

## MEDIA RELEASE

### A Bee-utiful Summer Musical: *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* hits the Citadel Theatre this July

June 9, 2026

**Edmonton, Alberta** – Rehearsals are underway now for the Tony Award-winning musical *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. This hilarious celebration of words that honours both the joy and heartbreak of growing up comes to the Shctor stage in just one month.

In the high-stakes world of a spelling bee, six awkward adolescent champions face off as emotions run from A to Z. With each word spelled, the pressure rises and more than a trophy is on the line. Packed with clever wordplay, infectious songs, and laugh-out-loud humour, this fast-paced musical races to the finish with heart and charm. Six competitors enter but only one can be crowned champion of the bee.

Audiences will be sure to enjoy this fast-paced crowd-pleaser, and a few lucky audience members may even be able to join in the spelling fun. Patrons will be d-e-l-i-g-h-t-e-d by the musical The New York Times called “tender, joyous, bittersweet, and very, very, funny.”

Music and lyrics are by **William Finn**, with book written by **Rachel Sheinkin** and conceived by **Rebecca Feldman** and additional material by **Jay Reiss**. The 2005 Broadway musical run was directed by **James Lapine**. Citadel’s own Associate Artistic Director, **Mieko Ouchi**, will be directing this iconic musical this July.

*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* will be playing in the Shctor Theatre from July 4 to August 2, 2026. Tickets are available at [citadeltheatre.com](http://citadeltheatre.com) or by calling the Box Office at 780.425.1820. Recommended for ages 12+, this production contains mature themes, occasional strong language, and enough adolescent awkwardness to make anyone grateful they’re no longer in middle school.

A **Relaxed Experience** and **Captioned Performance** is happening on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 1:30 pm. Tickets are available online and information about Accessible Performances can be found at: <https://citadeltheatre.com/accessibility/accessible-performances/>.

The **Pay What You Choose** in-person night, presented by Alberta Blue Cross, is happening Sunday, July 5, 2026. To learn more about how to get tickets, please visit our website at: <https://citadeltheatre.com/plan-visit/audience-enrichment/pay-what-you-choose-events/>.

Production photos will be available by Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

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#### CAST

|                       |                                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jill Agopsowicz       | Rona Lisa Peretti, Olive’s Mom      |
| Sheldon Elter         | Mitch Mahoney, Dan Dad, Olive’s Dad |
| Cynthia Jimenez-Hicks | Marcy Park                          |

|                  |                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Rain Matkin      | Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere (Schwarzy) |
| Christina Nguyen | Olive Ostrovsky                            |
| Cody Porter      | Vice Principal Douglas Panch               |
| Mark Sinongco    | Chip Tolentino, Jesus                      |
| Farren Timoteo   | William Barfee                             |
| Michael Watt     | Leaf Coneybear, Carl Dad                   |

## UNDERSTUDIES

|                  |                                                                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jill Agopsowicz  | Olive Ostrovsky                                                                        |
| Corben Kushneryk | Vice Principal Douglas Panch, Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad, William Barfee                  |
| Gunho Kwak       | Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad/Olive's Dad, Chip Tolentino/Jesus                                |
| Gillian Moon     | Rona Lisa Perretti/Olive's Mom, Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere (Schwarzy), Marcy Park |

## CREATIVE TEAM

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Mieko Ouchi      | Director                 |
| Janice Flower    | Music Director           |
| Ainsley Hillyard | Choreographer            |
| Patrick Rizotti  | Set Designer             |
| Deanna Finnman   | Costume Designer         |
| Patrick Beagan   | Lighting Designer        |
| Emily Porter     | Sound Designer           |
| Mhairi Berg      | Assistant Director       |
| Ana Camacho      | Assistant Set Designer   |
| Madison Henry    | Stage Manager            |
| Nyssa Beairsto   | Assistant Stage Manager  |
| Jessica Haight   | Apprentice Stage Manager |

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### For more information or to arrange interviews, contact:

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## Sponsors

Season Sponsor: Capital Power  
Government and Grant Funders: City of Edmonton; Edmonton Arts Council; Government of Alberta; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Alberta Lottery Fund; Canada Council for the Arts; Government of Canada; Edmonton Community Foundation.

*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is presented through special arrangement with the Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com).