

PROGRAMME

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**THE 25TH ANNUAL
PUTNAM COUNTY
SPELLING BEE**





THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: **Mark Mannisto**

Stage Manager: **Nancy Beland + Karen Schute**

Vocal Directors: **Scott Infanti + Kristin Hall**

Choreographers: **Sarah Tyler + Lindsay Dainton**

Audio Operation: **Sean Perras + Amy Wilson**

Costumes: **Kathleen Marie Foster**

Set Design: **Sarah Tyler**

Set Construction: **Cast**

Set Painting: **Lindsay Dainton**

Props Masters: **Nancy Beland + Karen Schute**

Spot Operators: **Lindsay Dainton + Rachele St. Denis**

Program Editor: **Tanya Saari**

Graphic Designer: **Tara Hawkes**



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THE
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MARK MANNISTO - DIRECTOR

Audience...A-U-D-I-E-N-C-E...AUDIENCE:

Definition: The group of spectators at a public event; listeners or viewers collectively, as in attendance at a theater or concert.

Sentence: The audience was respectful of the speaker's opinion.



Hello, audience...

Welcome to our little spelling bee. *The*

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a passion project for me. It's a show that is fun, charming, and full of heart. The pressure of being in 'the Bee' is something that we all can relate to at some point. Whether it be at the hockey rink, at the office, or in school. We all want to do well, we all want to fit in, we all want to be accepted. The struggle is real.

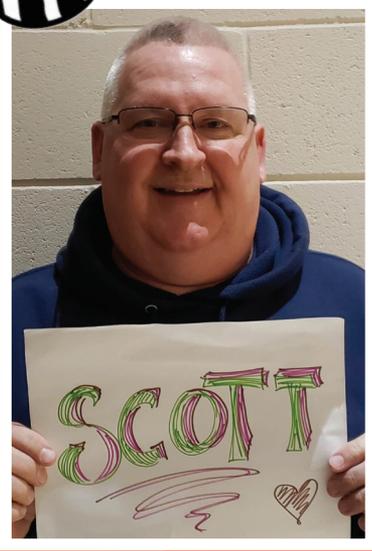
For me, I found that directing 'Spelling Bee' helped me realize that all these worries are a bit silly, and no matter how much I worry about these types of things, the person next to me is PROBABLY feeling the same things. It helped me realize to not sweat the small stuff.

I hope that you all enjoy the show today. I hope our 'kids' in the 'Bee' all help you realize that its each one of our idiosyncrasies that make us all uniquely special, and that we should all embrace these quirks!

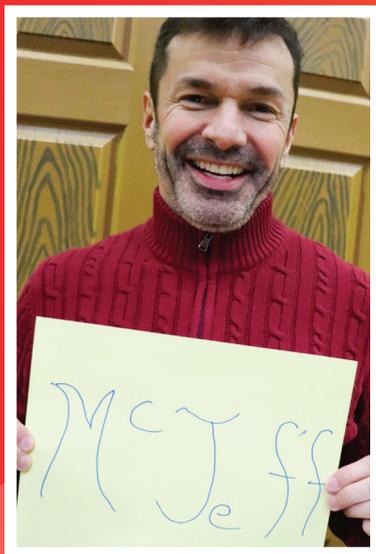
Thank you to our audiences, volunteers, and members, for their support of Sudbury Performance Group and 'Spelling Bee.' We have a lot of exciting plans on the horizon for SPG. Stay in touch with us. Keep following our social feeds. Keep volunteering with us, and join us on this ride. We're fortunate to have you with us.

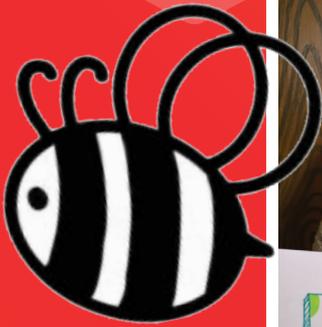
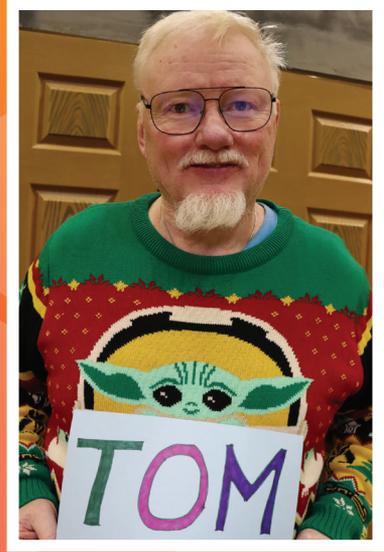
Mark Mannisto, President
Sudbury Performance Group













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SCOTT INFANTI - VOCAL DIRECTOR

With a university education in Music, Scott has been involved in musical theatre for over 30 years. His credits as a performer and a vocal director include: *The Fantasticks*, *Hello Dolly*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Annie*, *All Shook Up*, *Shrek*, *Sister Act*, *Sound of Music*, and *Mary Poppins*, to name a few.

An inducted member of the Northern Ontario Country Music Association's Hall of Fame and the Association's Music Director, Scott is an accomplished, multi-instrumentalist, who continues to perform on stages all across the North, and has been privileged to work with such artists as Tanya Tucker, Vince Gill, Diamond Rio, Trooper, Nazareth, and Johnny Cash.

Scott would like to thank the cast and crew of *The Spelling Bee* for their hard work and dedication. They weathered the storm like true professionals, and pushed through the "Pandemonium" in order to create this magnificent production that is sure to entertain an audience from start to finish.

Break a leg folks, you are all such pros! It has truly been a pleasure to work with each of you!



KRISTIN HALL – ASSISTANT VOCAL DIRECTOR

Kristin is thrilled to be working on another SPG show! This time, she is behind the scenes, which is quite the change, but the awesome cast and production team have helped make the transition a great one! Kristin would like to thank Matt and Sophie for their patience, love, and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

NANCY BELAND – CO-STAGE MANAGER

Nancy has been part of the SPG family for a few years now. Along with stage managing a number of productions, she is also a member of the Board of Directors. She wants to thank the cast and crew for the all of their hard work and dedication to this show. Watching the show come together from day one to opening has been an honour. *“You are all an amazing group of people!”* Special thank you to her *“partner in crime”*, Karen Schute. *“It has been a joy to share the SM title with you.”* Karen stepped up when Nancy was ill, and she thanks her keeping everything running smoothly. Thank you to all our volunteers; we would not be able to do this without you. Thank you for being a part of the art!

KAREN SHUTE – CO-STAGE MANAGER

Karen has worked behind the scenes on a number of SPG productions, and is very glad to have the opportunity to learn stage management from the very capable Nancy Beland. She is excited to see these middle school characters come to life for you on this stage, and is amazed by the talent Mark Mannisto has brought to this production.

Thanks to the cast, and crew, and especially Lindsay Dainton, our extraordinary choreographer, who reminds her daily of *“the one thing”* she needed to do, but didn't!

LINDSAY DANTON - CHOREOGRAPHER

Lindsay has appeared in several theatre productions. You may have seen her in *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *RENT*, *Chicago*, and *Sister Act*, just to name a few. She has also choreographed many productions in the theatre community. Dance is a passion of Lindsay's, and she loves to share her creativity with others. She is also Sudbury's provincial gymnastics choreographer, and has won several awards for her choreography. Enjoy the show!

SARAH TYLER - ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER

Sarah is currently attending Laurentian University to obtain a Master's of Architecture degree. While studying in Sudbury, she competed with Laurentian's Voyageurs Dance Team, as well as participated in a few of SPG's previous productions. Her love of dance began when she was three, and she has been dancing competitively since the age of seven. Sarah is honoured to have been assistant choreographer for this production. She'd like to thank the cast for their hard work and dedication, as well as the production team for all their efforts! To the rest of the cast and crew: Break a leg!

KALEM MAHAFFY - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Kalem had the opportunity to learn from Mark in directing a couple of scenes in the Spelling Bee. Additionally, she took headshots for the program, and helped source costume pieces. Recently, she played Pigpen in SPG's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Kalem is in full-time classes at Cambrian College for Media Communications, but dedicates nearly all her free time to theatre. Coming up, you will see her as a director in SPG's One-Act Festival in March.



KRISTIN GIBEAULT - RONA LISA PERETTI

Kristin is a local resident of Lively. She began acting and singing at the age of 11, with Cambrian College and Theatre Cambrian. She took a long hiatus to start a career and a family. By day, she is an elementary teacher, and by night, a mother and wife. She returned to the stage for SPG's production of *Sealed for Freshness* back in December, 2019, and is thrilled to be a part of the Spelling Bee cast. Let's use our brain power, and get spelling!



SAMANTHA ONSKI - OLIVE OSTROVSKY

Since moving to Sudbury in 2019, Samantha is so excited to add another musical to her list of theatre credits that include: Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods*, Polly Browne in *The Boyfriend*, Dani in *Dani Girl* (Canadian Premiere), Eliza Doolittle in a musical revue of *My Fair Lady*, Grace Farrell in Theatre Cambrian's *Annie*, and Janet Weiss in SPG's *The Rocky Horror Show*. Samantha hopes you enjoy the hilarious journey of the spelling bee, and that it brings out your inner child, as it does for her in the role of Olive Ostrovsky!



JEFF MCNEIL - CHIP TOLENTINO

McJeff jumped in his packed vehicle and left Sudbury immediately after his last SPG performance. (*All Together Now!*) His first stop upon his return was rehearsal number one for this show. Jeff would like to thank his cast mates, crew, and directors who, over the course of time came to appreciate his erratic behaviours.

TARA STPIERRE - LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERRE

This is Tara's first performance with SPG. However, she is no stranger to community theatre. She's done theatre in Ottawa, where she used to live. Favourite credits include *Grease* (Suzart Productions), *Shrek: the Musical* (Suzart Productions), *Les Miserables* (ASNY), and *9 to 5* (Suzart productions). She is beyond excited to be part of this fantastic group! Enjoy the show everyone!



MARC TAILLEFER – WILLIAM BARFEE

Marc taught high-school music for thirty-four years at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School, where he ran many Gold-award jazz bands, and directed many pit orchestras and musicals. He has performed extensively in his time in Sudbury, with groups such as the Northern Brass Quartet, the Northern Brass Choir, the Sudbury Jazz Orchestra, the Northern Ontario All Star Jazz Band, the Sudbury, North Bay, Timmins, and Sault Symphony Orchestras, and the Montreal Youth Orchestra. He is very proud to have founded the Jazz Sudbury Youth Orchestra this year, along with Mitch McIntyre and Megan Sanderson. He has performed in musicals with Theatre Cambrian and the Sudbury Performance Group, most notably as The Pharoah and Simeon in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Franklin Hart in *9 to 5*. Recently retired, he is thrilled to have this opportunity to perform with the wonderful cast in this awesome production.

MAIJA MCCAHERY – MICHELLE MAHONEY

Since before Maija could talk, she would sing to her dolls, her family, and anyone who would tolerate her extreme excitement and outgoing personality. She loved to entertain an audience, making them laugh, by singing and dancing her way across a living room. Throughout grade school she was an active member of every choir or music group, and once in high school she was drawn to the drama club, and secured a spot in a co-operative education program that enabled her to perform in a Wild-West version of *Macbeth*. After several years of world travel for her family business and an established working career, she fell in love with theatre once again. In 2015, she played the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. She played Emma, in the farce comedy, *Artifice*. In *The Second Time Around* she played the neurotic daughter of her senior-citizen father. Other credits include: *Things My Mother Taught Me*, *Miracle on 34th Street* (Mrs. Macy), and *Knickers*. Maija was also a proud member on the board of directors for the Grey Wellington Theatre Guild in Harriston, ON. After returning to her Sudbury roots in 2022, she was excited to be welcomed by the Sudbury Performance Group.

THOMAS STEWART – DOUG PANCH

This is Tom's eighth performance, and 12th production with the Sudbury Performance Group. Spelling Bee is an extremely funny, and heart-warming tale about children and the stresses they have during this competition. The performers in this play brought passion, humour and intensity to their roles, and he feels blessed to be on stage with them. The production crew worked incredibly hard to bring this show to life, and make it all that it could be. Lastly, again, Tom would like to thank his family for allowing him to continue to follow his passion. Be a part of the Art! Support Local Artists in all aspects of what they do!

LIBBY MICHIE – MARCY PARK

Libby is thrilled to be doing another show with Sudbury Performance Group. Libby has been a part of previous shows with SPG, such as, *Chicago*, *All Shook Up*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *RENT*. When Libby is not on stage, you can find her at home reading, painting, or working at SACY. She would like to give a huge shoutout to the cast and crew for putting so much time and dedication into the production. She hopes you have F-U-N, and enjoy the show!



ANGEL MANNISTO – LEAF CONEYBEAR

Angel is quite excited to be a part of the Spelling Bee cast! Leaf has been a fun ride! Thank you so very much to the cast and crew for the laughs and good times! A special thank you to the audience for your support and for joining us on this quirky show with lots of heart! Angel will be directing a production in the upcoming One-Act festival, performing in the April dinner theatre, *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club* and choreographing the May mainstage production of *Cabaret*!





TANYA SAARI – CARLA GRUBENIERRE/ OLIVE'S MOM/SUPPORTING VOCALS

Tanya is happy to be back with SPG once again, and is having a fantastic time with this group of supremely talented individuals! She most recently appeared in SPG's production of *Things My Mother Taught Me*. Upcoming, she will be directing a production in March's One-Act Festival, and performing in April's dinner theatre production of *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*. She thanks the amazing production team for all of their hard work, and sends love to her family for letting Mom play on stage. She hopes you enjoy the show!

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