

## '25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' musical comes to GHS stage Feb. 23-24

Written by Elizabeth Barrett  
Thursday, 14 February 2013 14:23 -

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Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser.

That sums up the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," according to director Ernie Blecha. The musical will grace the stage of the performing arts center on Feb. 22-23.

Rehearsals have been underway by Gothenburg High School choir students since the beginning of January.

Auditions were in December.

Blecha said the setting is a junior high school gym in which the spelling bee is hosted.

Winners from local elementary and middle schools arrive and check in with the bee's long time hostess and former champion, Rona Lisa Pereti (Carlin Daharsh).

Audience volunteers are also welcomed to the stage.

However speller Olive Ostrovsky (Rachel Rice) does not have her entrance fee and vice principal Douglas Panch (Jon Rehmert) is announced as the day's word pronouncer. Panch is a last-minute substitute for an ailing superintendent.

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When a speller misses a word, a bell will ring and the speller must immediately leave the stage, escorted by the bee's comfort-counselor, Mitch Mahoney (Joe Darling).

Blecha noted that the Lied Center in Lincoln will host the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" June 7-8.

"It began on Broadway and really is making a name for itself," he said.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

They can be bought at Gothenburg State Bank, First State Bank and in the high school office and are also available at the door.

The music and lyrics of the musical, based on a book by Rachel Sheinkin, are by William Finn. The idea was conceived by Rebecca Feldman with additional material offered by Jay Reiss.

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SPELLING BEE CAST MEMBERS			
Chip Tokratino	Rhet Lindholm	Carl Grubenierr	Paul
Leaf Counselor	Drew Mann	Archer Jensen	Chas
William Barfee	Cody Cooper	Leaf's Mom	Kyla Trevino
Loganwe Schwarz	Staley Gibbons	Leaf's Dad	Alex Jorgenson
Marcy Park	Abbie Mazour	Jesse	Jeff Soimer
Olive Ostrovsky	Rachel Rice	Voice	Jacob Franzen
Rosa Lisa Perretti	Carlin Daharsh	Leaf's siblings	MariqM & choreographer
Vice Principal Douglas Peach	Jon Sabmert	Shaylee Scott	Lauren Andre
Mitch Mahoney	Joe Darling	Brook	Shelby Loostron
Community volunteer #1	Betsy Potter	Pinecone	Alaya Collins
		Raisin	Ernie Blecha, Trudy Elso, Erin
		Landscape	Roman Schmidt
			Feather and Stephanie Block
			Good
			Director