



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee



Pioneer Theatre Company's *Student Matinee Program* is made possible through the support of Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts and Parks Program, Salt Lake City Arts Council/Arts Learning Program, The Simmons Family Foundation, The Meldrum Foundation Endowment Fund and R. Harold Burton Foundation.



Spotlight on Learning is provided to students through a grant provided by the George Q. Morris Foundation

Approx. running time:
1 hours and 50 minutes, including one fifteen-minute intermission.

Student Talk-Back:
There will be a Student Talk-Back directly after the performance.



THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

September 12 - September 27, 2014

Music and Lyrics by William Finn. Book by Rachel Sheinkin. Conceived by Rebecca Feldman. Additional Material by Jay Reiss.

ABOUT THE "BEE"

The National Spelling Bee, held annually in Washington, D.C., has been administered by the educational, not-for-profit organization "Scripps" since 1925. Its purpose is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

The first official National Spelling Bee winner was Frank Neuhauser, with the word "gladiolus." The competition has been declared a tie four times, in 1950, 1957, 1962 and 2014. As of 2014, 47 champions have been girls and 44 have been boys.

The next National Spelling Bee, or "Bee Week 2015," will take place May 24–May 29, 2015.

An estimated 10 million (or more) students between the ages of 8 and 15 compete locally each year in order to be considered for national spelling bee fame. The pool is then whittled down to fewer than 300 contestants who spend the week competing in the National Spelling Bee. For many, this leads to academic (and financial) opportunities they would not have otherwise had.

To qualify for the Bee, a speller must have "neither turned 16 nor passed beyond the eighth grade, and attend schools that officially enrolled with [Scripps'] program for the current academic year." Local spelling bee sponsors conduct community spelling bees for public, private, parochial, charter, virtual and

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