

Spelling Bee

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR Maureen Trotto
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Tom Morris
CHOREOGRAPHER Todd Santa Maria
PRODUCER Meg Jones
ASSISTANT PRODUCER Lou Okell
STAGE MANAGER Cindy Maddox
SET DESIGN Duane E. Langenwalter
LIGHTING DESIGN Stephen Cihanek
SOUND DESIGN Brian Casella
MASTER PAINTER Linda Parsloe
CONSTRUCTION Duane E. Langenwalter,
Robert Lane, Andy Okell
SET & PAINT CREW Matt Emeott, Meg Jones,
Sheridan Jones, Lou Okell,
Emma Okell, Carolyn Strange, Ning Zue
COSTUMERS Cindy Tyler, Patti Thomkins
LIGHTING EXECUTION Taylor Papucci
SOUND EXECUTION Victoria Howe
HOUSE MANAGER/INTERN Jennifer Dear
PROPERTIES Andy Okell, Cindy Maddox, Cast
OPENING NIGHT PARTY Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS:

Jim & Judilynn Ferlow, Garden Zone, Julington Academy of Martial Arts
Stepney Hardware, Thin Air LLC, XL Color, Arketype and all our volunteers

TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Michael Burnett, President & Artistic Director Meg Jones, Vice-President
Jean Jackson, Secretary Carol Hoose, Treasurer
Stephanie Skrok, Ex-Officio

TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Brian Casella (Technical Director), Kristin Hoose, Gary Millar, Caitlin Nolan,
Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Sammy Panzarino, Rob Sniffin, Joy Tagliavento
Zach Jackson, Junior Board Member

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music and lyrics by William Finn
and a book by Rachel Sheinkin

DIRECTED BY Maureen Trotto

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Tom Morris

CHOREOGRAPHER Todd Santa Maria

PRODUCED BY Meg Jones

ASSISTANT PRODUCER Lou Okell

CAST

(in order of appearance)

RONA LISA PERETTI Sara Mariano
CHIP TOLENTINO Patrick Spaulding
LOGAINNE SCHWARZANDGRUBENIERE Katie McMorran
LEAF CONEYBEAR Matt Madden
WILLIAM BARFÉE Daniel O'Connor
MARCY PARK Alexis Willoughby
OLIVE OSTROVSKY Melanie Beck
VP DOUGLAS PANCH Joe Harding
MITCH MAHONEY Mensah Robinson

MUSICIANS

PIANO Tom Morris
DRUMS Al Montecalvo, Tom Sulzicki
SYNTH Nsangi Kariamamu

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

September 2010

Dear TBTA Community,

Once again I am honored to be involved with such a wonderful theatre and community of volunteers, artists and patrons. This season has already seen some truly amazing and inspiring work come across this stage and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is no exception. As we continue to strive to bring professional quality entertainment to our local community, this year we have made a special effort to have the ripples of our work here at TBTA serve a larger community.

This season with The Laramie Project we were able to donate money to The Matthew Shepard Foundation, a wonderful organization started by Matt's mother Judy. This organization works to support LGBT youth and was responsible for the passing of the hate crimes law.

In conjunction with Once On this Island and through the generosity of our patrons, TBTA was able to send almost \$1000 to The Haitian Health Foundation as well as six large boxes of food bound directly for Haiti.

We would love to be able to continue to expand our mission of using this wonderful medium of theatre for more than just entertainment. To do that we need your help. While monetary donations are always welcomed, even more important is your advertising. If you like what you see here this evening, please help us spread the word. Your word of mouth has more impact than any advertising we could do alone. Come back with friends, give a TBTA gift certificate, help distribute information and we will continue to do our part in bringing you quality entertainment right here in Brookfield, CT.

Our season will end with Wait Until Dark. Please be sure to join us for what is sure to be a THRILLING season finale and watch for an announcement of our 2011 season.

PEACE,
Michael Burnett
President, TBTA

For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, the taking of photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off all phones, pagers, computer games and other electronic devices as they may interfere with our technical systems. Please unwrap candies before the show begins. This is live theatre.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Location: East South Park High School

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

<i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Company
<i>The Spelling Rules / My Favorite Moment of the Bee</i>	Rona & Company
<i>My Friend, The Dictionary</i>	Olive & Company
<i>The First Goodbye</i>	Mitch & Company
<i>Pandemonium</i>	Company
<i>I'm Not That Smart</i>	Leaf & Company
<i>The Second Goodbye</i>	Mitch & Company
<i>Magic Foot</i>	William, Rona & Company
<i>Panemonium (Reprise) / My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)</i>	Rona & Company
<i>Prayer of the Comfort Counselor</i>	Mitch & Company

ACT 2

<i>Chip's Lament</i>	Chip
<i>Woe Is Me</i>	Logainne, Carl, Dan & Company
<i>I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)</i>	Leaf
<i>I Speak Six Languages</i>	Marcy & Company
<i>The I Love You Song</i>	Olive, Olive's Mom, Olive's Dad
<i>Woe Is Me (Reprise)</i>	Logainne & Mitch
<i>My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)/ Second</i>	Rona, William, Olive & Company
<i>Finale</i>	Rona & Company
<i>The Last Goodbye</i>	Company

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Executive Board of the CMU Alumni Association. Maureen was a member of the faculty at North Carolina School of the Arts for five years and also served as the Director of the NCSA Visual Arts Program in Florence, Italy. While in North Carolina, she co-founded The North Carolina Theatre Ensemble. Maureen's talents span over several arts. She has achieved professional success in storytelling, writing, directing, sculpting, theatrical design, and toy design.

Maureen's association with TBTA began when she directed *Carnival* and fell in love with this charming space. She is grateful for the opportunity to direct *Spelling Bee* and to be collaborating once again with her incredibly talented husband, Duane Langenwalter. Many thanks to her partners, Duane Langenwalter and Laurie Trotto, and to the rest of the team at Thin Air for their patience and support.



Alexis Willoughby (MARCY PARK/BROOK) is E-C-S-T-A-T-I-C to be a part of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. A recent graduate of New Milford High School she has just started her freshman year at WestConn where she is a musical theatre major. Alexis is excited to be returning to the TBTA stage after being a part of *Carnival* over four years ago. Some favorite roles include the Wardrobe in *Beauty and the Beast*, Mrs. Mayor in *Seussical*, Olga in *Carnival* and Tillie in *Bugsy Malone*. Last year Alexis was honored to perform with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic as one of TriArts featured singers. She has taken dance and acting at Fineline Theatre Arts (NM) and studied voice both locally and in New York city. She would like to thank Maureen, Meg, Lou, Tom and Todd and the cast for all their hard work and also her family and friends for coming to see the show...."Look Ma I can spell!"

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Melanie Beck (OLIVE OSTROVSKY/PINECONE) is thrilled to be part of this bee! Melanie graduated this past May from Ithaca College with a BFA in acting. At IC she performed in many productions such as Eurydice in *Eurydice* and Nellie Collins in *Floyd Collins*. She also worked at the Hangar Theatre where she played Mark's Mom in *Rent* and Olive Ostrovsky in *Spelling Bee*. "Endless thanks to this amazing cast, Maureen, Tom, and my incredible family—All my love!"

Brian Casella (SOUND DESIGN / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) has been the Technical Director at TBTA since 2004 and is the Resident Lighting Designer for The Palace Theater in Danbury. He also lends aid as the Technical Advisor for the Brookside Elementary School in Norwalk and owns a mobile DJ company. Recently he was Stage Manager for *A Matter of Choice*, part of the Fringe Festival in NYC. Currently, he is an Intern for *Live Design Magazine* in NYC working on the Concert Master Classes in LA and the LDI Convention in Las Vegas.



Joe Harding (VP DOUGLAS PANCH) has been seen in: *Light Up The Sky*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Company*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Nerd*, *Isn't It Romantic*, *Whodunnit*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Little Shop of Horros*, *Murder Among Friends* and *I Never Sang For My Father*, all here at TBTA. Joe recieved the President's Award in 1996. Joe direct three shows here: *Whodunnit*, *Lost In Yonkers* and *It Had To Be You*. Joe would like to thank the powers that be at Ability Beyond Disability for getting him the time to work with such a talented group of talented people.

Meg Jones (PRODUCER) is happy to be a part of this journey. She is no stranger to the stage at TBTA and has been seen in *The Laramie Project*, *Pippin*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Peter Pan* and *The Odd Couple*. She is Vice President of the TBTA Board and also runs the costume department. Meg is incredibly proud of ALL the cast members. She hopes that you all enjoy this show.

Duane E. Langenwalter (SET DESIGNER) graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts in Scenic design. After designing & Technical Directing many NYC productions He became an ASID interior designer working throughout the metropolitan area in his own firm, Enchanted Visions. Twenty six years ago, with his wife, Maureen T Trotto (herein known as the director) and her sister, Laureen Trotto, founded Thin Air, LLC... where toys, packaging, graphics & product design all seem to appear out of Thin Air. His spare time is occupied with digital art, laido, singing & a book of waka poetry *Few Words, a hundred waka*. He is thrilled to be returning to the theatre & working with his ever-lovely wife.



Matt Madden (LEAF CONEYBEAR/CARL) , a senior at Newtown High School is absolutely thrilled to be a part of his first production at TBTA! He is planning on pursuing his BFA in Musical Theatre. Previous credits include *Les Miserables* (Marius), *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Grease* (Doody), *Seussical The Musical* (Wickersham), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Schroeder), *Aladdin* (Magic Carpet), and *Midsummer Night's Dream* (King Oberon) with Sabrina's Encore Productions. NHS credits include *Company* (Paul), *Gypsy* (Yonkers), *Lost in Yonkers* (Jay), *110 in The Shade* (Jimmy Curry), *Hello Dolly* (Ensemble), *Fairfield Follies 09'* (Billy Flynn in *Chicago*), *Fairfield Follies 08'* (Bert in *Mary Poppins*, Barnaby in *Hello Dolly!*), and *The Wizard Of Oz* (Tin Man). I have had such an amazing time doing this show. It is definitely the funniest show I have EVER

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done and it is so much fun! The entire cast is so talented and put their all into the production of this show! Special thanks to Maureen, Tom, Lou, Meg, and Todd for all of their dedication and support. Another special thanks to my family, friends, and the entire cast for all their support and guidance! BREAK A LEG CAST!!!! SPELL!!!!

Cindy Maddox (STAGE MANAGER) Cindy Maddox won the Hazelwood Elementary School Spelling Bee as a fourth grader ("banana") and was eliminated early as a fifth grader ("handkerchief"). She managed to overcome this early disappointment. Cindy is new to TBTA and is thrilled to be working with a fantastic director and amazing cast and crew. She is grateful for this learning experience. Cindy also wants to thank her wife and daughter for their loving support and patience. "You're the best!"



Sara Mariano (RONA LISA PERETTI/OLIVE'S MOM) is very excited to be making her TBTA debut, especially in one of her favorite shows! Sara's performance experience includes *West Side Story* (Margarita), the a capella group *Vision*, and a soloist at various weddings. Sara works in the corporate world by day, and is a proud musical theater nerd by night. She lives in Danbury with her husband Joe and their two dogs, Roxie and Mellie. She'd like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive and her parents and husband for giving her the confidence she needed to audition—you have no idea how much it's appreciated! She would also like to confess that her last Spelling Bee experience (as a 7th grader in the Catholic War Veterans sponsored Bee) did not go so well, and she hopes you won't hold it against her.



Katie McMorran (LOGANNE S./LEAF'S MOM/DANCE CAPTAIN), a senior at Newtown High School, is beyond excited to be in this production of *Spelling Bee*. Katie spends most of her time performing in shows, both in school and with Sabrina's Encore Productions in Newtown. Previous roles include Cosette (*Les Mis*), Amy (*Company*), Tessie Tura (*Gypsy*), Bella (*Lost in Yonkers*), Ruth Condomine (*Bliethe Spirit*), Gwendolyn (*The Importance of Being Earnest*), Bluebird Girl (*Carnival*), Dorothy (*Wizard of Oz*), and various roles in *Smokey Joes Café* and *The Producers*. In the fall Katie will be co-directing Tom Stoppard's *On The Razzle* at NHS. Enjoy the spelling!

Tom Morris (MUSICAL DIRECTOR) has conducted and performed for many productions in Connecticut for high schools and community theaters. Recent shows include *Spelling Bee*, *Into the Woods*, *The Music Man*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Oklahoma*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. In addition he has performed on stage in *42nd Street* as Julian Marsh, *Wonderful Town* as Bob Baker, and *Victor Victoria* as Squash Bernstein all with Musicals at Richter. Tom has also been performing as Mike Miller in the Spinning Wheel's annual Christmas show for the past 10 years. He is the principal timpanist for the Danbury Symphony Orchestra and currently the President of the Board of Directors for the Danbury Music Centre. Tom is happy to be back at TBTA since his first "gig" in a pit orchestra was for *They're Playing Our Song* in 1984. Tom would like to thank his family for their love and support.



Daniel O'Connor (WM. BARFÉE/LEAF'S DAD) started his solo singing career with the Newtown Choral Society's Spring Concert singing his favorite rock and roll song, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, when he was eleven years old. Since then he has performed additional solos with the Newtown Choral Society and at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown, as well as in several productions at Newtown High School. He has been a member of the NHS

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Singers since his freshman year and a member of the Connecticut Western Regional Choir also as a freshman. More recently, Daniel has explored theatre productions such as *Company* (Harry) at NHS and *Les Miserable* (the bishop and Grantaire), a Sabrina Encore Production. He is very pleased to play William Barfée in *Spelling Bee*. He would like to thank everyone in his cast as well as everyone who helped put this production together. Most importantly he hopes that you will enjoy the show.

Lou Okell (ASSISTANT PRODUCER) recently produced *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* here at TBTA. She graduated *cum laude* from Elmira College and completed her senior thesis at Cornell University's Performance Arts Festival. Lou thanks Meg, Maureen, the hard working crew and the funny and talented cast of *Spelling Bee* for this adventure and her family for their love and support. Thank you to all our guest spellers too!

Linda Parsloe (MASTER PAINTER) is thrilled to be working again with Duane and Maureen.



Mensah Robinson (MITCH MAHONEY/DAN/OLIVE'S DAD) This is Mensah's debut at TBTA. Recently he has been featured as Nicely Nicely Johnson in the MAR production of *Guys and Dolls*. Mensah has also been seen in The Warner Theatre's productions of *The Full Monty* and *Aida*. Mensah is a member of his church choir and leader of the Youth Praise Team at New Life Community UMC.

Todd Santa Maria (CHOREOGRAPHER) has performed, choreographed, and stage managed with theater groups all over the east coast. TBTA credits include: *Beyond Therapy* (Andrew), staged reading of *Auntie Mame* (Ito), and *Carnival* (Choreographer). NYC credit: *Fabulous!* (Dramatist's Guild Series). Theme park: Walt Disney World Entertainment (Lake Buena Vista, FL). Acting credits include: *A Chorus Line*, *Equus*, *Bent*, *Camelot*, *Chicago*, *Corpus Christi*, *Ragtime*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *A Few Good Men*, *Hair*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Choreography credits include: *bare*, *Rent*, *Once on this Island*, *Urinetown*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Evita*, *Cabaret*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *West Side Story*. Next, Todd will appear as "Carmen Ghia" in Little Theater of Manchester's *The Producers*.



Patrick Spaulding (CHIP TOLENTINO/LANDSCAPE/JESUS) is very happy to be making his first appearance at TBTA! Earlier this summer he appeared as Timony the cop in Richter's production of *Carousel*. He has appeared in many productions hither and yon, most recently as constable Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* for The Players at Putney Gardens in Stratford and in summers past in several productions for Newtown Players (Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, and Bottom in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*). Some of Pat's other favorite roles have included Ganesha in *A Perfect Ganesh* and Pa Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting* (Putney Players Stratford CT), Evil Eye Fleagle in *Lil' Abner* (Swift Creek Mill, Fredericksburg, VA), Huckleby in *The Fantastiks* (Richmond Theatre Co., Richmond Va), Dodge in *Buried Child* (Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling Green KY), and Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls* (Mill Mountain Playhouse, Roanoke VA) He would particularly like to thank his fellow spellers and staff of *Spelling Bee*, as well as Principal Maureen and her Vices: Lou and Meg for this humbling and inspiring experience...as well as his role's model Braxton and muse-in-residence Celia.

Maureen Trotto (DIRECTOR) is the guiding, creative force behind Thin Air, LLC, a partnership formed to create and produce exciting, new concepts for TV, film, theatre, and toys. She is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon University Drama Department from which she holds a degree in Theatrical Design, and has served as a member of the