

## PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

Presented by Vincent Massey High School

A hilarious musical, “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” is based upon a fast paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin. It encompasses audience participation and boasts a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, making it one unforgettable experience.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a story of an eclectic group of six adolescents who vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their personal lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of zany words, hoping to never hear the soul crushing sound of the spelling mistake bell.

This high school production cast and crew have been hard at work bringing this show to life, but it has also proven to be a labour of love. For the first time in years, director Nancy Pitcairn has had the opportunity to work with her family; her son, Keegan, now attends Massey and has joined the cast. Despite teaching at another Brandon school, director Raven Willoughby has kept her commitment to the show, returning and working with the remarkable team of talented students and adults.

The students themselves come from all walks of life to join each other on the stage. Students originally born around the globe round out the cast: Azka Ahmed (Saudi Arabia), Ben Pilling (U.S.), Ethan Yiding Zhang (China), Aliah Pasaporte (Philippines), Felix Gallardo Roque (Cuba), Faith Adetudimu (Ireland), and Joan Umoh (Nigeria). The performance also showcases students dedicated to many different hobbies who are dividing their time to be a part of this production: students like Natalie Sluis, who also plays rugby and competes in gymnastics; Kobe Lim, who plays in the Vincent Massey jazz band, wind ensemble and concert band; and a host of dedicated dancers who move between “Spelling Bee” rehearsals to classes at Dance Images, Steppin’ Time and Brandon School of Dance. Grade 12 students Ben Pilling and Ethan Yiding Zhang decided to make this their first production and grade 12 student Matthew Rust has been a part of production throughout his four years at Massey. This is just a glimpse of the multi-talented cast on display. With a group so committed and a show with such a simple topic yet complex characters, it becomes clear why people have become involved with this production.

Come and experience "The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Westman Centennial Auditorium November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm or November 11 at 2:00pm or 7:30pm. For tickets, call (204) 728-9510 or email [www.wmca.ca](http://www.wmca.ca).

Adult: \$20.00

Senior: \$15.00

Student: \$15.00

Child: \$10.00

Prices include taxes and service charge

Vincent Massey High School Proudly Presents...

*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County*

# SPELLING BEE



Music and Lyrics by

**William Finn**

Book by

**Rachel Sheinkin**

Conceived by

**Rebecca Feldman**



**Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium**

**November 10, 2017 7:30 pm**

**November 11, 2017 2:00 pm, 7:30 pm**

**General \$20**

**Student/Senior \$15**

**Child \$10**

**For tickets (204) 728-9510 or [wmca.ca](http://wmca.ca)**

Additional Material by Jay Reiss. Originally directed on Broadway by James Lepine. Originally Produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. Tel: (212) 397- 4684 [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)