Thank you for joining us for our landmark 60th anniversary season!

We invite you to:

• Experience Milwaukee’s professional Equity music theatre company. We present the full spectrum of music theatre, ranging from blockbuster Broadway musicals to reimagined operas, from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas to exciting new works.

• Enjoy Skylight Style productions. We bring fresh approaches and create meaningful connections between the characters on stage and the audience in an intimate theatre that allows audiences to feel close to the powerful emotions on stage.

Our mission since 1959:

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• Serving as the largest employer of Wisconsin theatrical artists in the State
• Performing in the beautiful, intimate Cabot Theatre
• Bringing the excitement of a live orchestra to every production
• Offering educational programming reaching over 14,000 students annually
• Engaging more than 30,000 people at performances each year
**GENERAL INFO**

**Box Office**
158 North Broadway, Main Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 291-7800
Email: Tickets@skylightmusictheatre.org
Monday - Saturday, Noon to 6 p.m.
The lobby window is open two hours prior to performances. Tickets also available at www.skylightmusictheatre.org

**Administrative Office**
158 North Broadway, Sixth Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 291-7811
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Emergency Phone Number**
(414) 908-6645
Alert House Management of your seat location before the performance and leave the above number so they may reach you.

**Recording Equipment and Cameras**
The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

**Lost and Found**
Leave a message with the House Manager at (414) 908-6645.

**Audience Guides**
For information, current opportunities, and requests to sign up to become a volunteer usher, visit www.skylightmusictheatre.volunteerhub.com.

**Volunteer for Skylight**
by e-mailing info@skylightmusictheatre.org.

**Ushering**
For information, current opportunities and to sign up to become a volunteer usher, visit www.skylightmusictheatre.volunteerhub.com.

**ADA Services**
Assisted listening devices are made possible through support from Alvin & Marion Birshein Foundation. Audio description and wheelchair seating are available and can be arranged in advance by calling (414) 291-7800.

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**Late Arrivals**
Patrons arriving after the performance has started will be seated at the discretion of House Management.

**A Few Highlights from 60 Years**

1959 Skylight Opera Theatre is founded by Clair Richardson and Sprague Vonier in the skylighted attic of a European-style coffee house at 929 N. Jefferson St. The first show is a musical revue based on the life and works of Gilbert & Sullivan.

1962 Needing more space, Skylight moved nearby to a converted tire-recapping garage at 813 N. Jefferson St. on Cathedral Square and created a 99-seat theater.

1967 Skylight is founding member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF), which generously provides ongoing support to Skylight and other area performing arts organizations.

1980 Clair Richardson dies. Per his wishes, his ashes are kept in an urn under the stage, fulfilling his request that all future productions be performed “over my dead body.”

1992 In April, construction begins on the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee’s historic warehouse district, the Third Ward.

1993 In October, Skylight opens its new home in the Broadway Theatre Center. The $6 million renovation and new construction was supported by an extensive capital campaign.

1995 On January 31, the 358-seat theater is inaugurated as the Cabot Theatre. Colin Cabot looked at small opera houses in France for inspiration, and found Le Theatre de la Coupe d’Or in Rochefort sur Mer. The Cabot Theatre was designed based on that theater’s architectural drawings.

1992 landmarks?
- St. John’s Cathedral
- Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company
- City Hall
- Wisconsin Electric Power Company
- Elsa’s on the Park
- The original Skylight Theatre on Jackson Street
- The Wisconsin Gas Company
- The Pabst Theatre

**About the Cabot Theatre**

“Do you want to have some real fun?”
– Question Clair Richardson asked that led to the birth of Skylight in 1959. When Clair died in 1980, per his wishes, his ashes are kept in an urn under the stage, fulfilling his request that all future productions be performed “over my dead body.”

**Can you find the following 1992 landmarks?**
- St. John’s Cathedral
- Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company
- City Hall
- Wisconsin Electric Power Company
- Elsa’s on the Park
- The original Skylight Theatre on Jackson Street
- The Wisconsin Gas Company
- The Pabst Theatre

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**Skylight 2019-2020 Season**

**25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

**About the Cabot Theatre**

The intimate Cabot Theatre, modeled after an 18th century French jewel-box opera house, was built in 1992. With just 350 seats, everyone has a great view and feels close to the emotion and action on stage.

The quote on the ceiling celebrates the spirit of music and theatre. The people and cupids depicted represent various important players in Skylight history and landmarks from the Milwaukee skyline as they appeared in 1992.

The ceiling features the Goddess of Memory: Mnemosyne, mother of the Nine Muses. Each of the nine boxes on the Gallery level celebrates one of those Muses (History, Tragedy, Comedy, Literature, Science, Oratory, Poetry, Dance and Music) and is decorated with associated images. In a nod to the spirit of fun that makes up Skylight’s DNA, playful images are part of the decorations for each Muse. Can you spot the bag of cough drops for one of them?

“Do you want to have some real fun?”
– Question Clair Richardson asked that led to the birth of Skylight in 1959. When Clair died in 1980, per his wishes, his ashes are kept in an urn under the stage, fulfilling his request that all future productions be performed “over my dead body.”

**3**
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INVEST IN INSPIRATION
When you donate to the United Performing Arts Fund, you support more than a show. Your gift is an investment in our local community, helping to enrich our culture, the economy and arts education for the children in our area. Let that be your cue to act.

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Milwaukee Ballet. The Nutcracker, 2017, Marzoe Fumero, Photo by Mark Frohna;
First Stage, The Wiz, DiMonte Henning, Darrington Clark and Reese Parish, Photo by Paul Ruffolo;
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Photo by Ron Oshina
In a world where we are many times limited to 140 characters, it is wonderful to experience a musical that is a love letter to the English language. Words help us communicate - to make a point, to show love, to create. Words develop and change, new words are added to our vocabulary every day. Words are history. The English language is a melding of different vernaculars - Old English, Danish, Norse, French, Latin, Greek, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Dutch and Spanish. A word's sound, meaning, and spelling is the result of centuries of cooperation, conquest, and competition.

It is in competition that we meet our characters of Spelling Bee. Just like our language, these characters are all from different backgrounds, with their own quirks, insecurities, hopes and dreams. Taking part in the Bee introduces them to the joys and horrors of adolescence. But, what unites them is their love of language. In a song cut from the show, the characters sing, "In spelling - things have logic and line, and in spelling - there's a greater design. Though in school we seem strange, at the bee we seem better, as we count out each letter in our mind, and we find, we love spelling. It makes us feel normal - we like spelling."

Enjoy this love of language and joy of learning, with moments of awkwardness and heart.

Brian Cowing

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - MICHAEL UNGER

Some people say that directing is 50% casting. Without casting any aspersions (see what I did there?) on any directors anywhere in the world; in my experience, I feel it can sometimes be an even higher percentage. I had the immense pleasure and honor of co-directing (alongside its gloriously zany creator, Rebecca Feldman) the world premiere production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Barrington Stage Company in 2004. The personalities of the original cast informed that production on a uniquely high level. The exuberant and delightful cast you are about to meet is refreshing the Skylight production with tons of personality, sublime silliness, and great heart. Spelling Bee is a prime example of some shows having more elasticity than others in which a cast will custom fit a production to their theatre and their audience. With Brian Cowing’s refreshing and witty direction and choreography, he and his team have created a Spelling Bee that is very much their own... and yours. I know this show, in this place, will tickle all of our funny bones, warm our hearts, and remind us of the quirky misfits we may remember from our pasts; or even, if we are willing to admit it, the endearing misfits within a small part of ourselves.

Michael Unger (Artistic Director) is thrilled to join the Skylight team as Artistic Director. Michael is also the Producing Artistic Director of NewArts in Newtown, CT, which he started with a local father in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. For NewArts he has directed a dozen large-scale musicals involving over 550 local children. He was until recently the Associate Artistic Director and Director of Education for Off-Broadway’s York Theatre Company. Michael’s work will be seen around the country in 2020 with the 70th Anniversary National Tour of You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown. Michael has directed many benefit concerts, including for the Sandy Hook, CT and Parkland, FL communities. Selected world premieres include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Calígula, and A ROCKIN’ Midsummer Night’s Dream, which is featured in the award-winning documentary film, Midsummer in Newtown. Other directing credits include McCarter Theatre, 59E59, Paramount, W.H.A.T., Signature, Cape Playhouse, Deaf West, and The St. LouisMUNY. He has directed fifteen operas, two of which are available on DVD.

Jack R. Lemmon (Executive Director) joined Skylight in 2015 after having worked in the performing arts for over 30 years. He is also currently president of the board of the Historic Third Ward Association. Lemmon has served as Executive Director of the Joffrey Ballet, Louisville Ballet and Colorado Ballet to name a few. He also served at the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington D.C. He currently serves on the Public Policy Committee of Imagine MKE as a member of the DNC Arts & Cultural Activation Steering Committee. He served on the board and executive committee of Dance/USA and was a board member of the Partnership for Creative Economies (KY). He chaired the board of the Arts and Cultural Attractions Council in Louisville, KY, and the Chicago Dance Alliance. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids (Iowa) and an M.F.A. in Theatre from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.
CAST OF THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Chip Tolentino ................................................................. Yando Lopez*
Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre .................................... Kaylee Annable
Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad ................................................... Ryan Stajmiger
William Barfée .................................................................. James Carrington
Marcy Park ........................................................................... Kendyl Ito*
Olive Ostrovsky ................................................................. Amanda Rodriguez
Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive's Mom ........................................... Samantha Sostarich
Douglas Panch ..................................................................... Robby McGhee
Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad/ Olive’s Dad .................................. Shawn Holmes

*Denotes member of Actors’ Equity Association

BAND
Reeds ....................................................................................... Ron Foster
Cello ....................................................................................... Victor Brusabardis
Keyboard .................................................................................. Jane Latva
Percussion ............................................................................... Michael (Ding) Lorenz

PRODUCTION SUPPORT
Scenic Artists .............................................................................. Nerissa Eichinger
Scenic Carpenters ................................................................. Tony Roman, Jack Austin,
Rachel Zembrowski
Draftsperson ........................................................................... Libby Winchester Schultz
Props Master ............................................................................. Simone Tegge
Stitchers .................................................................................... Carolyn Doerr
Electricians .............................................................................. Brian Bryars, Erin Dillon,
Rebekah Farr, Shane O’Neil,
Jarrod Langwinski, Ryan Zierk
Assistant Stage Manager ....................................................... Samantha Pekelnicky
Light Board Operator .............................................................. Brian Bryars, Shane O’Neil
Followspot Operators ............................................................. Tony Roman, Drea DeVos

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Village Theatre

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act 1
"The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" ........................................ Chip, Rona, Leaf, Logainne, Barfée, Marcy, Olive
"The Spelling Rules" ................................................................................................................. Panch, Spellers, Rona, Mitch
"My Favorite Moment of the Bee" .............................................................................................. Rona
"My Friend, the Dictionary" ...................................................................................................... Olive, Chip, Leaf, Logainne, Rona, Company
"The First Goodbye" .................................................................................................................. Company
"Pandemonium" ......................................................................................................................... Chip, Olive, Logainne, Leaf, Barfée, Marcy, Mitch
"I'm Not That Smart" ................................................................................................................. Leaf
"The Second Goodbye" ............................................................................................................... Company
"Magic Foot" ............................................................................................................................... Barfée, Company
"Pandemonium (Reprise)" ......................................................................................................... Mitch, Company
"My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise)" ................................................................................ Rona
"Prayer of the Comfort Counselor" ........................................................................................... Mitch, Company

Act 2
"Chip's Lament" ......................................................................................................................... Chip
"Woe is Me" ................................................................................................................................. Logainne, Carl, Dan, and Company
"Spelling Montage" ..................................................................................................................... Panch, Spellers
"I'm Not That Smart (Reprise)" ................................................................................................. Leaf
"I Speak Six Languages" .............................................................................................................. Marcy, Females
"Jesus" .......................................................................................................................................... Marcy, Females
"The I Love You Song" ............................................................................................................... Olive, Olive’s Mom, Olive’s Dad
"Woe is Me (Reprise)" .................................................................................................................. Logainne, Mitch
"My Favorite Moment of the Bee (Reprise 2)" ............................................................................ Rona
"Second" ....................................................................................................................................... Barfée, Olive, Company
"Second (Part 1)" ......................................................................................................................... Barfée, Olive, Company
"Weltanschauung" ....................................................................................................................... Barfée, Company
"Barfée and Olive Pas de Deux" .................................................................................................. Company
"Second (Part 2)" ......................................................................................................................... Barfée, Olive, Company
"The Champion" .......................................................................................................................... Rona, Company
"Finale" .......................................................................................................................................... Company
"The Last Goodbye" .................................................................................................................... Company

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WHO’S WHO

**Kaylee Annable** (Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre) is proud and incredibly grateful to be back at Skylight Music Theatre! Previous Skylight credits include: Lois/Bianca in *Kiss Me Kate*, Little Sally in *Urinetown*, Isabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, Little Red in *Into the Woods*, and Ensemble/US Cosette in *Les Miserables*. Among other regional credits, Kaylee was most recently seen as Jovie in *Elf: The Musical* at Derby Dinner Playhouse. Kaylee would like to extend gratitude and love to all of her house/tribe/clan. Mac and Back!

**James Carrington** (William Barfée) is E-C-S-T-A-T-I-C to be doing this show and this role at Skylight! James was last seen this fall as Gerald the Elephant in *Elephant and Piggie* at First Stage and past shows with Skylight: *Hot Mikado*, *Annie*, *Urinetown* and recently as Four Eyed Moe in *Five Guys Named Moe*. James is a graduate of UW-Madison’s Acting Specialist B.F.A. Program. Some favorite roles include Matt in *Matt Burns: A Post Electric Play*, Man 3 in *The Ballad Of Emmett Till* and The Lion in *The Wiz* at First Stage. James has also worked with: First Stage Theatre, In Tandem Theatre, Madison Opera, Children’s Theatre of Madison, Ordway Center for Performing Arts, Renaissance Theatreworks, and Door Shakespeare. Up next James will be in *Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand*, a world premiere, at First Stage. Support the arts!

**Shawn Holmes** (Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad/ Olive’s Dad) is extremely excited to be back after just performing at Skylight with *Gospel at Colonus*. Shawn has been performing with theatres all throughout Wisconsin. Some theatres include Florentine Opera, First Stage, Middleton Players Theatre, Black Arts MKE, and Four Seasons Theatre. Some of his favorite past performances were Coalhouse Walker Jr. in *Ragtime* (winner of Best Actor in a Musical – Broadway World), Sebastian the Crab in *The Little Mermaid*, and Jacob in *La Cage aux Folles* (winner of Best Supporting Actor in a Musical - Footlights). Shawn would like to thank his family and friends for their never ending support.

**Kendyl Ito** (Marcy Park) is an NYC based actor. She was most recently seen as Jing/Prof. Li Biju in *Soft Power* at the Public Theater. Other theater credits include: Hortensia in *Matilda* (1st National Tour), Jeongmoon in *Locusts* at The Yale Carlotta Festival, Heejin in *Wild Goose Dreams* at The Public Theater, and Connie Wong in *A Chorus Line* with director Baayork Lee. Kendyl also loves new musical/play development and has been seen in readings and concerts throughout the Manhattan area. Kendyl has never competed in a spelling bee before and has to verbally say “b-e-a-U-tiful” every time she writes “beautiful” … this show has been a dream come true for her.

**Yando Lopez** (Chip Tolentino) is so excited to be making his Skylight Music Theatre debut! He was last seen at the Marriott Theatre as King Julien in *Madagascar*, and at Drury Lane Theatre in their productions of *Mamma Mia!* and *A Christmas Carol*. Recent credits: *Legally Blonde* at Paramount Theatre, *Forever Plaid* at Theatre at the Center (Jeff Nomination), *Sweeney Todd* at The Royal George (Jeff Nomination) and *The Christians* at Steppenwolf. Other credits: Porchlight Music Theatre, American Blues Theatre, Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theatre, and the Other.

WHO’S WHO cont.

**Robby McGhee** (Douglas Panch) is best known for appearing as Randy, the Packers-loving, basement-dwelling improvising chef in web commercials for Pick n Save. He appeared as Radio Soloist/Leroy Evans in Skylight Music Theatre’s production of *Violet*. He helped create All In Productions, a local theatre production company that is proud to hire Milwaukee talent. He has been a performer in Tall Boys Improv through Ampersand Theater for seven years. One of his greatest passions is his band, of which he is the lead singer: Funk Summit Bass Team. This one’s for you, Mom and Dad! @robbymcghee

**Amanda Rodriguez** (Olive Ostrovsky) is delighted to make her Skylight Music Theatre debut! She has performed on stages throughout Wisconsin, but her most recent work has taken her out of state. She was seen on the Nashville Children’s Theatre stage in the world premiere production of *Return to Sender* and she has enjoyed working on the new play *Selena Maria Sings* with Childsplay Theatre in Arizona. Amanda has had the pleasure of performing in Madison with Children’s Theatre of Madison, Music Theatre of Madison, and Capital City Theatre. She also delights in being a teaching assistant and performer with Whoopensorcher! BroadwayWorld nominated for Best Actress in a Musical for her work as the title role in *Pinkalicious: The Musical* and Best Featured Actress in a Play for *Return to Sender*. She sends love to her many support systems! www.theramandarodriguez.com

**Samantha Sostarich** (Rona Lisa Peretti/ Olive’s Mom) is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she received a BA with distinction as a Theatre Acting Specialist. She is excited to be returning to the role of Rona Lisa Peretti for a third time! Favorite roles include Velma Von Tussle in *Hairspray* and Lily St. Regis in *Annie* with Skylight Music Theatre, Gretchen in *Boeing Boeing* with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Lady of the Lake in *Monty Python’s Spamalot* with Four Seasons Theatre, Mrs. Wormwood in *Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical* with Children’s Theatre of Madison, and Fortuna in *Fortuna the Timebender vs. The School Girls of Doom* with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Milwaukee Metro Voices. Other Skylight credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Violet*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Into the Woods*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Producers*, and *White Christmas*. www.samanthasostarich.com

**Ryan Stajmiger** (Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad) is very excited to be back at Skylight Music Theatre for its production of the 25th *Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. A graduate of CCPA at Roosevelt University, Ryan has worked with Chicago area theaters including Chicago Shakespeare, Drury Lane, Mercury Theater, Porchlight, Metropolis, and many more. Though he currently calls Chicago home, Ryan is always happy for an opportunity to return to his Milwaukee roots. He has previously been seen at Skylight as Tobias in *Sweeney Todd*, Jack in *Into The Woods*, and Virgil in *Violet*. Outside of theater Ryan can be seen performing with The Four C Notes, the premier Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons tribute in the U.S.
Brian Cowing (Director/Choreographer) is a Wisconsin native, thrilled to be making his Skylight debut. Regional credits include: Capital City Theatre's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Four Seasons Theatre's *All Is Calm*, Spamatol, *Les Misérables*, *She Loves Me*, and *South Pacific*. With Children's Theater of Madison, *Matilda*, *Tuck Everlastingly*, *Seussical*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Brian has also served as guest director and choreographer at Clinton Showboat Theatre, Binghamton University, and Oklahoma City University. As an actor, National Tours: *Annie and Something Rotten*. Proud graduate of Oklahoma City University.

David Bonofglio (Music Director) holds a BFA in piano performance from Cardinal Stritch University. Selected credits as music director: *Oklahoma!*, Urinetown and *Pippin* for Skylight Music Theatre; *Little by Little*, Scrooge In Rouge, *A Cudahy Caroler* for In Tandem Theatre; *Sunday In The Park With George* for Windfall Theatre. As assistant music director: *A Christmas Carol* for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and as cover piano/conductor for *Once On This Island* and *La Cage Aux Folles* for Skylight Music Theatre. As keyboardist and programmer: *Powder Her Face*, *Les Misérables*, *In The Heights*, and *La Cage Aux Folles* for Skylight Music Theatre.

Tye Hunt Fitzgerald (Sound Designer) is a Canadian born reinforcement and conceptual Sound Designer based in New York City. He is pleased to be making his Skylight Music Theatre debut. Credits include: *Floyd Collins*, *The Slow Sound of Snow*, *The Laramie Project*, *War Boys*, *The Catastrophe Club*, *Deathbed Edition*, *Matilda*, *The Musical*, *Passion*, *The Rare Biosphere*, *An Enemy of The People*, *The Apple Tree*, *The Musical*, *Passion*, *The Rare Biosphere*, *Skylight Music Theatre debut*. Credits is a Canadian born reinforcement and *Aux Folles Misérables*, *In The Heights* for Skylight Music Theatre. As keyboardist and as cover piano/conductor for *On This Island* and as assist music director: *Park With George* for In Tandem Theatre;

WHO’S WHO IN THE CREATIVE TEAM


Allyson Schiller* (Stage Manager) recent stage management credits include *Las Mariposas* and *These Hands* (People's Theatre Project) *Anytown* (George Street Playhouse) *Matilda* *Disney's Newsies* the Musical (*Ne*Art). Other credits include Child Guardian for *Christmas in Hell* (The York Theatre). Resident Stage Manager and Communications Manager for Crimes of the Heart, *The Tribute Artist*, *Talley’s Folly*, *Baby with the Bathwater*, *Dancing Lessons* (2nd Story Theatre). Other selected credits include costumes Production Assistant for AMC’s TV series NOS4A2 Season 2. Allyson received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in theatre from the University of Rhode Island.

William Finn (Music and Lyrics) is the writer and composer of *Falsettos*, for which he received two Tony Awards, Best Book of a Musical (with James Lapine) and Best Original Score. He has also written and composed *In Trousers*, *March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland* (Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, two Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, the Lucille Lortel Award, and Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition). Mr. Finn wrote the lyrics to Graciela Daniele’s *Tango Apasionado* (music by the great Astor Piazzolla) and, with Michael Starobin, the music to Lapine’s version of *The Winter’s Tale*. His musical, *Romance in Hard Times*, was presented at the Public Theater. Recently, he wrote “Painting You” for *Love’s Fire*, a piece commissioned and performed by the Acting Company, based on Shakespeare’s sonnets. For television, Mr. Finn provided the music and lyrics for the *Ace Award-winning* HBO cartoon “Ira Sleeps Over”; *Tom Thumb and Thumbelina*; “Pokey Little Puppy’s First Christmas”; and, with Ellen Fitzhugh, two “Brave little Toasters” cartoons. Mr. Finn has written for Vogue, Harper’s Bazaar, and The New Yorker. A graduate of Williams College where he was awarded the Hutchinson Fellowship for Musical Composition, Finn now teaches a weekly master class at the NYU Tisch Graduate Program in Musical Theatre Writing. His most recent projects include *Elegies*, *A Song Cycle* (Lincoln Center) and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee which ran on Broadway and has been produced nationally and internationally, as well.

Rachel Sheinkin (Book) Broadway: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Tony, Drama Desk awards); Off Broadway: *Striking 12* (Lucille Lortel nomination), Off-Off: *Serenade*. Regional: *Guthrie*, *Little House on the Prairie*; *Center Theater Group*, *Sleeping Beauty Wakes* (Los Angeles Ovation Award); London: *Blood Drive*. Residencies, fellowships, commissions include: Eugene O’Neill National Theater Center, Baryshnikov Dance Foundation, MacDowell Colony, Manhattan Theatre Club, Deaf West, McCarter Theatre, Playwrights Horizons. Rachel is a volunteer mentor for TDF’s Open Doors program, a visiting instructor at Yale School of Drama, and adjunct faculty member of NYU’s Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program.

Rebecca Feldman is the conceiver of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee for which she won a Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk and Tony Nomination for Best Musical. She co-directed its world premiere at Barrington Stage Company in the summer of 2004 with Skylight’s Artistic Director Michael Unger. Rebecca is Associate Producer on *Transparent*, *The Musical Finale* and served as Staff Writer on the finale as well. She is currently developing an episodic drama with Big Kid Pictures, called *La Coyote*, which has been selected to the WeForShe’s 2019 Writerie List. She is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Director’s Lab as well as the AFI Directing Workshop for Women where she won the Jean Fiesta Award for Best Short. Her short films include, MY FIRST TIME DRIVING (AFI Jean Fiesta Award, Best Short at Lake Arrowhead Film Fest, Best of Shorts at Outfest), A/V CLUB (TV Pilot, NYTVF), UBER ALICE (Woodstock Film Fest), DEAD CAT (Producer, Tribeca Film Fest) and IRVING (Official Selection Rhode Island Film Fest, Official Selection USA Film Fest, Ft. Lauderdale Film Fest, Atlanta Jewish Film Fest).
WHO'S WHO IN THE CREATIVE TEAM CONT.

Jay Reiss (Additional materials) is a playwright. He is a Juilliard graduate and provided additional material to the book for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Reiss appeared in the original workshops, Off-Broadway cast, and Broadway cast of the musical as Vice Principal Douglas Panch.

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 SchwarzandGrubenierre were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world’s leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser, and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

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MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI’s Broadway Junior™ shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI’s School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students.

Actors’ Equity Association (“Equity”), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

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Dale Sorden
Allen Slichter
George Krueck
Timothy Frautschki
Mary Emory
Mary Pollock
Jack Gardner

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MICHAEL UNGER
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Jill Anna Ponasik...................Artistic Associate
Susan Varela........................Director of

John Stollenwerk
Michael Lorenz....................Orchestra Contractor

Box Office Supervisor

Kelley Arlt..........................Box Office Manager
Jennifer Tirado...............Weekend Box Office Supervisor
Tessa Larson..........Seasonal Box Office Supervisor
Briania Biloff, Becky Coata,
Emily Lange, Audwin Short,
Avery Schantz,
Curtis Vandenbusch................Box Office Staff

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Paul Kaishian.............................Custodian

FINANCE

Cathy O’Loughlin...............Business Manager

HOUSE MANAGEMENT

Elise Lueneburg........Lead House Manager
Gabriella Ashlin, Amanda Baker,
Timothy Barnes, Lee Caracci,
Nate Press, David Tilton,
Chris Segedy, Danny Slattery
Dawn Wenszel....................Assistant House Managers

MARKETING

Susan Heymann....................Director of Marketing
Emily Farebrother ......Group Sales and Audience
Development Manager
Kendall Judy.......................Marketing Manager

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

DJ Haugen....................Director of Production
and Facilities
Jodi Leduc Zemsky............Stage Supervisor

SCENIC STUDIOS

Aneta Zafonte.....................Technical Director
Alexander Moliere...........Technical Director

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<td>189 N. Milwaukee Street</td>
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