

The Athens Theatre Presents





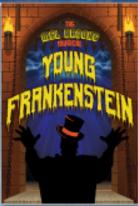
June 2-12



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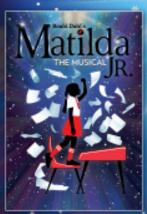
JULY 15 - AUGUST 7



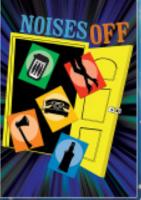
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Director's Notes...

The Bee" originated from an improvised play entitled C-R-E-P-E-S-C-U-L-E, written by Rachel Feldman. When composer William Finn saw the play, he immediately felt a connection and began workshopping it at the Barrington Stage to turn it into a full-length musical. The show opened Off-Broadway at the Second Stage Theatre on January 11, 2005, and the production won several awards, among them the 2005 Lucille Lortel Awards, Outstanding Musical and 2005 Drama Desk Awards, and Outstanding Ensemble Performance. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* premiered on Broadway at the Circle in the Square Theatre on April 15, 2005, directed by James Lapine. The show was nominated for six Tony awards and won for Best Book (Rachel Sheinkin) and Best Featured Actor (Dan Fogler).

When I first saw the show in 2009, I immediately fell in love. As a professional improviser, I adored the quirky characters, pop culture references, and audience participation. But it was the heart of the show that really won me over. I believe the perfect show has you crying from laughter and moments later can have you crying for real. A cast of funny but genuine and relatable characters, clever improvisations, and

a beautiful score—this spells out my ideal musical! As composer William Finn has said, "I always knew that this piece was really funny and could bring a lot of joy." It has been an immense joy for me to work with this talented cast and creative team and I am certain it will bring joy to each of you. Thank you, Athens, for producing this gem.



Director



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~ Meet the Cast~



Sara Catherine Barnes (Rona Lisa Perretti) is an actor, choreographer, and director in the Central Florida area. Favorite roles include The Bakers Wife in *Into the Woods*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Amy in *Company*, Tracy in *Hairspray*, Judy in *9 to 5*, Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*, Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot*, Madame Thenardier in *Les Miserable*,

and Wendy Jo in the Broadway National Tour of *Footloose*. Sara received the Best Actress Award at the Florida Theatre Conference, and South Eastern Theatre Conference for her role as Carol in *The Amish Project*. Some directing and choreography credits include *Big Fish, Legally Blonde, Footloose, Kinky Boots, The Bodyguard, The Addams Family*, and *The Sound of Music* with upcoming productions of *Grease, Elf*, and *Hairspray*. Thirteen years ago, Sara was lucky enough to play Olive Ostrovsky in the Florida premiere of *The 25th...Spelling Bee*, and is thrilled to be back in Putnam County making her Athens debut as Rona.



Ryan Blagg (Leaf Coneybear) is V-E-R-Y excited to be making his Athens Theatre debut! Originally from Norman, Oklahoma, he's been a Florida resident for almost five years. He is a parade and stage performer at some of the world's most renowned theme parks including Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando Resort, and Legoland Florida. He is also a performer at a variety of dinner theaters in Orlando including Pirate's Dinner Adventure and Capone's Dinner & Show. Previous

theatrical credits: Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma: Assassins (Zangara), The Wizard of Oz (Munchkin/Ensemble); Sooner Theatre: Disney's Beauty and the Beast (Lefou), Hello, Dolly! (Barnaby Tucker); Reduxion Theatre: Sweeney Todd (Toby Ragg); Cimarron Opera: H.M.S. Pinafore (Sir. Joseph Porter), The Pirates of Penzance (Samuel). He would like to thank the Athens Theatre for welcoming him with open arms and for this wonderful opportunity! He'd also like to send a special shoutout to his Grandmother for being his biggest inspiration and support system.





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~ Meet the Cast~



Maggie Brennan (Marcy) is thrilled to be joining the Athens family! Her most recent credits include *Freaky Friday* and *Cinderella* (Orlando Repertory Theatre) and touring as Shimmer in Nickelodeon's *Nick Jr. Livel "Move to the Music"* throughout the US and Canada. Maggie would like to thank everyone at the Athens for welcoming her, the Endsley's for their endless kindness and support, and her family for always being her number one fans.

www.maggiebrennan-ny.com. @_magsbrenn



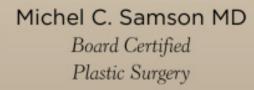
Josh Childers (V.P. Douglas Panch) is thrilled to be back at the Athens after a few years away. He last played General Lord Glossop in *Jekyll & Hyde* and the Radio Announcer in *Holiday Inn.* Josh earned a Master Meisner Certificate from Truthful Acting Studios in Orlando. Currently, he is studying and performing at Daytona State College while he earns a degree to teach theatre.







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~ Meet the Cast~



Ashley Eick (Ensemble/US Logainne & Olive) is thrilled to be making her Athens Theater debut in *Spelling Bee!* She is a rising senior at Lake Mary High School and you may have seen her in their recent production of *Into the Woods* as Little Red. She is heavily involved in shows at Theater West End in Downtown Sanford and is part of their Student Advisory Board. Some of her favorite credits include Maureen in *RENT: School Edition*, Berthe/Player in *Pippin*, and Logainne in *Spelling Bee.*

She would love to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support.



Jocelyn (Bee) Evans (Olive Ostrovsky) is delighted and honored to be performing in their first production at the Athens Theatre. Last seen as Lorrell Robinson in *Dreamgirls* at the Titusville Playhouse. Other roles they enjoyed performing in Titusville include Ms. Paradice in *BKLYN*, the Acid Queen in *Tommy*, Magenta in *Rocky Horror*, and Yitzak in *Hedwig*. They would like to thank

the entire team for making this experience possible as well as amazing.



Gabriel Hannans (Mitch Mahoney) is excited to perform in his 4th show at the Athens and his umteenth show under the direction of Samantha Stern. He thanks God, the Athens and their wonderful cast and crew for working with him and the many that support him.



Evan Martinez (Ensemble, Carl's Dad) is excited to be joining the wonderful team here at Athens Theater for their production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!* Evan is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music Education at UCF and has performed with the UCF Opera in past roles such as Il Podesta in *La Finta Giardiniera*, Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, and Gastone in *La Traviata*, and is very excited to delve deeper into the world of musical theater!



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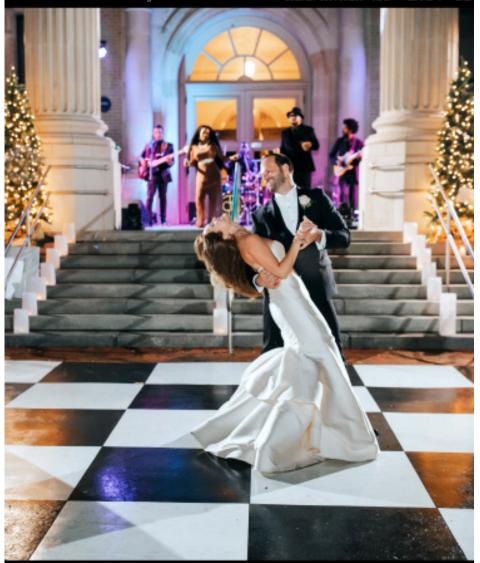


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~ Meet the Cast ~



Chloe Ortega (Logainne Schwartzandgrubeniere) is beyond thrilled to make a debut performance at the Athens Theater! She was last seen as Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me* at the News-Journal Center. Some of her favorite credits include *Avenue Q* (Kate Monster), *Spring Awakening* (Wendla), and *The Wolves* (#14). Chloe could not be more ecstatic to be here and for a crazy talented cast and crew to share the love with. She sends all her love and thanks to her beautiful wife, Amanda and all

her family for cheering her on.



Ryan Matthew Petty (Chip) is thrilled to be returning to the Athens Theatre for another exciting and hilarious production. Ryan is a 2021 graduate of Point Park University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. Ryan's recent theatre credits include: *Cinderella, Freaky Friday* (Orlando Repertory Theatre), and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* here at the Athens Theatre!

Ryan thanks his friends, family, the Endsleys, and most importantly his mother for the constant love and encouragement. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he has enjoyed the process! @ryanmpetty



Danny Sanchez (William Barfee) is an Orlando based performer and social media marketer. He will be graduating this Fall with his BA in Theatre Studies and double minor in journalism studies and creative writing. He received his Associate's degree from Seminole State College as a Theatre Studies major. His Theatre UCF credits are Bandito 2 / Toucan - Sombra Del Sol and Judge #2 - Talkback- Project Spotlight. Some of Danny's other credits have been Christopher Wren - The

Mousetrap, Parker/Others - *Freaky Friday*, and The Steward - *Into the Woods*. He is so excited to make his Athens debut and hopes you enjoy the show!





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The 25th Annual Putnam County BEE BEE

~ Cast ~

Danny Sanchez	
Ryan Petty	
Gabriel Hannans	Mitch Mahoney
Ryan Blagg	Leaf Coneybear
Josh Childers	V.P. Douglas Panch
Bee Evans	Olive Ostrovsky
Maggie Brennan	Marcy Park
Chloe OrtegaLoga	inne Schwartzandgrubeniere
Sara Barnes	Rona Lisa Peretti
Evan Martinez	Ensemble
Ashley Eick	Ensemble

\sim Production Team & Technical Crew \sim

Artistic Director	Craig Uppercue
Director	Samantha Stern
Choreographer	
Music Director	
Scenic Designer	•
Costume Designer	
Lighting Designer	·
Prop Designer	
Sound Designer	
Scenic Builder/TD	
Lighting Director/ATD	
Production Manager	Frank Ramirez
Stage Manager	Maddie Yale
Assistant Stage Manager	Katie Stokes
Costume & Prop Shop Manager	Amy Uppercue
Run Crew/Audio 2	
Lightboard Operator	
Spotlight Operators	

~ **Act 1** ~ The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee The Rules/ My Friend The Dictionary Pandemonium I'm Not That Smart Magic Foot

Chip Goodbye

Rona Moment #2

Prayer Of The Comfort Counselor

Pandemonium Reprise

~ Act 2 ~

Chip's Lament
Woe Is Me
Spelling Montage
I Speak Six Languages
Jesus
The I Love You Song
Woe Is Me/How Exciting/
Rona Moment #3
Weltanschauung
The Champion
Epilogues
Finale

The spelling bee is a curiously American spectacle pitting competitive spirit against the inconsistent idiosyncrasies of American spelling. Second in size only to Chinese, English has a huge vocabulary originating in languages as varied as Anglo-Saxon, French, Latin, and even a little Greek, so one set of rules just doesn't apply—unlike the wonderfully consistent spelling system of Spanish, for instance. By the mid-18th century, spirited spelling competitions were common. Benjamin Franklin even championed them. In the mid-1870s the term "bee"—meaning a community social event with a common goal, like a quilting bee—came into use. However, high emotional stakes

always attended these contests. In 1908 the National Education Association meeting in Cleveland held the "first national spelling bee," and (except during the years of WWII and the COVID pandemic) starting in 1925 with the Louisville, Kentucky, Courier Journal's Bee, The United States National Spelling Bee has reliably and consistently been an annual event.

We Thank our Athens Theatre Staff

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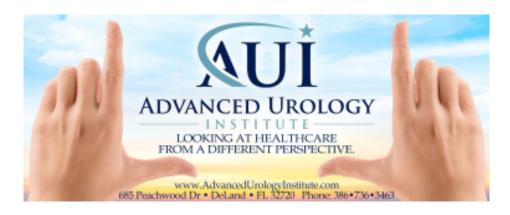
~ Meet the Production Team ~

Samantha Stern (Director) is the Director of Theatre at Daytona State College. She is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from The UCF Conservatory Theatre. A member of Actor's Equity Association, she has performed professionally with such companies as Walt Disney Entertainment, Orlando Shakespeare Theater, Florida Studio Theatre, Chicago City Limits, SAK comedy Lab, NYC Comedy Sportz, Just the Funny, and Costa

Cruise lines. She has worked as an educator and performer in Mexico, Italy and Japan and as a Professor of Theatre and Speech at DSC, UCF, FSU, and Le Cordon Bleu Orlando. She has directed over 25 productions at DSC and has assistant directed at Orlando Shakespeare Theatre. At the Athens, Sam has directed You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown and The Complete Works of Shakespere, Abridged. Samantha also serves as Vice President on the Executive Board of Directors for the Florida Theatre Conference. Sam would like to thank her an amazing production team, cast and crew and especially Craig Uppercue for having her continue to be a part of the Athens Theatre Family!

Kim Ball (Choreographer) is a well-known and recognized dance teacher and choreographer in the Central Florida area. She studied dance at Daytona State College and the University of South Florida and continued her studies in Orlando, New York, and Los Angeles. She was a Walt Disney World dancer and a private dance studio teacher for many years. She has choreographed for Seaside Music Theater, Orlando Shakes, Orlando Repertory Theater, The Athens, The Abbey, Daytona

Playhouse, Daytona State College, and Flagler College. Recent projects include *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Evita* (Orlando Shakes), *The Producers* and *Annie* (The Athens Theater), *Mary Poppins* and *FootlooseI* (St. Luke's), and *Sister Act* and *She Loves Me* (Daytona State College). She received her Master's Degree from UCF in Theater with a Musical Theater Concentration and is an Adjunct Dance Professor at UCF and Daytona State College.









\sim Meet the Production Team \sim



Chris Endsley (Music Director) is a 30-year veteran Musical Director and frequent MD around Central Florida. Chris has served as Musical Director at Garden Theatre, Athens Theatre, Seaside Music Theatre, Rollins College, UCF, Daytona State College, Orlando Rep and Granbury Opera House. He has taught music in Volusia County Schools for 25 years and Organist/Choir Director of North Lake Presbyterian Church. Chris holds a BM from Baylor University and MM from Florida State University and is a proud member of AFM Local 389. Love to A, M, E, NI



Craig Uppercue (Artistic Director) A Stetson University alumnus, Mr. Uppercue has taught for 18 years in the public school systems of Florida from the Elementary to Collegiate levels. Craig is the Music Director of the Off-Broadway National Tour - The Rock & The Rabbi and performs with the show when available. Other performing opportunities include Broadway and Off~ Broadway credits such as The Witnesses Musical (Original Cast member), The

Lion King, Songs for a New World, and numerous national tours throughout the U.S. He is actively involved with many professional symphonies and maintains an active performing schedule with professional artists throughout the nation. Mr. Uppercue has been with the Athens Theatre since 2011, and he has directed many musicals and plays at the Athens as well, most recently *Shrek!* Craig and his wonderful wife Amy live locally, enjoying every moment watching their three daughters grow up!





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\sim Meet the Production Team \sim



Edd Gordon (Lighting Director/ATD) is happy to, once again, be working and designing in theatre. He recently moved back to Florida from Indiana, where he worked for Sweetwater as a lighting engineer. As a Florida native, he had no idea what cold actually felt like. He is super excited to be at the Athens Theatre, working with fun people, that are passionate about their jobs.



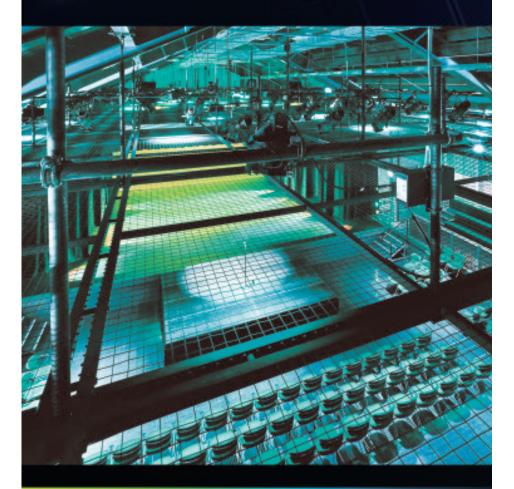
Lamar Hickley (Sound Designer/Director of Sound) has always been involved with Arts. Since the age of 8, he has acquired the skill to play multiple instruments and gained knowledge of sound reinforcement. He has over 20 years of experience as a Recording Engineer, in Live Mixing, and Music Production. In 2012, he received his AS degree in Music Production Technology and in 2014 his BAS in Business Supervision and Management. Lamar's passions in the industry of audio granted

him the "Most Outstanding Student" award in 2012. As a result, he was selected as the face of the Music Production Technology at Daytona State College. In 2016 Lamar was introduced to the Athens' family and is honored to have his company "Kevin Majestic Productions" responsible for ensuring all the audio needs are met with nothing but the best sound and quality!









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\sim Meet the Production Team \sim



Tori Oakes (Scenic Builder/Production TD) is Central Florida based technical director and scenic designer. She is, as always, happy to be working at the Athens Theatre again. Previous designs at the Athens include: Ragtime, Shrek TYA Version, Elf, Chicago, Mamma MiaI, The Fantasticks!, 9 to 5, Into the Woods, The Producers, Jekyll & Hyde, The Wedding Singer, Oklahoma!, Arsenic & Old Lace, Aladdin, Jr., Sister Act, Driving Miss Daisy, James and the Giant Peach, A Christmas Carol,

The Addams Family, Cabaret, and White Christmas. Tori is the owner of Misfit Toys Theatrical LLC, an Orlando based production company that, in addition to building scenery for Athens Theatre productions, provides various scenic and properties services for a number of theatrical organizations from Central Florida to New England. Tori holds an MFA in theatre from the University of Central Florida.



Renee Padell (Props Master) is thrilled to join the Athens Theatre family for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Beel* She has been involved in theatre since she was young, and continued through high school where she was a producer and the head of the paint crew. She pursued production design at Savannah College of Art and Design and spent the summer at a local theatre as a props intern. Her experience spans theatre, film, and themed entertainment. Renee currently works as a scenic decorator at Universal and as a prop maker at Orlando Repertory.





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\sim Meet the Production Team \sim



Frank Ramirez (/Production Manager/PSM) is excited to be celebrating his fifth season with the Athens Theatre. Directing credits here at the Athens include Arsenic & Old Lace, Always...Patsy Cline, 9 to 5, Mamma Mia! And the recent smash hit CLUE, for which he has received the Best Direction of a Play from Broadway World Regional Awards Orlando. In the past, Frank has served as Company Manager for Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry, Assistant Company

Manager/Resident Stage Manager for the Tony Award-Winning Broadway Producing/ General Management company Martian Entertainment and Resident Production Stage Manager for Seaside Music Theatre, Community Performance Series, Crane Opera Ensemble, and Potsdam Music Theatre. Broadway, Off-Broadway, and National Tour credits include Puppet Palooza, Flight: on Earth, in Sky, Altar Boyz, The Musical of Musicals, Naked Boys Singing! Christine Jorgensen Reveals. Touring credits include Jim Henson's Singalong with The Muppet Movie, Labyrinth Singalong, Les Miserable, Les Miscellaneous, and Million Dollar Quartet.



Maddie Yale (Stage Manager) is a stage manager from the Daytona Beach area. Her previous works include She Kills Monsters (Stage Manager,) Forbidden Broadway (Stage Manager,) and Love/Sick (Liz/ Co-Stage Manager.) She received her Associates of Arts degree from Daytona State College, and she is currently in her junior year at UCF working towards her BA in theatre studies. Enjoy the show!



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\sim Meet the Production Team \sim



Katie Stokes (Assistant Stage Manager) is a student Stage Manager, studying at Daytona State College, where she will receive her Associate of the Arts degree this year. She began participating in theatre in 2016, and has been unable to stay away! Katie has engaged in numerous productions with various roles on and off of the stage. Some of her most valuable experiences include raising over \$50,000 as the Broadway Cares: Equity Fights AIDS Representative of Florida, directing the sold-

out run of *Spotlight* at the Orlando Fringe (Rising Phoenix Productions), and Stage Managing large scale productions such as *She Loves Me* (Daytona State College) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Lake Howell High School). Katie thanks the audience for their support of the arts community, and the production company for allowing her to create alongside them!



Amy Uppercue (Costume Shop Manager) has been working behind the scenes at the Athens Theatre since 2011, and has loved being a part of all the magic that has been created on our stage. Previous costume design credits include *The Little Mermaid, Jr., A Year with Frog and Toad, Legally Blonde: the Musical*, and *Footloose*. In addition to running the Athens Costume Shop, Amy is also a teaching artist for the Athens Theatre Youth Academy. Amy and her husband have three little ladies that are their biggest blessing and greatest joy. Enjoy the show!





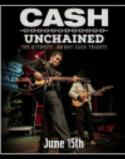






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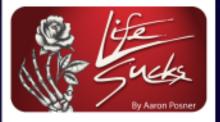


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Bunnell FlaglerPlayhouse.com July 29 - 30



Shoestring Theatre

Lake Helen ShoestringTheatre.net June 17 - 26



DRAMATIZED BY J9SEPH R9BINETTE FR9M THE ST9RY BY C.S. LEWIS.

The Little Theatre

New Smyrna Beach NSBPlayers.org July 14 - 31



Theater West End

Sanford TheatreWestEnd.com May 27 - June 12



Ritz Theater - WDDAC

Sanford WDPAC.com June 24 - 26



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