

### OPEN CALL AUDITION

### *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Auditions:

Monday, July 13th at 6:30PM

Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30PM

**Callbacks – Wednesday, July 15th at 6:30PM**

**Location:** Auditions and Callbacks will take place at Selma Senior Center - 2301 Selma St, Selma, CA 93662.

**The Auditions:** Auditions are the actor's opportunity to showcase their acting and vocal talents, *as well as* their personality and ability to prepare. Although singing is important, remember what we really want to see is who *you* are!

Prior to the auditions, ***you must submit an [Online Audition Form](#)***. Performers are then encouraged to make an appointment via [Sign Up Genius](#). Those without an appointment will be seen on a walk-in basis, as time permits.

**Age Restriction:** All Auditionees **must be 18+** by the first day of Auditions, July 15th, 2026

**Audition Requirements:** Please come prepared to sing approximately 16-32 bars of music, along with a 1-minute comedic monologue. We encourage your song and monologue choice to relate to the style and story of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* but ask they not be from the show. Please ***bring your own instrumental or karaoke track***. A bluetooth speaker will be provided. Per tracks, we recommend

downloading or screen recording your music to your device prior to your audition, as to avoid any potential wifi connectivity issues.

**Video Auditions:** If you are unable to make the general auditions (we strongly recommend an in person audition), an accompanied video recording of the required materials specified above may be submitted **before July 14th at 8:00 PM** to [SelmaArtsCenterAuditions@gmail.com](mailto:SelmaArtsCenterAuditions@gmail.com). Please send via unlisted YouTube link. However, you **MUST** attend the mandatory callback (*should you be called back*) on July 15th at 6:30 PM in order to be considered for a role. If this is not possible, please email us at [SelmaArtsCenterAuditions@gmail.com](mailto:SelmaArtsCenterAuditions@gmail.com).

**The Callbacks:** Callbacks provide our creative team with the opportunity to see an actors' abilities and versatility when applied to this production. The callbacks will be split into three sections; a **singing** portion, a **dancing** portion and an **acting** portion. As we will be asking many things of you, please dress in whatever you're most comfortable in and be prepared for movement! Some actors *may* be let go before the end of callbacks. However, early dismissal does not affect any actors' chance of being cast.

**CDC Guidelines:** Any CDC guidelines in place at time of rehearsal and performances will be enforced. In the event a mandate is reinstated, all are required to wear masks at all times in the theater. Hand washing and distancing is encouraged. Snacks will be eaten in the lobby/patio. Only water in a closed container is allowed in the theater. For more information on CDC Guidelines visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

### **Production Information:**

- Audition Form, Audition Packet and tentative schedule are available online and will be available at the audition.
- Due to the tight rehearsal schedule, all conflicts must be presented during your auditions.
- Conflicts presented after the first rehearsal will not be honored. Please note that excessive conflicts will affect casting decisions.
- PERFORMANCE CONFLICTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
- Casting notification will occur no later than **July 16th, 2026**.
- Extra private music rehearsals may be called for principal roles. Should you be cast, you will be contacted by the vocal director for your availability and scheduling.
- Communication will be done through phone, email and Discord - please list a valid email address on the audition form.

### **Rehearsal Dates and Times:**

- There will be a cast and company meeting/orientation on **July 27th at 7pm at the Selma Art Center** - 1935 High Street, Selma, CA 93662

• Rehearsals for this production will be held Sunday through Wednesday, with some potential Thursday rehearsals from 7:00pm - 10:00 pm, until technical rehearsals begin.

**Performances:**

This production will be double cast, each cast will receive two weekends of performances. The show runs September 25-27th- October 2-4, 8-11, 15-17 for a total of 16 performances, including possible double-shows on each Saturday. The show runs for a total of four weekends. All evening performances begin at 7:30pm and matinee performances begin at 2:00pm.

***If you have any additional questions about auditions or the production, please email Stage Manager Glenda [glennipty31@gmail.com](mailto:glennipty31@gmail.com)***

*This production is sponsored by the Selma Arts Council.*

**Production Team:**

Directed by Claudio Laso  
Assistant Director - Oscar Arellano  
Producer - Claudio Laso  
Stage Manager - Glenda Stewart & Myah Galvin  
Choreographer - Claudio Laso  
Vocal Direction - Terry Lewis  
Set Design - Caleb Wilson  
Assistant Set Design - Oscar Arellano  
Lighting Design - Vinny Galindo  
Marketing & Graphic Design - Toph Ortiz  
Sound Design - Ronnie & Vanessa Bounthapanya

**THE SELMA ARTS CENTER**

1935 High St.  
Selma, CA 93662  
(559) 891-2238  
Selmaartscenter.com  
[nicolettea@cityofselma.com](mailto:nicolettea@cityofselma.com)

**SELMA SENIOR CENTER**

2301 Selma St.  
Selma, CA 93662

**Tentative Production Schedule:**

AUDITIONS July 13 & 14 @ 6:30PM

CALLBACKS July 15 @ 6:30PM

Company Meeting

Monday, July 27 @ 6:30PM

Rehearsals Dates / SUNDAY - THURSDAY.

Week One - VOCALS

Aug. 2nd - 6th from 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Week Two - VOCALS

Aug. 9th-13th from 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Week Three - CHOREOGRAPHY

Aug. 16th - 20th from 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Week Four - CHOREOGRAPHY

Aug. 23rd - 27th from 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Week Five - BLOCKING & STUMBLE THROUGHHS

Aug. 30th - Sept. 3rd from 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Week Six - RUN THROUGHHS/CLEANING

Sep. 6th - 10th from 7:00PM - 10:00PM

Week Seven - RUN THROUGHHS

Sep. 13th - 16th from 7:00PM - 10:00PM

TECH WEEK/DRESS REHEARSALS

Sep 19 - Paper & Dry Tech (No Actors Called)

Sep 20 - Wet Tech - 10AM (Actors Called)

Sep 21 - Dress Rehearsal - 5:30PM (Add Costumes)

Sep 22 - Dress Rehearsal - 5:30PM (Full Costume & Makeup)

Sep 23 - Dress Rehearsal - 5:30PM (Full Costume & Makeup)

Sep 24- Final Dress For Cast A- 5:30PM (Full Costume & Makeup)

Oct 1 - Final Dress For Cast B - 5:30PM (Full Costume & Makeup)

PERFORMANCES

Sep. 25, 26, 27, Oct. 2, 3(2), 4, 8, 9, 10(2), 11, 15, 16, 17(2), 2026

STRIKE: October 18th - 10:00AM

**Synopsis:** 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 a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

**Available Roles:**

**Chip Tolentino:** An athletic, social, 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. (Also plays Jesus) *Vocal Range: Tenor*

**Logainne Schwartzandgrubeni:** The youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. She is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year. *Vocal Range: Mezzo Soprano*

**Leaf Coneybear:** The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He has severe Attention Deficit Disorder and spells words correctly while in a trance. (Also plays Carl Dad) *Vocal Range: Tenor*

**William Barfee:** A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy, bullying personality. He develops a crush on Olive. *Vocal Range: Tenor*

**Marcy Park:** The ultimate over-achiever, Marcy has never been given another option. She comes from a family where excellence is expected and so simply produced. A parochial school student, she assumes God, too, expects perfection. She sees herself as a mass of problems but she keeps them to herself. Having moved often because of her parents' work, she knows she can beat the local competition. Her many talents include piano, dance, martial arts, baton twirling, and/or whatever special gifts you can find in your casting pool. *Vocal Range: Mezzo Soprano*

**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. Having found comfort in its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her

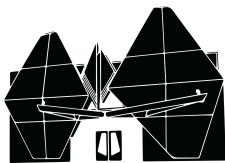
dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms. *Vocal Range: Mezzo Soprano*

**Rona Lisa Peretti:** The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the 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 and his feelings for her. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward. (Also plays Olive's Mom) *Vocal Range: Mezzo Soprano*

**Douglas Panch:** The Vice Principal. Frustrated with his life, he finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. 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, but she does not return his affections.

**Mitch Mahoney:** The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He has no idea how to offer comfort, but does find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better. (Also plays Dan Dad, also Olive's Dad) *Vocal Range: Tenor*

**Please Note: Additional roles can be moved around to different characters. I.e. Mitch is listed to play Dan Dad and Olive's Dad, but one of those additional roles can be given to Chip or William or any other character.**



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