

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2019

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Press Photos

<https://villagetheatre.org/pressroom/>
Username: press / Password: village

Press Opening Nights

Issaquah: Thursday, September 12, 2019
Everett: Friday, October 25, 2019

Village Theatre Kicks Off 40th Anniversary Celebration with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Issaquah Run: September 12 – October 20, 2019

Everett Run: October 25 – November 17, 2019

ISSAQUAH, Wash. – August 8, 2019 -- Village Theatre is thrilled to inaugurate their **40th Anniversary Season** with *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. The fast-paced and irreverent Tony Award-winning comedy is set to run in at the **Francis J. Gaudette Theatre in Issaquah September 12 – October 20, 2019** before moving to the **Everett Performing Arts Center October 25 – November 17, 2019**.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee follows an eclectic group of students as they vie for the title of regional spelling be champ – hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. The witty coming-of-age story is bursting with heart and is an unforgettable experience that chronicles all the joy, torment, and passion of those who love to compete. “This show is hilarious,” said director **Brandon Ivie**. “It has one of the funniest scripts I have ever read, but it also has these unexpected emotional moments. All these kids are in a pressure cooker situation where stakes could not be higher. Watching them succeed or crumble is thrilling and heartbreaking. This show gives you a full theatrical experience in such a seemingly simple and wacky package.”

The cast will unite the Pacific Northwest’s most talented and brilliant comedic geniuses. Spellers will include: **Justin Huertas** (award-winning playwright of *Lizard Boy*) as Chip Tolentino, **Arika Matoba** (*Into the Woods*) as Marcy Park, **Rafael Molina** (*Into the Woods*) as Leaf Conebear, **Taylor Niemeyer** (*Newsies*) as Olive Ostrovsky, **Sarah Russell** (*The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes*) as Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere, and **MJ Sieber** (*Stupid F#@*ing Bird* at ACT) as William Barfee. Additional casting includes: **Nicholas Japaul Bernard** (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at ArtsWest) as Mitch Mahoney,

Brian Lange (*Urinetown* at ACT/The 5th Avenue Theatre) as Vice Principal Douglas Panch, and **Jessica Skerritt** (*Singin' in the Rain*) as Rona Lisa Perretti.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee will be directed by Village Theatre associate artistic director **Brandon Ivie**, who directed last Season's hit World Premiere production of *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes*. Joining Ivie on the production team are choreographer **Trina Mills** (*Assassins* at ACT), music director **Tim Symons** (*Into the Woods*), scenic designer **Julia Welch** (*Fire Season* at Seattle Public Theater), lighting designer **Robert J. Aguilar** (*String*), and costume designer **Brynne McKeen** (*Always...Patsy Cline* at Taproot Theatre Company).

Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box...

An unforgettable experience, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is onstage in Issaquah September 12 – October 20, 2019 before moving to Village Theatre's Everett location October 25 – November 17, 2019. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at Village Theatre's website, over the phone, or by visiting the Box Office. For more information visit www.villagetheatre.org.

This production is sponsored in part by EBJ Proliance Surgeons, Encore Arts Programs, MarsJewett, Redmond's Bar & Grill, Bruce & Peggy Wanta, ArtsFund, Boeing, City of Issaquah, Microsoft, SeattlePI.com, The Seattle Times, 4Culture, City of Everett, The Shubert Foundation, Seattle Northcountry, the Snohomish County hotel-motel tax fund, Krawbar, Lombardi's, and United Airlines.

Additional Show Information:

<https://www.villagetheatre.org/spelling-bee.php>

Hashtag: #VTSpellingBee **Facebook:** [VillageTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/VillageTheatre) **Instagram:** [@VillageTheatre](https://www.instagram.com/VillageTheatre) **Twitter:** [@thevillagevault](https://twitter.com/thevillagevault)

Issaquah Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/489158998568853/>

Everett Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2322406587977090/>

Cast & Production Team Interviews, Bios, and Headshots Are Available Upon Request.

For Calendar Editors:

Issaquah Run: September 12 – October 20, 2019

Dates

Preview: Wednesday, September 11

Opening: Thursday, September 12 (Press Night)

American Sign Language Performance: Saturday, September 28

Post-Show Talkback: Tuesday, October 15

Closing: Sunday, October 20

Performances are Wednesday – Sunday, Select Tuesdays

Tuesday – Thursdays at 7:30PM

Fridays at 8:00PM

Saturdays at 2:00 PM and 8:00PM

Sundays at 2:00 PM and 7:00PM (no 7:00PM performance on September 15 or October 20)

Location

Village Theatre at the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre

303 Front Street North

Issaquah, WA 98027

Tickets

\$38-\$80

Web: <https://www.villagetheatre.org/issaquah/spelling-bee.php>

Phone: (425) 392-2202 | Tuesday – Saturday 11:00AM – 7:00PM

Everett Run: October 25 – November 17, 2019

Dates

Opening: Friday, October 25 (Press Night)
Post-Show Talkback: Saturday, November 9
Closing: Sunday, November 17
Performances are Wednesday – Sunday
Wednesdays – Thursdays at 7:30PM
Fridays at 8:00PM
Saturdays at 2:00 PM and 8:00PM
Sundays at 2:00 PM and 7:00PM (no 7:00PM performance on November 17)

Location

Village Theatre at the Everett Performing Arts Center
2710 Wetmore Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

Tickets

\$35-\$75
Web: <https://www.villagetheatre.org/everett/spelling-bee.php>
Phone: (425) 257-8600 | Tuesday – Saturday 11:00AM – 7:00PM

Village Theatre's 5-Show Season Includes:

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Sept. 12 – Nov. 17, 2019)
Guys & Dolls (Nov. 7, 2019 – Feb. 2, 2020)
She Loves Me (Jan. 16 – Mar. 22, 2020)
Hansel & Gretel & Heidi & Günter (Mar. 12 – May 17, 2020)
The Wedding Singer (May 7 – Jul. 26, 2020)

Issaquah Subscriptions:

\$135-\$330
Web: <https://www.villagetheatre.org/issaquah/subscribe.php>
Phone: (425) 392-2202 | Tuesday – Saturday 11:00AM – 7:00PM

Everett Subscriptions:

\$125-\$330
Web: <https://www.villagetheatre.org/everett/subscribe.php>
Phone: (425) 257-8600 | Tuesday – Saturday 11:00AM – 7:00PM

About Village Theatre

Based in Issaquah, with operations in Everett, Village Theatre is the largest fully producing theatre in the Pacific Northwest, and a leading producer of musical theatre in the United States. Cultivating entertaining and quality productions since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the country's best attended theatres, with approximately 20,000 Subscribers and 220,000 attendees each Season. The theatre's new works program, Village Originals, is nationally recognized for its commitment to the advancement new musicals, having supported the development of over 150 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its youth education and outreach programs, serving over 57,000 young people and their families annually.

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