OUTCRY Youth THEATRE

The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics by **William Finn**
Book by **Rachel Sheinkin**
Conceived by **Rebecca Feldman**

Additional Material by **Jay Reiss**
Originally Directed on Broadway by **James Lapine**

Originally produced on Broadway by
David Stone, James L. Nederlander,
Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo,
Barrington Stage Company, Second Stage Theatre

JANUARY 16-25

The Addison
Performing Arts Centre
Studio Theatre

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

Recommended for ages 13 and up.
Contains some adult content.

CREATIVE TEAM

Based upon *C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E*, an original play by The Farm.

The Barrington Stage Company workshop of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.

Directed and Choreographed by
Becca Johnson-Spinos

Music Directed by Cindy Johnston

Stage Managed by Marisa Saenz

Costumes by Lisa James

Banner Design by Jason Johnson-Spinos

Props by Sherilyn Fox

Lighting Design by Jason Johnson-Spinos

Audio Engineer: Ben Birchfield

Light Board Operator: Holden James

Costume Assistance: Kari Dominguez, Cynthia Aranda,
Shayla Holub-Sachdev, Kensley James

Ticket/Volunteer Coordinator: Desi Brown
Playbill Assistance: Autumn Highsmith
Cast Party & Gifts Coordinator: Shayla Holub-Sachdev
Production Photography by Jennifer Garcia

Special Thanks: MrJim and Sue Johnson,
and the staff of The Addison Performing Arts Centre

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. www.mtishows.com

CAST

THE SPELLERS

WILLIAM BARFÉE
Dylan Decker
Liam Paynter

OLIVE OSTROVSKY
Aly Dominguez
Layla Tacazon

SCHWARZY
Alexis Highsmith
Bella Brown

MARCY PARK
Almaz Clawson
Nadia Fox

LEAF CONEYBEAR
Isaac Aranda
Niam Sachdev

CHIP TOLENTINO
Joshua Brown
Owen Garcia

THE ADULTS

RONA PERETTI
Madeline Knoff
Olivia Holloway

DOUGLAS PANCH
Parker Lindsay

MITCH MAHONEY
Apache Browne

OLIVE'S MOM
Presley Saba

OLIVE'S DAD
& CARL DAD
Kaz Hill

DAN DAD
Charlie Claassen

FORMER SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS

Annie Dominguez
Bird Hoffner
Charlie Claassen
Izzy Martin
Kaz Hill
Kensley James
Presley Saba
Renee Neleson

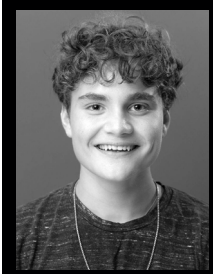
BIOGRAPHIES



Isaac Aranda (Leaf Coneybear) is in 10th grade at Booker T. Washington. This will be his 18th production with Outcry Youth Theatre. He is a part of Becca's Army and the J-Squad. Some of his favorite prior roles include Cat in the Hat *(Seussical)*, Artful Dodger *(Oliver!)*, and Les *(Newsies)*. He would like to thank his family for their support and Ms. Becca for this incredible opportunity!



Bella Brown (Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre) is 14 years old and in 8th grade. She is thrilled to be returning to Outcry Youth Theatre after performing as Annie in *Annie Jr.* Some of her favorite roles include Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods Jr.* (McKinney Youth Theatre), Matilda in *Matilda* (Dallas Young Artists & MYO), and Brigitta Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* (Garland Summer Musicals). She would like to thank Ms. Becca and Ms. Cindy for this amazing experience and hopes you enjoy the show!



Joshua Brown (Chip Tolentino) is a sophomore in high school. This is his first production with Outcry Youth Theatre. Some of his past roles include George Gibbs *(Our Town)*, Wickersham Brother *(Seussical)*, and Orpheus *(Hadestown)*. He plans to attend college to pursue a BFA in Musical Theatre. He would like to thank his parents for driving him everywhere.



Apache Browne (Mitch Mahoney) is a Hebron High School graduate. This is his ninth show at Outcry. He is thankful for the cast and crew for giving him the opportunity to be a part of his first ever musical, for the learning experience, and for the support from his family, friends, and at least 19 fans.



Charlie Claassen (Dan Dad/Ensemble) is a junior at McKinney Boyd High School. This is his second production with Outcry Youth Theatre. He previously played Cinderella's Stepmother in *Into the Woods*. He would like to thank his family for supporting him and Ms. Becca for giving him the opportunity to perform.

BIOGRAPHIES



Almaz Clawson (Marcy Park) is a junior in the theatre conservatory at Booker T. Washington. Favorite past roles: Naomi/Celeste 2 *(Sunday in the Park with George)* and Grandma *(A Monster Calls)* at Outcry, Youth Ensemble/ Young Tulsa *(Gypsy)* at Mainstage Irving, Ensemble *(Aladdin, dual-language edition)* and Rafiki *(Lion King Jr.)* at the Firehouse Theatre, as well as Lady Spry (*Retales)* at Booker T. Washington. Almaz would like to thank her cast and Ms. Becca for this incredible opportunity!



Dylan Decker (William Barfée) is in 12th grade at Rockwall High School. This is his first production with Outcry Youth Theatre. When not on stage, he enjoys singing and performing a cappella with Walk the Line. He would like to thank his family and his choir directors for helping him find his love for the arts.



Aly Dominguez (Olive Ostrovsky) is a freshman. This is her 16th production with Outcry Youth! Favorite past roles include Grandma *(A Monster Calls)* and Blind Pew *(Off to Treasure Island)*. When not on stage, she enjoys singing, playing instruments, and reading. She thanks her parents for all of their love and support, Ms. Becca for all of her dedication and for giving her such a great opportunity, and the entire cast and crew for all of their hard work! She has enjoyed the show process very much!



Annie Dominguez (Ensemble) is 13 years old. This is her 17th production with Outcry Youth Theatre. Some of her favorite past roles include Matilda *(Matilda Jr.)*, Calpurnia *(Julius Caesar)*, and Wickersham *(Seussical)*. When not on stage, she enjoys baking and playing the piano. She thanks her parents for all of their love and support, Ms. Becca for being an amazing director and giving her this opportunity, and the entire cast for all of their hard work and dedication! She's had so much fun with this show and the cast!



Nadia Fox (Marcy Park) is overjoyed to be in her 7th show with Outcry Youth Theatre. Her favorite past roles include The Witch *(Into the Woods)*, Mrs. Gibbs *(Our Town)*, and Grasshopper *(James and the Giant Peach Jr.)*. When she is not performing, Nadia enjoys making art and playing video games. She would like to thank her parents for their non-stop support of her passions, and Ms. Becca for the opportunities.

BIOGRAPHIES



Owen Garcia (Chip Tolentino) is a sophomore in high school and is excited to be making his Outcry Youth Theatre debut. His favorite past roles include Wickersham Brother *(Seussical)*, Piangi *(The Phantom of the Opera)*, and a Worker *(Hadestown)*. He plans on attending college for a BFA in Musical Theatre. Owen thanks Ms. Becca and Ms. Cindy for an amazing production and his family for their endless support!!



Alexis Highsmith (Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre) is a freshman at Forney High School. This is her sixth production at Outcry Youth Theatre. While she loved all her roles, her favorite may always be Little Red in *Into the Woods*. She has had a blast bringing Schwarzy to life and working with this amazing cast. She would like to thank Ms. Becca and Ms. Cindy for all they do to help her grow, and her family, friends, and girlfriend for always supporting her. She cannot wait to see everyone shine onstage!



Kaz Hill (Carl Dad/Olive's Dad/Ensemble) is a 16-year-old actor. He has done multiple shows with Outcry Youth Theatre over the last 3 years. When not performing on stage, he enjoys drawing, cooking and singing. He takes pride in his acting and is always up for a challenge, and always ready for what the day may bring him.



Bird Hoffner (Ensemble) is a graduate from the Einstein School. This is their first production with Outcry Youth Theatre! Their favorite past roles have been Constance Blackwood *(Ride the Cyclone)* and Little Red Ridinghood *(Into the Woods)*. Bird would like to thank all the friends they've made at Outcry and their parents for being supportive of them.



Olivia Holloway (Rona Peretti) is a freshman at UT Arlington pursuing a BFA in Acting. Some of her favorite past roles include Dory *(Finding Nemo Jr.)*, Narrator *(Puffs)*, Aunt March *(Little Women)*, Mrs. Webb *(Our Town)*, and Gertrude McFuzz *(Seussical)*. This is her sixth Outcry Theatre production, and she is excited to perform with this amazing cast. She would like to thank Ms. Becca for all of the support and opportunities over the past few years.

BIOGRAPHIES



Kensley James (Ensemble) is excited to join Outcry Youth Theatre's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Kensley is in 8th grade and enjoying the fast-paced world of drama. This is her 19th show at Outcry Youth Theatre. Her favorite performance was as Meg *(A Wrinkle in Time)*. When not at rehearsal, she loves to spend time with her friends and family. She would like to thank Ms. Becca for giving her the opportunity to perform in the ensemble of this exciting production.



Parker Lindsay (Douglas Panch) is 17 years old. This is his 11th production with Outcry Youth Theatre. His favorite past roles include Cassius in *Julius Caesar* and Mr. Hyde in *Jekyll + Hyde*. When not on stage, he is a competitive figure skater and takes long walks in the woods with his father.



Madeline Knoff (Rona Peretti) is a tenth grader thrilled to appear in her 33rd production with Outcry. Favorite past roles: Mum *(A Monster Calls)*, Brutus *(Julius Caesar)*, Princess Winnifred *(Once Upon a Mattress)*, the Witch *(Into the Woods)*, Evelyn *(Jekyll + Hyde)*, Helena *(A Midsummer Night's Dream)*, and Leanne *(Puffs)*. Madeline is deeply grateful to her family and friends for their constant support and thanks her inspiring director, Ms. Becca, as well as the cast and crew, for an unforgettable experience.



Izzy Martin (Ensemble) is 17 years old and a homeschooled senior. This is her first production with Outcry Youth Theatre. She would like to thank Ms. Becca for this amazing opportunity to perform in such a thrilling show. She's had so much fun at Outcry and has made so many great memories! She hopes you enjoy the show!



Renee Neleson (Ensemble) is in 10th grade at Frisco High School. This is her twelfth stage production with Outcry Youth Theatre. Some of Renee's favorite past Outcry Youth Theatre roles include White Rabbit *(Alice in Wonderland)*, Jim Hawkins *(Off to Treasure Island)*, and Meg *(A Wrinkle in Time)*. When not on stage, she enjoys sewing, animation, and baking. Renee would like to thank her parents for their love and support.

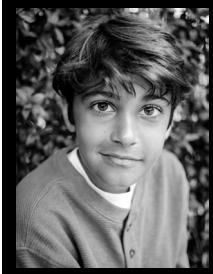
BIOGRAPHIES



Liam Paynter (William Barfée) is a senior at Plano Senior High School. This is his 26th production with Outcry Youth Theatre. His favorite past roles include Black Stache *(Peter and the Starcatcher)*, Nick Bottom *(A Midsummer Night's Dream)*, Stage Manager *(Our Town)*, and Dr. Henry Jekyll *(Jekyll + Hyde)*. Liam would like to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support.



Presley Saba (Olive's Mom/Ensemble) is in 10th grade at Booker T. Washington HSPVA. This is her first production with Outcry Youth Theatre. Her favorite past roles include Winnie Foster *(Tuck Everlasting)* and Young Bonnie *(Bonnie & Clyde)*. When not on stage, she likes to watch horror movies and be with friends. She would like to thank Ms. Becca for being an awesome director!



Niam Sachdev (Leaf Coneybear) is a 6th grader at Haggard MS. This is his 16th show with Outcry (10th with Ms. Becca)! Favorite roles: JoJo *(Seussical)*, Oliver *(Oliver!)*, Charlie *(Willy Wonka)*, and Nemo *(Finding Nemo)*. He studies film acting with Performer's Edge Dallas and dances at Tuzer Ballet. He has acted in several films/commercials and is represented by the Horne Agency. Niam would like to thank Ms. Becca for this opportunity, Ms. Cindy, the amazing cast, and his mom for her support and being his biggest fan.



Layla Tacazon (Olive Ostrovsky) is a senior at Rockwall High School. This is her 12th production with Outcry Youth Theatre. Her favorite past roles include Hermia *(A Midsummer Night's Dream)*, Emily Webb *(Our Town)*, and Cinderella *(Into the Woods)*. When not on stage, she likes to sing with her high school a capella group, Walk The Line. She would like to thank her parents for their constant support and encouragement to achieve everything she sets her mind to.

BIOGRAPHIES





Becca Johnson-Spinos (Director/Choreographer) is the Artistic Director of Outcry Theatre. Becca has a BFA in Music Theatre from Elon University and an MFA in Directing for Theatre from Baylor University. In North Carolina, Becca worked at Burning Coal Theatre Company as an assistant to the Artistic Director, an assistant director, and an actor. In the Dallas area, she has directed dozens of shows and was named one of the Best Directors for 2018 by John Garcia for Outcry Theatre's production of *Spring's Awakening*.

Cindy Johnston (Music Director) is an educator of 28 years, retiring from McKinney ISD after 23 years at 3 campuses. Under her direction, the Evans MS Varsity Treble Chorus was a 2009 honor choir at TMEA Convention. Along with performing in summer community theatre musicals, Cindy directed a myriad of shows at all 3 MISD campuses. She directed and produced 13 summer musicals with McKinney Repertory Theatre. *Spelling Bee* is her 13th production with Ms. Becca, 19th overall with Outcry Theatre.

The Farm was founded in 2000 by Rebecca Feldman, Artistic Director. It is a collective of writers and performers, including Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg. The Farm's interest is in the role of improvisation in creating new work for the theatre. The Farm initially designates a two-week intensive period in which to discover, develop, and rehearse a play from the impulses borne mainly out of the pressure of a deadline. Previous projects include *Super* (at Atlantic Theatre Studios), *Why I Hate Florida* (workshop at White Wave in DUMBO) and *C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E* (at the Present Company Theatorium in October 2002), on which *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is based. The character and original dialogue of "Beth Marguiles," "Vice President Douglas Panch," "Mr. Barfee," and "Logan Schwarzengrubenierre" were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.

COMMUNITY AUDITIONS



Music by **Jeanine Tesori**
Book and Lyrics by **David Lindsay-Abaire**
Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture
and the book by William Steig

Ages 10 and up
Auditions **March 1 & 6, 2026**
Performs **June 18-21, 2026**

Addison Performing Arts Center
Main Stage
directed by Becca Johnson-Spinos

"Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek...." And thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there's one on hand... and his name is Shrek.

Irreverently fun for the whole family, *Shrek* brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears.

UPCOMING PRODUCTION



Music and Lyrics by **Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman, Al Rinker and Floyd Huddleston**
Music Adapted and Arranged and Additional Music by **Bryan Louiselle**
Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by **Michael Bernard**
Based on the 1970 Disney film, *The Aristocats*

Performs **February 20-22, 2026**

Addison Performing Arts Center
Studio Theatre
directed by Jason Johnson-Spinos
music directed by Rachel Wasson

Based on the beloved Disney animated film, and featuring a jazzy, upbeat score, *Disney's The Aristocats KIDS* is a non-stop thrill ride of feline fun, complete with unbelievable twists and turns.

In the heart of Paris, a kind and eccentric millionairess wills her entire estate to Duchess, her high-society cat, and her three little kittens. Laughs and adventure ensue as the greedy, bumbling butler pulls off the ultimate catnap caper. Now it's up to the rough-and-tumble alley cat, Thomas O'Malley, and his band of swingin' jazz cats to save the day.

UPCOMING PRODUCTION

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Dramatized by **Joseph Robinette**
From the story by **C.S. Lewis**

Performs **March 12-15, 2026**

Courtyard Theater
in downtown Plano
directed by Jason Johnson-Spinos

This dramatization of C.S. Lewis' classic work faithfully recreates the magic and mystery of Aslan, the great lion, his struggle with the White Witch, and the adventures of four children who inadvertently wander from an old wardrobe into the exciting, never-to-be-forgotten Narnia. The intense action features chases, duels and escapes as the witch is determined to keep Narnia in her possession and to end the reign of Aslan. All the memorable episodes from the story are represented in this exciting dramatization: the temptation of Edmund by the witch, the slaying of the evil wolf by Peter, the witnessing of Aslan's resurrection by Susan and Lucy, the crowning of the four new rulers of Narnia, and more. The supporting characters are also here: the unicorn, the centaur and other forest animals, along with Father Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Beaver and Tumnus the Faun. This story of love, faith, courage and giving, with its triumph of good over evil, is a true celebration of life.

UPCOMING PRODUCTION



by **Edmond Rostand**
Adapted by **Becca Johnson-Spinos**

Performs **April 23-26, 2026**

Cox Playhouse
in downtown Plano
directed by Becca Johnson-Spinos

A witty, courageous, and skilled swordsman, poet, and playwright named Cyrano is secretly in love with the beautiful and intelligent Roxane. However, his large nose causes him to doubt himself and prevents him from telling her how he feels. Cyrano is able to express his love indirectly when he helps a handsome but inarticulate young man, Christian, woo Roxane by crafting eloquent letters and speeches. Equal parts tragic and comic – with swashbuckling sword fights, romance, poetry, battle scenes, intrigue, and lots of laughs – *Cyrano* explores themes of love, sacrifice, and the disparity between appearance and inner character.

OUTCRY READS Festival

Outcry Reads presents a yearly festival with four readings of plays by DFW playwrights to help them with further development of their work. Plays are read and selected. Local actors are cast. Readings take place at the Outcry Theatre Rehearsal Location in Plano. Readings are free to attend, with limited seating for up to 20 audience members. A talkback follows the readings, moderated by the director, where the audience members and actors can discuss the play with the playwright.

2026 OUTCRY READS FESTIVAL
May 15-17

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- All submitting playwrights must live in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and be able to attend the reading and the rehearsal.
- Playwrights will need to provide a list of what they would like to learn from the talkback, including specific questions they would like answered.
- Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Playwrights may only submit one play per season.
- Only non-musicals will be considered.
- Plays must be between 45 and 135 minutes.

Submit your play today at outcrytheatre.com/outcry-reads

2025-2026 SEASON SUPPORTERS

BENEFACTORS
$1,000+
City of Plano
Govenar Family Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas
The James Family
The Highsmith Family
MrJim and Sue Johnson
The Knoff Family
The Paynter Family
The Sachdev and Holub Family
Dominique and Efstathios Spinos
Texas Commission on the Arts
Town of Addison

ENTHUSIASTS
$500 - $999
The Blasingame Family
The Guiou Family
The Jones Family
The Witt Family

DONORS
$100 - $499
DFW Delivered Courier Service
The Dominguez Family
Jamie Illian
Dale Jacobs
Cindy Johnston (in memory of Katie Guiou)
The Kurtz Family
The Lyle Family
Emily Moore
The Neleson Family
The Retta Family
The Rorem and Million Family
Carmen Toal
Kelly Walton

SUPPORTERS
$10 - $99
Margaret Blackmon
Katherine Boulware
Jack Brooks
Chris Buchanan
Keith A. Carney
Peggy Champion
Steve Champion
Jack Chung
Jillian Conry
Gail Cronauer
Dave Dickerson
Connie Elledge
Kate Fendley
Leo Genyuk
Melissa Gibson
Robert Green
Maria Guevara
The Hampton Family
Megan Joseph
Gene Lavergne
Douglas Lee
Jeanie Luttrell
The Miller Family
Nimisha Pachory
Shannon Sexton
Galen Smith
Johnathan Thornton
Marie Vaughn
M Evan Willis
Ellen Zeisler

If your name is incorrect or missing, please contact us at outcrytheatre@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Outcry Theatre strives to draw youth and young adults from Plano and the surrounding areas to the theatre as both audience and participants, integrating the arts into their lives, and encouraging them to become lifelong artists and arts appreciators.

ABOUT OUTCRY THEATRE

Outcry Theatre utilizes bold artistic vision, highly physical staging, and an energetic and visceral performance style. With rigorous rehearsals, tenacious attention to detail, and unwavering dedication to excellence, Outcry Theatre focuses on developing stellar performances and exceptional storytelling.

Outcry Theatre serves the Plano community and surrounding DFW area through professional productions; Outcry Reads, presenting works in development by local playwrights; the Outcry Community Theatre program, involving people of all ages; and the Outcry Youth Theatre program, educating students ages 5-18.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marisa Saenz *(President)*
Chauncey Eastes *(Vice President)*
Vijay Sachdev *(Treasurer)*
Carmen Toal *(Secretary)*
Jeff Gray
Becca Johnson-Spinos
MrJim Johnson

OUTCRY STAFF

Artistic Director
Becca Johnson-Spinos
Marketing Director
Jason Johnson-Spinos
Bookkeeper
Jim Guiou

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Outcry Theatre is funded in part by the City of Plano,
the Govenar Family Fund at Communities Foundation of Texas,
the Texas Commision on the Arts, and the Town of Addison.

Plano

Texas Commission on the Arts

ADDISON

outcrytheatre.com