

23-24 SEASON

BUCKNELL THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS

Bucknell Theatre
UNIVERSITY & Dance

BOOK BY

RACHEL SHEINKIN

MUSIC & LYRICS BY

WILLIAM FINN

**THE 25TH
ANNUAL
PUTNAM
COUNTY
SPELLING
Bee!**

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY

DUSTYN MARTINCICH

MUSIC DIRECTION BY

JAIME NAMMINGA

HARVEY M. POWERS THEATRE

Bucknell University Department of Theatre & Dance presents

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Book by Rachel Sheinkin • Music & Lyrics by William Finn
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Direction and Choreography by Dustyn Martincich

Music Direction by Jaime Namminga

Stage Management	Eliza Greenberg '24	Asst Choreographer & Dance Captain.....	Maya Gurung '26
Scene Design	F. Elaine Williams	Assistant Dance Captain	Zoe Fleury '27
Costume Design	Carly Holzwarth	Disability Consultant	Sam Yates
Light Design	Heath Hansum	Voice and Dialect Coach.....	Sam Norton
Associate Lighting Design	Jack Flipi	Writing Consultant	Joe Scapellato
Assistant Director	Tessa Brizhik '27		

PUTNAM COUNTY BEE BOPPERS

Conductor/Keys	Jaime Namminga	Reeds 1.....	Spencer Cook
Percussion.....	Urie D. Kline	Reeds 2	Emma Kovacs '26
Cello	Nathan Lavender		

CONTENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL WARNING: This production includes some adult language and references to male anatomy. Atmospheric haze will be used throughout the production.

Run time will be approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes, no intermission

Free Bucknell University student tickets have been made possible by the generous donation of President John Bravman and Professor Wendelin Wright.

Please Note: Taking photographs, and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited.
Please turn off your cell phones and other electronics before the performance begins. Thank you.

The Department of Theatre and dance respectfully acknowledges and recognizes our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water and air: the Susquehannock peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. We live and create our art here within the Bucknell community and we strive to honor those caretakers of this homeland in our presence and work.

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.

CAST

William Barfée Ryan Hill '24
Leaf Coneybear Libby Hoffman '24
Olive Ostrovsky Julia Piccolino '27
Marcy Park Harper Dick '25
Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere Gabriella Cappelloni '27
Chip Tolentino Bryson Fuhrer '27
Arya Bennett, Marcy #1, Dictionary Friend #2 Defne Gumus '27
Camille Campo, Leaf's Mom, Marcy #3, Dictionary Friend #3 Jaela Rivera '27
Jimmy Darius Eichenbaum, Marcy #2, Dictionary Friend #1 Zoe Fleury '27
Roman Noomerale, Carl Dad, Leaf's Dad Matthew Alexander '26
Mr. Hawkins, Dan Dad, Jesus Sasha Pisarchik Shketav '25
Mitch Mahoney Paige Gilmartin '26
Vice Principal Douglas Panch, Olive's Dad Adam Walker '26
Rona Lisa Perretti, Olive's Mom Becca Lipsky '25
Putnam County Middle School Broadcasting Club Advisor Lizzie Hopper '27
Putnam County Middle School Broadcasting Club Abby Campion '27, Alexandra Schajer '27
Coneybear Family Sasha Pisarchik Shketav '25, Defne Gumus '27,
Zoe Fleury '27, Bryson Fuhrer '27, Gabriella Cappelloni '27, Harper Dick '25

Understudies:

for Olive Ostrovsky – Abby Campion '27; for Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere – Alexandra Schajer '27;
for Marcy Park – Jaela Rivera '27; for Leaf Coneybear – Defne Gumus '27,
for Chip Tolentino and Douglas Panch – Matthew Alexander '26; for William Barfée – Paige Gilmartin '26;
for Rona Lisa Perretti – Lizzie Hopper '27; for Mitch Mahoney – Zoe Fleury '27

Swings Abby Campion '27, Lizzie Hopper '27, Alexandra Schajer '27

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Managers Jennaye Pointer '26, Giselle Mayer '27
Costume TAs Emma Burns '24, Nicole Chelsea '24, Lindsey Kaufman '24, Haley Qualls '24,
Annalise Smith '24, Ana Eckert '26, Alison LaForce '27
Properties Master Madison Buckley '24
Properties Caitlyn Hickey '25
Scene Painters Evelyn Pierce '25, Austin Bennett '26, Riley Steere '24, Mia Shum '25
Makeup and Hair Design Carly Holzwarth
Wardrobe Crew Ainsley Manlowe '24, Zoha Nadeer '25, Ava Zappulla '27
Lightboard Operator Twity Gitonga '24
Followspot Operator Ryan Daly '24, Jonathon Sietz '26
Live Sound Mix A1 Joe Dox '25
Sound A2 Abby Wrightsmith '27
Scenery and Lighting Production Crew Riley Steere '24, Joe Dox '25, Mia Shum '25, Evelyn Pierce '25,
Austin Bennett '26, Jennaye Pointer '26, Josh Gomes '27, THEA248
Closed Captioning Transcription Ellie Urenko '25
Publicity Libby Hoffman '24, Clea Ramos '25, Aisling McGrath '26,
Jennaye Pointer '26, Katie Schadler '26, Abby Campion '27
Poster Design Clea Ramos '25

Directly following the 2pm performance on Sunday, April 14th, there will be a talkback with cast and crew facilitated by Chris Boyatzis, Professor of Psychology. Hope you can join us!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dustyn Martincich

The Spelling Bee. A great framework for a theatrical production. Our favorite questions we ask in selecting any production is why here and why now? The popularity of this show in high schools, colleges, and community theatres is no doubt because of its ensemble nature, its audience participation, its humor and play with language, and its characters. For our production, we focused on three things: the initial moment and impact of formative experiences; the sense of belonging discovered through a common interest (in this case, a love of language), and an opportunity for play which is too often only associated with childhood. We see the importance of formative experiences in Barfée's flashback of last year's allergic reaction that sparks his loss to Chip, or Leaf's repeated dismissal by her family which leaves her with the impression that she isn't smart. Our formative moments might include times of incredible joy, sadness, grief, or embarrassment, and, as the cast heard from Professor of Psychology Chris Boyatzis, these experiences are particularly lasting in adolescence, as they form into memories we hold with us sometimes for the rest of our lives, as Rona does with her memory of winning her spelling bee.

It is important to recognize how much has changed in the world that has impacted adolescent development since the original production premiered on Broadway in 2005. Through the rehearsal process, and reflecting on the events of our own campus in the past two weeks, let alone for this senior class over the past four years, I realize there was one other focus of this production that we hadn't intended to focus on, but has certainly been dominant: what brings us comfort in difficult times? Is it snacks? A friend? Many of these characters may not get the kind of support they need from the expected sources, like family members. Feelings of loneliness, rejection, pressure to achieve a socially accepted form of success, frustration with changing bodies- though these are magnified in adolescence, these aren't just feelings for our 10-13 year old constituency. On behalf of the cast and production team, we hope this show offers you moments of nostalgia, empathy, reflection, and laughter. The actors worked to honor the characters' humanity, reflecting on those chaotic feelings of adolescence, from hormonal changes to developing relationships with parents, peers, and loved ones. It has been a gift to play, discover, and find truth in the humor and complexity of these wonderful characters, many of whom were developed for this production to fill out our story of the Putnam County community and their young citizens.

It is the hope that this show resonates with you, whether you, too, feel an enormous pressure to succeed, or remember what it was like to discover you were good at something, or when you first felt seen by a peer who could understand you, or when intense public embarrassment would seem to completely ruin your life. These moments of empathic connection are often the magic of theatre, and certainly resonate for our story, as the characters bond and discover a sense of belonging by going through the experience of the Bee. Olive's loneliness and lack of parental support is, at least temporarily, assuaged by her connection with Barfée. Marcy is empowered to take a new turn in her life, one that is decidedly not defined by what she does or the skills at which she excels. My favorite word I learned in this process is Weltanschauung, meaning a particular philosophy or worldview. How apt that this is the winning word in this Bee, allowing not only the characters of this world pause to reflect on the moment, in the moment, but invites us in the audience to join them in considering how we allow experiences and the people around us change us for the better.

GUEST MUSIC DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

DR. JAIME NAMMINGA is an Assistant Professor of Music at Susquehanna University, where she coordinates the collaborative piano area and teaches ear training and piano class. Namminga performs regularly in recital with vocalists and instrumentalists alike, and Indie Opera Podcast described her playing as “gorgeous and fantastic.” Namminga collaborated in a piano trio at the 2023 World Saxophone Congress in Gran Canaria, Spain and was a finalist for the 2021 Puerto Rico Collaborative Piano Institute competition. She has been a vocal coach and piano conductor for various theatre productions, including *Fun Home* at Bucknell University and *Matilda* and the upcoming *The Music Man*, both for the Lycoming College Summer Stock program. She is in demand as a choral pianist, playing annually for the ACDA-PA honor choir. Her scholarship includes writings and presentations on various collaborative piano topics, including the pianistic enhancing of musical theatre and choral repertoire. Namminga’s articles on the choral pianist as co-Leader and the “LAWs” of collaborative piano were recently published in the *Choral Journal* and *On Collaborating*, respectively. Namminga holds degrees from the University of Sioux Falls, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and Arizona State University. She resides in Selinsgrove with her husband Darin and their three children: Sophia (12), Dakota (9), and Oliver (6).

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES

MATTHEW ALEXANDER ‘26 he/him (**Roman Noomerale**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Alfred Wood), *Cocktails: Ever-Fixed* (Man with the Yellow Flowers), *Kodachrome* (History Professor).

TESSA BRIZHIK ‘26 she/her (**Assistant Director**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Cocktails: Closing Doors* (Director), *Men on Boats* (Ashley Crew Ghost/Understudy), *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Narrator #1/Shaw/Others), *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Female U/S), *Lost Girl* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Kodachrome* (Mystery Novelist).

ABBY CAMPION ‘27 she/her (**Putnam County Middle School Broadcasting Club Member**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *University: A New Generation* (Wags/Joey/Activist 3).

GABRIELLA CAPPELLONI ‘27 she/her (**Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Fall Dance Showcase ‘23 (Dancer), *University: A New Generation* (Madeline).

HARPER DICK ‘25 they/them (**Marcy Park**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men on Boats* (Seneca/The Bishop), *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Max), *Lost Girl* (Curly), *Fun Home* (Assistant Stage Manager/Understudy).

ZOE FLEURY ‘27 she/her (**Jimmy Darius Eichenbaum, Assistant Dance Captain**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men on Boats* (Ashley Crew Ghost/Understudy), *University: A New Generation* (Woman L/Ellen).

BRYSON FUHRER ‘27 he/him (**Chip Tolentino**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *University: A New Generation* (Teacher/Jackson).

PAIGE GILMARTIN ‘26 she/her (**Mitch Mahoney**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men on Boats* (John Wesley Powell), *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Understudy), *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Annie), *Lost Girl* (The Boy/Slightly U/S), *Kodachrome* (The Librarian).

ELIZA GREENBERG ‘24 she/her (**Stage Manager**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Fall Choreographer’s Showcase ‘23 (Lighting Designer), Fall Dance Concert ‘22 (Lighting Designer), *Lost Girl* (Stage Manager), Fall Choreographer’s Showcase ‘22 (Lighting Designer), *Fun Home* (Assistant Stage Manager/A2) Spring Choreographer’s Showcase ‘21 (Lighting Designer), *Appropriate* (Sound Operator), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Sound Operator).

DEFNE M. GUMUS ‘27 she/her (**Arya Bennett**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Cocktails: 531 Mass Shootings and Counting* (Nina), *Men on Boats* (Ashley Crew Ghost/Understudy), *University: A New Generation* (Pepper/Woman R/Activist 6).

MAYA GURUNG ‘26 she/her (**Assistant Choreographer and Dance Captain**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Cocktails: Birthday Beer* (Director), *Men on Boats* (Oramel “OG” Howland/Chief Tsauwait), *Can We Talk About It?: Recurrence* (Hope), *Cocktails: Best Friend Territory* (Gabi), *Kodachrome* (Suzanne).

RYAN HILL ‘24 he/him (**William Barfée**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Fun Home* (Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy), *Cocktails: Time and Tony Oliva* (Dale), *Love/Sick* (Andy).

LIBBY HOFFMAN '24 she/her (**Leaf Coneybear**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men on Boats* (Andrew Hall), *Lost Girl* (Nina), *Electra* (Fury Chorus), *Taming of the Shrew(s)* (Katherine), *Cocktails: Soup* (Alex), *Love/Sick* (Liz).

ELIZABETH "LIZZIE" HOPPER '27 she/her (**Putnam County Middle School Broadcasting Club Advisor**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Cocktails: Annd Scene (of the Crime)* (Detective Lieutenant Milch), *University: A New Generation* (Shi/Activist 2).

BECCA LIPSKY '25 she/her (**Rona Lisa Perretti**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Fall Dance Showcase '23 (Dancer), Spring Choreographer's Showcase '21 (Dancer), Fall Dance Showcase '21 (Dancer), *Anxious People* (J/Ensemble).

GISELLE MAYER '27 she/her (**Assistant Stage Manager**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *God Of Carnage* (Assistant Stage Manager), *University: A New Generation* (Girl #3/Tina).

JULIA PICCOLINO '27 she/her (**Olive Ostrovsky**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *University: A New Generation* (Lo-Io).

ALEXANDER "SASHA" PISARCHIK SHKETAV '25 he/him (**Mr. Hawkins**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Cocktails: A Coal County Christmas Carol* (Ebenezer Scrooge), *Anxious People* (Jesus).

JENNAYE POINTER '26 she/they (**Assistant Stage Manager**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men On Boats* (Stage Manager), Spring Dance Showcase '23 (Stage Manager), *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* (Assistant Stage Manager), Fall Dance Concert '22 (Assistant Stage Manager), *Lost Girl* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Kodachrome* (Stage Manager).

JAELA RIVERA '27 she/her (**Camille Campo**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Men on Boats* (Ashley Crew Ghost/Understudy), *University: A New Generation* (Chloe/Placard Lady).

ALEXANDRA SCHAJER '27 she/her (**Putnam County Middle School Broadcasting Club Member**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Cocktails: Closing Doors* (Valerie), *University: A New Generation* (Jean/Her).

ADAM J. WALKER '26 he/him (**Vice Principal Douglas Panch**) - Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Charles Parker), *Kodachrome* (Hardware Store Owner).

SPECIAL THANKS

Caitlin Giampa, Events Management Coordinator; Mr. Jodi Hosterman, Administrative Assistant, Facilities;
Scott Lotze, Assistant Athletic Director; Brent Schreffler, Coleman Hall Custodial Section Supervisor;
Professor Chris Boyatzis, Department of Psychology; Dr. Bill Kenny, Music Department Chair;
The Department of Music; We Brake For Nobody; Everyone who offered to be guest spellers

UPCOMING THEATRE & DANCE EVENTS

Spring Dance Concert

Friday & Saturday, April 26 & 27, 7:30 p.m.

Weis Center for the Performing Arts

Please join us in celebrating the career of retiring faculty Prof. Er-dong Hu for his final concert!

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

Jack Filpi.....entertainment technology assistant
Katie Hanes.....academic assistant
Heath J. Hansum, co-director of theatre..... lighting and sound design
Carly Holzwarthcostume design and history
Er-Dong Hu.....dance technique and theory
Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson, co-director of theatre.....acting, directing, devising
Mark Hutchinson.....technical coordination, stage management
Kelly Knox, director of dance.....dance technique and theory
Dustyn Martincich, chair theatre and dance technique and theory
Sierra Petecostume studio manager
Natalie Shoch assistant costumer
Bryan M. Vandevendertheatre history, theory
F. Elaine Williams.....scenography

THEATRE & DANCE AFFILIATES

Dr. Jaye Austin Williams, Associate Professor of Critical Black Studies

Dr Meenakshi Ponnuswami, Associate Professor of English

Dr Elena Machado, Professor of English



*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein**.*

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing 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 1,500 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.

2023-2024 THEATRE & DANCE CONTRIBUTORS

Maurice & Laurie Aburdene P'98,'00, Robin Adams, Georgia (Lenfest) Armstrong '69, M'92, P'89, Chuck Arnao '69, P'14, Laura (Pye) Axler '95, Justine Bailey '10, Emma Battle '22, Jill Baumbach '14, Ashley (Elder) Bishop'98, Nancy Boo P'25, John Bravman and Wendelin Wright, David Bristol P'16, Isabelle Bristol '16, Marcie (Baria) Bristol '81, P'16, Jamie Brouse, John Brunner '15, Helly (Schwalm) Bullwinkel '72, Katie Cantagallo '20, Phyllis (Horine) Carlson '64, Leslie Carney '00, Stacey Carpency '16, Stacy (Scicchitano) Caruso '95, P'25, Tyler Chadwick '13, Kim Cipolla '90, Kyle Cohick '20, Rich Conti '63, Patrick Cook P'25, Lexie Corcoran '22, Shirley (Parker) Curry '58, Eleanor (O'Connor) Dallabrida '72, Emily Delanty '16, Thomas Delanty P'16, Megan (Blamble) Dho '95, Diane Dickey '66, Sydney Dickinson '22, Chelsea Dieck '13, Anthony DiFazio P'24, Rich Dionne '96,M'98, Brooke Echnat '21, Mimi Elder P'98, Gillian Fabijanic '22, Susan (Ball) Faeder '76, Sara Fenstermacher '08, Gail (Wade) Firestone '67, P'89,'93,'94, Bethany Fitch '23, Lisa Fleury P'27, Pam Fornero P'24, Pete Fritts '60, Erin (Braun) Froelich '96, Abigail Garrett '17, Ilene Garrett P'17, Evan Gingrich '15, Kourtney Ginn '12, Chris Gregory '18, Karen Gregory P'18, Mackenzie Gross '21, Richard Gross P'23, Brent Guenther P'22, Meredith Haberfield '23, Michelle Haitz '13, Morgan Hall '23, Greg Hart '10, Meg (Frye) Helsel '98, Margi (Pew) Hill '74, Richard Hoffman P'24, Margaret Hoffman P'24, Karen Hoyle P'04, Brittany Hurley '17, Hope Hutchinson, Liana Irvine '20, Lisa Jacobs P'24 Richard Johnson '84, Megan Karakelian '93, Faith (Hunter) Kimberling '92, P'23, Jillian Kimberling '23, Robert Kittell P'22, Richard Klein '69, Tad Klopchic '91, P'25, Joseph Koletar '60, M'61, Millo Lazarczyk '21, Cheryl (Klinger) Lease '84, Gabrielle Leiba-Sang P'24, Carole Levesque-DuBose P'23, Isabelle Levesque-Du Bose '23, Trevor Lewis '71, Lisa Lu GP'24, Charles Lucke '69, Sarah Lynch '81, P'14,'16, Bob Mandel '67, Jane Mandel, Diane (Trumbower) Mankin '56, Debra Mariniello P'25, Bethany (Haines) Martin '08, J Suen Massaquoi P'19, Rhatia Mays P'23, Eric Molitor '01, Barbara (Waidelich) Moller-Kerr '70, Kristin (Dite) Monty '97, Kathie Mulligan '76, Lisa (Senkowski) Murphy '82, P'14,'17, William Nelson '90, Deb North P'04,'06,'07, Lisa Olson P'24, Cara O'Neill '22, Marisa Patti '16, Whitney Patton P'26, Dana Pardee '22, Edward Pierce P'25, Sharon (Meeder) Place '98, Annie Powderly '15, Estie Pyper '16, Jack Pyper GP'16, Jeff & Pam (Martindell) Rank '75, Joanne Schmoll '80, Lauren Scott '17, Rachel Sherbill '09, John Shinske '87, Andrew Sidman P'08,'11, Brian Simon P'18, Pamela Simon P'18, Kurt Skvarla '10, Ellen (Hariu) Sleeter '70, Trey Snow '16, MB Sodini '90, Donna Spinweber '81, P'08,'10, Mary Ann Stanton '89, Mallory Steffey '19, Elizabeth Suczewski '17, Melanie Taylor '99, Jeffrey Urenko P'25, Robin Urenko P'25, Christine (Francello) Van Benschoten '72, Renne Venico '22, David Vosbikian P'22, Jay Wagner P'27, Richard Wagner P'94,'01, Diana Wallet '22, Andi (Wealand) Webber '91, P'27, Adam Weiss '96, Linda (Ensminger) Welch '67, Johnelle (Raggi) Whipple '98, Josh Wilkinson, and the Bucknell University Board of Trustees.

Generous support by the Bucknell Association for the Arts, Richard A. Klein Theatre and Dance Endowment, the Skvarla Family, President John Bravman and Professor Wendolin Wright, and the Benson Fund have made guest artists' residencies, master classes and workshops for our 2023-24 artistic season possible.