

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Audition Information



Check out the information below if you are interested in auditioning for Dubuque Senior's production of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY... Additional forms/materials can be found on the online callboard at www.dubuqueseniordrama.com. Performances for THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY... will be NOVEMBER 4, 5 & 6. Please contact the creative team if you have any questions about the show.

SYNOPSIS

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical! An eclectic group of students vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While 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 "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter, but only one speller wins!

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, August 22	Audition Workshop Session 1	6:00 - 8:30 PM	Room A209
Tuesday, August 23	Audition Workshop Session 2	2:30 - 5:00 PM	Room A209
Wednesday, August 24	Auditions	2:30 - 6:00 PM	Room A209
Thursday, August 25	Callbacks	2:30 - 5:00 PM	Room A209
Saturday, August 27	Cast list posted	TBD	Website

DIRECTING TEAM

ROLE	NAME	CLASSROOM	EMAIL
Director	Mr. Aaron Dean	A209	adean@dbqschools.org
Choreographer	Ms. Megan Schumacher	N/A	mschumacher@dbqschools.org
Music Director	Mr. Than Chesher	B49	nchesher@dbqschools.org
Pit Conductor	Mr. John Garde	B51	jgarde@dbqschools.org

AUDITION WORKSHOPS

- We will hold an audition workshop to help you to learn the audition materials for the show
- You have two audition workshop sessions to choose from:
 - **Session 1:** Tuesday, August 22 (6:00 - 8:30 PM) in Room A209
 - **Session 2:** Tuesday, August 23 (2:30 - 5:00 PM) in Room A209
- You may audition for the show without attending the audition workshop. Audition materials will be available on the website. However, attending the audition workshop will help you learn the audition material from the creative team.
- If you are not sure about auditioning, you are encouraged to come to the audition workshop anyway. This is a great chance to figure out your interest level and learn what the audition will be like.
- You are encouraged to bring a water bottle and wear comfortable clothes/shoes that you can dance in.

AUDITION PROCESS

- Auditions will be held on **Wednesday, August 24** in Room A209
- Sign up for a 15-minute audition time on the online callboard (www.dubuqueseniordrama.com/callboard)
- Submit an audition form **before** your audition time on the online callboard.
- Your audition will include the following...
 - Audition sides (readings from the script)
 - Dance sequence
 - Song of your choice from the show (see below for list)
- If you are not available for the audition, please contact Mr. Dean (adean@dbqschools.org) to set up an alternative audition time. Our goal is to ensure that everyone interested has an opportunity to audition.
- Callbacks may be held for certain roles on **Thursday, August 25**. A callback list will be posted on the online callboard on **Wednesday, August 24** by 9:00 PM.
- The cast list will be posted on **Saturday, August 27** on the online callboard.

AUDITION SONGS

- You will select **one** of the following song cuts to sing in your audition, based on your preference:

CHARACTER(S)	SONG	MEASURES
Marcy Park	I Speak Six Languages	mm 1 - 31
Olive Ostrovsky	The I Love You Song	mm 94 - 128
Logainne Schwartzand...	Woe Is Me	mm 18 - 39
Rona Lisa Peretti	Rona's Moment #2	mm 1 - 22
Leaf Coneybear	I'm Not That Smart	mm 25 - 46
Mitch Mahoney	Prayer of the Comfort Counselor	mm 3 - 28
William Barfee	Magic Foot	mm 5 - 48
Chip Tolentino	Chip's Lament	mm 3 - 33

- You will have the opportunity to learn each of these songs during the audition workshop. In addition, vocal and accompaniment tracks will be available for you to work with before your audition on the online callboard.
- During callbacks, you may be asked to sing an additional song(s) from the list above. You are encouraged to be familiar with each of these songs.
- You should be prepared to **act** the song in your audition, which means to interpret the character while you sing. For instance, we want to see you play William or Rona or Marcy or Chip while you are singing. As you prepare, think about how you can portray each of these different characters while singing.

CASTING POLICY

A7II Dubuque Senior students are eligible to be cast in Dubuque Senior Drama productions. Casting decisions are determined through collaboration between members of the creative team for the production. The creative team includes the director, music director, choreographer, and conductor. The directors cast students with the talents and qualities appropriate for a given role regardless of that student's year in school. In the casting process, the creative team considers potential cast members on standards of acting, singing, and dancing, as well as work ethic, morale, and availability to attend rehearsals. Casting decisions will not be made based on external factors (for example, past work with older siblings, how many crew hours a student has put in, or family donations to the program). The goal in the casting process is for the creative team to choose the most qualified individuals for each role (leading, supporting, and/or ensemble), consistent with the vocal, acting, and physical requirements of the role, as well as the concept of the role and/or production envisioned by the creative team. If a student has a question about his or her casting, the student should contact the creative team.

REHEARSAL INFORMATION

- A detailed rehearsal schedule will be released along with the cast list on Saturday, August 27. Rehearsals will officially begin on Monday, August 29 in the auditorium at Roosevelt. The typical rehearsal schedule will be:
 - Mondays, Wednesday, & Fridays from 3:00 – 5:00 PM
 - Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00 – 8:30 PM
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NOT ALL ACTORS WILL BE
CALLED FOR EVERY REHEARSAL

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- It is important to submit a list of ALL potential schedule conflicts on your online audition form. Our goal will be to schedule around as many conflicts as possible. However, this is only possible when you submit an accurate list of your rehearsal conflicts. Be specific and thorough!
 - Conflicts do play a part of the casting process. Attendance at rehearsals must be a priority. Not all athletic and activity schedules will work with our rehearsal schedule. Please consult your coaches, bosses, and parents prior to auditioning.
 - Technical Rehearsals begin on **Monday, October 24** and continue until **Thursday, November 3**. ABSOLUTELY NO ABSENCES WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THESE TECHNICAL REHEARSALS. These rehearsals are essential to the success of the production. Please consider this *before* you audition. If you cannot commit to the hours required, you will not be able to contribute to the production's success.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Leaf Coneybear	The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark: the winner and first runner-up had to go to the winner's Bat Mitzvah. Leaf comes from a large family of former hippies and makes his own clothes. He spells words correctly while in a trance. VOICE: Baritone or Tenor (A2 - G4)
Logainne Schwartzand...	Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures, with two overbearing homosexual fathers. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year. VOICE: Soprano (C4 - D5)
Chip Tolentino	A boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment. VOICE: Tenor (C3 - B4)
Marcy Park	A recent transfer, Marcy placed ninth in last year's nationals. She speaks six languages, is a member of all-American hockey, a championship rugby player, plays Chopin and Mozart, sleeps only three hours a night, hides in the bathroom cabinet, and is getting very tired of always winning. VOICE: Mezzo-Soprano (B3 - E5)
Olive Ostrovsky	A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. She made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. VOICE: Soprano (B3 - F#5)
William Barfee	A finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy personality. VOICE: Tenor (Eb3-Bb4)
Rona Lisa Peretti	The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former champion herself, and returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children, but she can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Vice Principal Panch, who has feelings for her that she most likely does not return. VOICE: Soprano (C#4 - Ab5)
Mitch Mahoney	The Official Comfort Counselor. Because of past trouble with the law, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. VOICE: Tenor (E3 - A4 (B4)
Douglas Panch	The Vice Principal. After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti. VOICE: Baritone or Tenor
Ensemble	A myriad of characters from Putnam County and beyond, including moms, dads, siblings, and even Jesus. Ensemble members are crucial to the story, and will act, sing, & dance

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AUDITION RESOURCES, CHECK OUT THE ONLINE CALLBOARD AT
WWW.DUBUQUESENIORDRAMA.COM