

BLACKOUT
THEATRE CO.



PRESENTS



The 25th Annual
Putnam County
SPELLING
BEE

ABOUT THE SHOW

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! At least the losers get a juice box.

AUDITION INFORMATION

- **Please carefully read the entire Audition Pack before requesting an audition slot.**
- Auditionees must be at least 16 at the time of auditions.
- Auditions will be held at Walters Rd Primary School - 158 Walters Rd, Blacktown – Entrance on Vella Crescent on Sunday the 28th and Monday the 29th of April 2019 starting at 7.00pm till 10pm.
- Callbacks will be held Wednesday the 1st of May (if Required)
- Each audition will go for approximately 15 minutes. It will consist of a singing audition and an acting audition.
- To request an audition slot please email info@blackouttheatre.com.au
- Final audition slots will begin 9.45pm both nights.
- Everyone must complete the attached audition form and bring it to the audition.
- Singing auditions will be held to backing track. We request that people bring their **OWN backing track on CD or USB**. Choose a piece that will show off your singing ability including clear diction and your character acting ability.
- For the acting auditions, we have included 4 monologues in the audition pack:
 - If you are auditioning for any character other than Panch, please familiarise yourself with all 3 monologues for the acting audition. We will ask you to perform a cold read of one on the night, even if it's not the character you're auditioning for. You are not required to be off book for this or know it by heart.
 - For those auditioning for Panch you'll be asked to perform the Panch scene and you may be asked to read one of the other monologues as well. You are not required to be off book for either of these.

CASTING INFORMATION

Chip Tolentino/Jesus Christ

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.

Male – Aged 18+

Vocal Range – Tenor C4-B5

Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniere (Schwartz)

Logainne is 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.

Female – Aged 18+

Vocal Range – Mezzo-soprano A3-F5

Leaf Coneybear/Carl's Dad

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.

Male – Aged 18+

Vocal Range – Tenor G3-D5

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.

Male – Aged 18+

Vocal Range – Tenor E4-B5

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.

Female – Aged 18+

Vocal Range – Mezzo-soprano C4-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. 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.

Female – Aged 18+

Vocal Range – Mezzo-soprano B3-F5

Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive's Mum

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.

Female – Aged 27-39

Vocal Range – Mezzo-soprano B3-F5

Douglas Panch

The Vice Principle. 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.

Male – Aged 30-49

Vocal Range – Non-Singing Role – Should be adept at improvisation

Mitch Mahoney/ Dan's Dad/Olive's Dad

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.

Male – Aged 27-39

Vocal Range – Tenor E4-A5

We request that people bring their OWN backing track on CD or USB – Remember to show off your singing ability including clear diction and your character acting ability.

MONOLOGUES

Rona:

Ladies and Gentleman, all the children you see on stage are here because of their extraordinary ability and love of language-- but only one of them can go on to compete in the National Spelling bee! And this year, to celebrate our silver anniversary, our local sponsors, the Putnam Optometrists, are offering today's winner a two hundred dollar savings bond toward his or her future education. But remember, to get here each child had to win or place-- in their own district bee- so each of them is already a winner.

Hello, I'm Rona Lisa Peretti, and I'm pleased to be back for my 9th consecutive year as your host. Unfortunately, our long-time word pronouncer, Superintendent Spriggs has fallen ill, so please join me in welcoming back Vice Principal Douglas Panch from Lake Hemingway- Dos Passos Junior High- who's been kind enough to step in, and save the bee.

Mitch:

You can't comfort these damn kids. They don't yet know that the good don't always win, so there's nothing you can say to cheer them up when they lose. I want to tell them disappointment doesn't last—but from what I've seen disappointment lasts like hell. I want to tell them words don't matter; but from what I've seen words can get you killed. I want to beat them up a little, so they understand that pain has degrees, and this is nothing—this is nothing, you little freaks. But I can't do that, so I do what I can. I give them a hug and a juice box. I'm here to give comfort. Let's go.

Logainne:

Doesn't anybody care about the rules here? This bee is as archaic as...the conclave process. You know, I've been reading about our new pope, Pope Benedict; and as a progressive, half Jewish biracial child of two gay fathers, I don't believe this pope has my best interest in mind.

Panch:

STRABISMUS

SCHWARZY: Strabismus. May I please have the definition of that word?

PANCH

The inability of one eye to obtain binocular vision with the other because of an imbalance of the muscles of the eyeball.

SCHWARZY: Can you use it in a sentence please?

PANCH

In the schoolyard Billy protested that he wasn't cockeyed. "I suffer from strabismus," he said, whereupon the bullies beat him harder.

Miss Park the word is Phylactery

MARCY: Phylactery. Am I pronouncing that correctly?

PANCH

Yes.

MARCY: Thank you. May I have the definition, please.

PANCH

"either of two small square leather boxes containing religious texts traditionally worn on the left arm and head by Jewish men during morning weekday prayers."

MARCY: Thank you. May I have a sentence, please?

PANCH

"Billy, put down that phylactery- we're Episcopalian."

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Production Team

Director	Jordan Anderson
Assistant-Director	Catherine Gregory
Musical Director	Koren Beale
Choreographer	Daniel Lavercombe
Assistant of Everything	Stephen Helies
Stage Manager	Natalie Condliffe
Sound Design	Kieran Vella
Lighting Designer	Jack Dutson
Production Manager	Leanne Carter

Contacts

Blackout Theatre Company
P.O. Box 515 Seven Hills 1730

Jordan Anderson	Director	0479 160 848
Stephen Helies	Assistant of Everything	0499 993 008
Leanne Carter	Production Manager	0408 869 328

Performances

Will be held at the Pioneer Theatre – Castle Hill.

Cost

Production Fees	\$85
Membership Fees	\$15
Total	\$100

All cast must be financial members of the company, to perform on stage.
Production fees will cover individuals insurance and any production costs.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be held on Monday's and Wednesdays from 7.30-10pm beginning on the 6th of May at Walter Road Public School.

There may be some Sunday rehearsals closer to the run however these will be confirmed with as much notice as possible.

Working with Children's Check

Every person in the cast over the age of 18 **must** have a current Working with Children's Check and must provide the WCC number, their registered surname and date of birth for us to check by the 15th of May. It is a free service as cast members are volunteers:

<https://wwccheck.cyp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/Application>.

IMPORTANT DATES

These dates are non-negotiable and must be attended by all cast and crew members. A commitment is made by every performer to attend all rehearsals, performances, and bump-in/out. If you are unable to attend, please notify your director. All performers and crew members are expected to behave in a dedicated and professional manner to ensure a smooth-running show.

During the rehearsal period BTC will also be holding a fundraising events and promotional performances (dates TBC) – all cast are expected to contribute wherever possible.

Event	Date	Time	Where
Rehearsals Start	06/05/19	7pm	Walters Rd Public School
Code of Conduct due	08/05/19	7pm	Walters Rd Public School
Headshots	20/05/19	7pm	Walters Rd Public School
Cast Fees Due	01/06/19		Walters Rd Public School
Bios Due	01/06/19		Walters Rd Public School
BTC Trivia Night	15/06/19	6pm	Walters Rd Public School
Sitzprobe	21/07/19	3pm	Walters Rd Public School
Bump in	22/07/19	10am	Pioneer Theatre
Tech rehearsal w/ band	22/07/19	6pm	Pioneer Theatre
Tech rehearsal + band	23/07/19	6pm	Pioneer Theatre
Opening Night	24/07/19	7:30pm	Pioneer Theatre
Second Show	25/07/19	7:30pm	Pioneer Theatre
Third Show	26/07/19	7:30pm	Pioneer Theatre
Fourth Show	27/07/19	2pm	Pioneer Theatre
Fifth Show	27/07/19	7:30pm	Pioneer Theatre
Closing Night	28/07/19	5pm	Pioneer Theatre

BLACKOUT THEATRE COMPANY – 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee AUDITION PACK

AUDITION FORM *Please print and bring completed copy to the audition night*

FULL NAME:	DOB:
ADDRESS:	
SUBURB:	POSTCODE:
PHONE NUMBER:	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	
<i>Please ensure all of your details are correct in order to be notified of your result and any further communication</i>	

Are you a current Blackout Theatre Company Member?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a current Working With Children Check Number?	Number:
Which role/roles are you auditioning for? <input type="checkbox"/> Chip <input type="checkbox"/> Logainne <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf <input type="checkbox"/> William <input type="checkbox"/> Marcy <input type="checkbox"/> Olive <input type="checkbox"/> Rona <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas <input type="checkbox"/> Mitch	
Would you be open to accepting an alternate role to those you listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have any strange and wonderful talents we should know about?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Do you have any existing illness, medical conditions, or injuries that may affect your ability to perform in this production? Any information you provide is confidential.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Do you have any commitments that would stop you from attending rehearsals? Please specify, including dates:	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
What is your dance ability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> "I don't dance"

