **Funhorne**, and **Shrek: The Musical**. As he became a part of the community, he found a new love for musicals. His current favorite shows are **Parade**, **Hadestown**, and **The Addams Family**. He also has an abundance of other hobbies, such as rock climbing, drumming, playing the piano, gymnastics, and many more!

**KATIE LANNIN (Olive u/s)** is thrilled to be in her first show at Foothill Music Theatre! You may have seen her recently in **Little Shop of Horrors** (SCP) or **The Sound of Music** (SCP). Katie has loved singing since she was little and started her theater career by performing Baby Shark for her

family. Offstage, Katie manages a psychiatry practice and loves cuddling with Squishy (her cat), scuba diving, and baking. Katie is so grateful to the cast/crew for their hard work and dedication. Much appreciation to her amazing friends, family, and coworkers. Special thank you to her parents for being her number one supporters! Enjoy the show!

**JOY LEE (Marcy u/s)** is excited to be performing with FMT for the first time. This has been an incredible learning opportunity for her. Joy has dedicated her time to talking about Asian visibility and representation on stage and screen on TikTok. Follow her @joymandalee if you feel so inclined! She hopes you enjoy tonight's performance.

**LUCY NINO (Olive's Mom/Rona u/s)** is thrilled to make her FMT debut. Previous credits include *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Phoebe D'Ysquith, SVCT), *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna, SVCT), *Rent* and *Urinetown* (Ensemble, SBMT), and *A Little Night Music* (female Liebeslieder u/s, SBMT). A graduate of SCU, she sang with SCU's Wind Ensemble and Orchestra as a winning soloist in the Concerto Aria competition. Lucy is currently the Director of Development at Story Force Entertainment. Sending giggles to her family and friends.

**MICHAEL PAGEE (Chip u/s)** is delighted to take part in his third production with

Foothill Music Theatre. Previous credits include *The Prom* (FMT), *Rumors* (Ken Gorman), *Honk!* (Ugly), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat* (Simeon).

**ALEXANDER REYES (Midge/Mitch Mahoney u/s)** is beyond excited to be part of this production. This is his second performance with Foothill. Previous credits include *The Prom* (Ensemble), *Annie* (Ensemble, Palo Alto Players), *Sanctuary City* (Henry u/s, More Más Marami Arts), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (West Valley Light Opera). Alexander is grateful to work with such an experienced and talented cast, and, in all honesty, he can't believe he has this opportunity. He aims to turn this into a full on career and can't wait for what's next. Now, sit back, have a laugh, and cheer for these Spelling savants. Fun Fact - this show debuted the year Alexander was born.

**SHARON WAMBU (Logainne/Olive Swing)** is extremely excited to be working on her first production at Foothill Music Theatre! Some of her theater credits include *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Cinderella), *Into the Woods* (Witch), and *Postmortem* (Body, world premiere). She is a recent graduate of Stanford University, and works as a software engineer when she is not singing, acting, or dancing. Sharon would like to send a big thank you to her family, friends, and teachers for their love and support.



## CREATIVE TEAM

**REBECCA FELDMAN (Conceiver)** is the conceiver of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* for which she won a Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk and Tony Nomination for Best Musical. She directed its world premiere at Barrington Stage Company in the summer of 2004. Rebecca is Associate Producer on *Transparent, the Musical Finale* and served as Staff Writer on the finale as well. She is currently developing an episodic drama with Big Kid Pictures, called *La Coyote*, which was selected to the WeForShe's 2019 Writeher List. She is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab as well as the AFI Directing Workshop for Women where she won the Jean Firstenburg Award for Best Short. Her short films include, *My First Time Driving* (AFI Jean Firstenburg Award, Best Short at Lake Arrowhead Film Fest, Best of Shorts at Outfest), *A/V Club* (TV Pilot, NYTVF), *Uber Alice* (Woodstock Film Fest), *Dead Cat* (Producer, Tribeca Film Fest) and *Irving* (Official Selection Rhode Island Film Fest, USA Film Fest, Ft. Lauderdale Film Fest, Atlanta Jewish Film Fest).

**JAY REISS (Additional Material)** is a playwright. He is a Julliard graduate and provided additional material to the book for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Reiss appeared in the original workshops, Off-Broadway cast, and Broadway cast of the musical as Vice Principal Douglas Panch.

**WILLIAM FINN (Music/Lyrics)** Mr. Finn was the writer and composer of *Falsettos*, for which he received two Tony Awards, Best Book of a Musical (with James Lapine) and Best Original Score. He also wrote and composed *In Trousers, March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland* (Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, two Los Angeles Drama Critic's Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, the Lucille Lortel Award, and Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition). Mr. Finn wrote the lyrics to Graciela Daniele's *Tango Apasionado* (music by the great Astor Piazzolla) and, with Michael Starobin, the music to Lapine's version of *The Winter's Tale*. His musical, *Romance in Hard Times*, was presented at the Public Theater. He wrote *Painting You for Love's Fire*, a piece commissioned and performed by the Acting Company, based on Shakespeare's sonnets. For

television, Mr. Finn provided the music and lyrics for the Ace Award-winning HBO cartoon *Ira Sleeps Over, Tom Thumb and Thumbelina, Pokey Little Puppy's First Christmas*, and, with Ellen Fitzhugh, two Brave Little Toaster cartoons. Mr. Finn wrote for Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, and The New Yorker. A graduate of Williams College where he was awarded the Hutchinson Fellowship for Musical Composition, Finn taught a weekly master class at the NYU Tisch Graduate Program in Musical Theatre Writing. Other projects include *Elegies, A Song Cycle* (Lincoln Center) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, which ran on Broadway, and has been produced nationally and internationally, and is currently running off-Broadway, as well.

**RACHEL SHEINKIN (Book)** Broadway: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Tony, Drama Desk awards). Off Broadway: *Striking 12* (Lucille Lortel nomination). Off-Off: *Serenade*. Regional: *Little House on the Prairie* (Guthrie), *Sleeping Beauty Wakes* (Center Theater Group, Los Angeles Ovation Award), *Blood Drive* (London). Residencies, fellowships, commissions include: Eugene O'Neill National Theater Center, Baryshnikov Dance Foundation, MacDowell Colony, Manhattan Theatre Club, Deaf West, McCarter Theatre, Playwrights Horizons. Rachel is a volunteer mentor for TDF's Open Doors program, a visiting instructor at Yale School of Drama, and adjunct faculty member of NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program.

**MILISSA CAREY (Director)** (she/her) joined the Foothill faculty in 2003 and teaches in both the Theatre and Music Departments. Collaborating with this terrific creative team and talented cast on this delightful show about finding the champion in everyone. A few of the many productions she has directed for Foothill Music Theatre include the two last big hits *The Prom* and *Legally Blonde*, plus last winter's big new adaptation of *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Into The Woods*, *Violet*, *Sunday in The Park With George*, *Shrek!*, *Spring Awakening*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *South Pacific*, *Side Show*, *All Shook Up*, *The Sound of Music*, *Working*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *She Loves Me*, *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Bullets Over Broadway* *The Musical* and the intrepid production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Carey has directed projects at RADA (The Royal Academy of

Dramatic Arts in London), the American Conservatory Theater M.F.A. Program, the International Vocal Artists Academy Austria and many Bay Area companies. An AEA actor, she has performed principal roles with many Bay Area companies, including TheatreWorks, Center Repertory Theatre of Walnut Creek, San Jose Repertory Theatre, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, CentralWorks, and 42nd Street Moon. She was in the cast of the 25th Anniversary Broadway National Tour of *Evita* under the direction of Hal Prince.

### **SARAH BYLSMA (Choreographer)**

(she/her) couldn't be more excited to be returning to this side of the "curtain" after choreographing FMT's *The Prom* last year. Previously she appeared as Paulette in FMT's *Legally Blonde*. She is a Bay Area native who grew up singing and dancing. Sarah obtained a B.A. in Theater with a minor in Dance a B.A. from Millikin University in Decatur, IL. She has taught dance and choreographed for various studios, competition teams, theaters and organizations for the past 20+ years. Some other recent choreographic credits include *Waitress*, *Frozen*, *Rent*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Kinky Boots*, and *SpongeBob the Musical*. When she is not performing, creating or teaching, she works full-time as a senior account executive at Heffernan Walton Insurance Services and loves a good book. She hopes you enjoy the show!

### **NICOLAS VALDEZ (Music Director)**

Originally from Northern California, Nicolas (he/him) is an accomplished music director, pianist, and speech-language pathologist. He has collaborated with renowned theatre companies across North America, accompanied masterclasses for Tony and Grammy Award winners, and performed with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra as a principal pianist. As an educator, he has served on the faculty of the Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University in St. Louis, music directing main stage productions while also teaching song study courses. Nicolas holds both a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from Fontbonne University and a Bachelor of Music in Music Direction for Musical Theatre from Webster University. He completed a fellowship in speech-language pathology at the USC Voice Center in Los Angeles, CA, specializing in voice, upper airway, and swallowing disorders.

He currently practices at California Pacific Voice and Swallowing with a passion for rehabilitating the injured singing voice and providing gender-affirming voice care.

**LYNN GRANT (Scenic Designer)** is grateful to be working again with Foothill Musical Theatre. She has been a set designer in the South Bay since 2009. She studied scenic design here at Foothill College and then received her MFA from San Francisco State University. She has designed productions such as *Shrek*, *It Can't Happen Here*, *All Shook Up*, and *The Tavern* at Foothill. For Palo Alto Children's Theater, Lynn has designed *Honk!*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat*, *Seussical*, *Into the Woods*, and more. At SFSU, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *In the Next Room*.

### **Y. SHARON PENG (Costume Designer)**

is a guild member of IATSE Local 706 and an alum of FIDM. Recent stage costumes include *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Perseverance Theatre, AK), *Cabaret* (Los Altos Stage Company, CA), and *Chriskirkpatrickmas* (Seven Dials Playhouse, United Kingdom). Sharon is a principal wig and makeup artist and foreperson at San Francisco Opera, Local 706 House Head at Opera San José, and resident costumes, wig and makeup designer for Opera Parallèle. Recent wig and makeup designs for stage include *The Shining* (Opera Tampa, FL), *Come Back to the Five & Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean* (Theatreworks, CA), and *Harvey Milk Reimagined* (Opera Parallèle, CA). ysharonpeng.net

### **PAMILA Z. GRAY (Lighting Designer)**

(she/her) has been a working designer for thirty years, designing over 300 musicals, opera, plays and industrials. Her designs have been seen in Los Angeles, Portland, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Sacramento, Ft. Lauderdale, Colorado Springs, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco Bay area. Her work includes the world premieres of *My Antonia*, *Kept*, and *Baby Taj*, for TheatreWorks, *Western Star* for CLO of South Bay Cities, *Metamorphosis: Junior Year* for Palo Alto Children's Theatre, the American premiere of *The Three Musketeers* for American Musical Theatre of San Jose, and the West Coast Premiere of *Silent Night* for Opera San Jose. She has been awarded with Bay Area Critics Circle Awards, Dean Goodman Awards, and Dramalogue Awards. Ms. Gray is a graduate

of Northwestern University and is a member of United Scenic Artists.

**ELLIOTT ORR (Sound Designer)** is an Oakland-based sound designer and engineer, and he is thrilled to be returning to Foothill for another spring musical. His work has been heard at many theaters around the bay, such as San Francisco Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Palo Alto Players, Brava! For Women in the Arts, West Valley Light Opera, South Bay Musical Theatre, and Sunnyvale Community Players. He hopes you enjoy the Bee!

**LAURA MERRILL (Properties Designer)** is the current props artisan for Teatro Visión and works as a Properties Artisan, Lighting Designer, and General Tech Crew member for many Bay Area theaters. Laura has been a Sideshow (circus) performer since 2013, and continues to perform with the Circus of Sin in San Jose. Some of their most recent productions include: Properties Artisan for City Light's *Dracula a Comedy of Terrors* (2025), Properties Artisan for City Light's *Head Over Heels* (2025), Props Artisan for *In Love and Warcraft* at City Lights Theatre (2024), Light Design for *Shakuntala* at Foothill College (2024), Props Artisan for *La Mariposa* and *Breaking Through* for Teatro Visión (2024). Abolish ICE.

**MARTE ABRAHAMSEN (Stage Manager)** is elated to return to FMT as the Stage Manager for *Spelling Bee!* As a graduate from Foothill College, Marte has worked on many shows with FMT and couldn't be happier to be back. She's been involved in multiple shows around the South Bay, her most recent shows include *In The Heights*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (SCP), and *Legally Blond* (FMT).

**NICOLA BARCELONA (Assistant Stage Manager)** (she/her) is a second year Theater Arts for Transfer Major at Foothill Community College. She was most recently seen in *R.U.R* as a Robot with Foothill Theater Arts, *Anastasia* as Tsarina Alexandra with West Valley Youth Theater, and *Rhinoceros* as Mrs. Boufe with Foothill Theater Arts. She has previously worked as an ASM on *Anastasia*, and Run Crew with MVHS Theater and MVHS Drama Llamas.

**ALYSSA HEBRIO (Assistant Stage Manager)** (she/her) is a student at Foothill College studying Theatre Technology. This

is her third year working in theatre, and it is also her third time working with FMT, having previously worked on *The Prom* and *Legally Blonde*. She is working to complete her A.A. in Technical Theatre. She thanks Foothill College, and everyone involved with Spelling Bee, for giving her the opportunity to explore the world of theatre. She is more than happy to be backstage for any future shows ahead.

**ALVINA XU (Assistant Stage Manager)** (she/they) is a current Theater Tech student at Foothill College and has been involved in previous Foothill productions, including *The World Goes 'Round* and *You Can't Take It With You*. She has worked in other roles such as a Makeup Assistant, Lighting Designer, and Props Artisan in shows around the Bay Area, such as *Shrek Jr.* and *Rhinoceros, R.U.R.*, and is interested in expanding her experience and working in all aspects in theater!

**LEIGH HENDERSON (Production Manager)** (she/her) is an Instructor of Theatre Arts & Technology and Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at Foothill College. She has worked as a theater designer, technician, manager, educator, and scholar for over 30 years. Her work has been seen on stages throughout the Bay Area, Wisconsin, Colorado, New York City, and at the prestigious Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space. From 2016 to 2022, she served as Managing Director of Teatro Visión de San José. She holds a B.F.A. in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.B.A. in Arts Administration and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Theater Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. She is also a competitive cake decorator and pumpkin carver who has appeared on multiple television shows, including *Halloween Wars*, *Sugar Dome*, *Big Time Bake*, and *Outrageous Pumpkins*. You can learn more about Leigh's work on her websites at [www.leighannhenderson.com](http://www.leighannhenderson.com) and [www.doitmyself.org](http://www.doitmyself.org).

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee .....	Company
The Rules .....	Douglas, Rona, Spellers
Rona Moment #1 .....	Rona
My Friend, The Dictionary.....	Olive, Spellers, Rona
Pandemonium .....	Company
I'm Not That Smart .....	Leaf
Magic Foot.....	Barfee, Company
Pandemonium (Reprise) .....	Midge/Mitch, Spellers
Rona Moment #2 .....	Rona
Prayer of the Comfort Counselor .....	Midge/Mitch, Spellers
Chip's Lament .....	Chip
Woe is Me .....	Logainne, Carl Dad, Dan Dad, Spellers
Spelling Montage.....	Douglas, Spellers
I'm Not That Smart (Reprise) .....	Leaf
I Speak Six Languages .....	Marcy, Company
Jesus .....	Marcy, Spellers
The I Love You Song.....	Olive, Olive's Mom, Olive's Dad
Woe is Me (Reprise) .....	Logainne, Midge/Mitch
Rona Moment #3 .....	Rona
Second (Part 1) .....	Barfee, Olive, Douglas, Rona, Spellers
Weltanschauung.....	Barfee, Company
Second (Part 2) .....	Olive, Barfee, Company
The Champion.....	Rona, Company
Finale .....	Company

## MUSICIANS

Conductor, Keyboard .....	Nicolas Valdez
Cello.....	Joshua Mikus-Mahoney
	Myra Chachkin
Reed.....	Maria D'Aura
	Diana Tucker
Percussion .....	Lane Sanders
	Curt Anderson
	Phoebe Chou

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.  
[mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)

The performance lasts approximately ninety-six minutes.  
 There is no intermission.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

## DONATIONS TO Foothill Theatre FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THRU FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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 Lynn and David Simon

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### \$100 - \$499

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 Miriam Morgan

### Up to \$99

Mahesh Bhumralkar

*Special thanks to the Foothill Commission for their incredible support over the years.*

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .....Milissa Carey  
Music Director ..... Nicolas Valdez  
Choreographer ..... Sarah Bylsma  
Assistant Director.....Amanda Korkunis  
Scenic Designer ..... Lynn Grant  
Costume Designer..... Y. Sharon Peng  
Lighting Designer ..... Pamila Gray  
Sound Designer .....Elliott Orr  
Properties Designer.....Laura Merrill  
Production Manager..... Leigh Henderson  
Stage Manager.....Marte Abrahamson  
Assistant  
Stage Managers .....Nicola Barcelona,  
Alyssa Hebrío, Alvina Xu  
Band Contractor ..... Michael Horsley  
Rehearsal Pianist ..... Jonathan Erman  
Wardrobe Supervisors ..... Maeko Solomon,  
Alvina Xu  
Props Supervisor .....Emma Brail  
Stage Crew .....Bryant Cebreros  
A1 Sound Board Operator ..... Arthur Garcia  
A2 Audio Technician..... Katie Weng  
Follow Spot  
Operators ..... Isabella Sainte-Marie,  
Emily Suy  
Lighting Board Operator ..... Kim Hing  
Carpenters, Electricians,  
and Painters ..... Nicola Barcelona,  
Emma Brail, Cam Buchheit,  
Renee Carlson, Bryant Cebreros,  
David Coffman, Alex Deveaux,  
Alyssa Hebrío, Kim Hing,  
Maanasi Hingwe, Lora Lu,  
William Mangan, Grant Mchenry,  
Laura Merrill, Christy Moore,  
Joey Phoo Thit Nwai Oo,  
Isabella Sainte-Marie, Maeko Solomon,  
Emily Suy, Anna Warner, Katie Weng,  
Jacques White, Ulises Zavala  
Audience Volunteer  
Coordinators & Ushers ....Nicola Barcelona,  
Eva Calliou, Bryant Cebreros,  
Joey Phoo Thit Nwai Oo  
Wardrobe.....Lisa Rozman  
Publicity, Marketing & Social ....Dylan Stanley  
Social Media Captain ..... Melissa Momboisse  
Graphic Designer.....Gera Robredo  
House Manager.....Korwin Rodgers  
Box Office Manager.....Gera Robredo

## SPECIAL THANKS

Melissa Momboisse, Michael Horsley,  
Christy Moore, Sheherazade Arasnia,  
Ron Herman, Bruce McLeod, Patrick  
McKenna, Alex Deveaux,  
Foothill Custodial Services, Foothill Facilities,  
Foothill Educational Technology Services,  
Foothill Emerging Technologies Institute,  
and the longstanding support of  
Foothill College and the community!

## MISSION STATEMENT

Since its founding in 1980, Foothill Music Theatre (FMT) has earned its reputation for exceptional quality productions. From classic to contemporary musicals, FMT offers fully-produced shows with live orchestra each winter and summer in the Lohman and Smithwick theaters, which have been recognized by numerous awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle, Theatre Bay Area, and others. FMT auditions are open to the public as well as students. Its reputation draws superb talent from around the Bay, allowing students to work in collaboration with highly experienced performing arts professionals.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Foothill College recognizes that it is located on the ethnohistoric territory of the ancestral and traditional land of the Puichon Thámien Ohlone-speaking People, and the successors of the historic sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County, presently identified as the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and other familial descendants of the Verona Band. We recognize that every member of the greater Foothill College/Los Altos Hills community has, and continues to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land, since the institution's founding in 1957. Consistent with our values of community, inclusion, and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make known through various enterprises Foothill College's relationship to Native peoples. As members of the Foothill College/Los Altos Hills community, it is vitally important that we not only recognize the history of the land on which we live, work, and learn, but also, we recognize that the previously federally recognized Muwekma Ohlone Tribal People are alive and flourishing members of the Foothill College/Los Altos Hills and broader Bay Area communities today. Aho!

## COMING: THIS SPRING **OLIVER TWIST**

Adapted by Neil Bartlett  
Directed by Francine Torres  
May 22 - June 7, 2026



PHOTOS: DAVID ALLEN