

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

CAST



Elizabeth Yorker

Rona Lisa Perretti

Elizabeth Victoria Yorker was not much of a theater rat during high school, but decided to follow her heart and pursue her passions of music and theater. She has been in plays and one acts like *Chicago*, *Sorry Wrong Number*, and *Impromptu*. She has also worked behind the scenes *Lend Me A Tenor* and *Leading Ladies*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support.

John Eyler

Chip Tolentino

John Eyler is a freshman GAMES student at MGC. He's very excited to make his debut here as a tenor Boy Scout. John is the son of Jim and Kel-



Ann, the brother of Jeanne and Rusty. Daddy of his two four-legged "children" (dogs) Ricky and Elly, and "Uncle Juncler" to niece Amelia and nephew Davis. John is from Forsyth and has previously done shows in Macon and Forsyth, both Rose Theater's youth production of *Cheaper by the Dozen*, and Danny Zukav in Mary Person's High School production of *Grease*. John is a 3 year Atlanta Boy Choir Alumni and he plays the organ and piano as well. "I'd like to thank Dr. Downs and Dr. McTyre ("Dr. Mac") for their great direction for the show, Michelle Jones for making sure everything was in line, the cast and crew, my friends and family, and my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, all of whom were extremely helpful in putting on this production. Thank y'all!"



Chandani Mitchell

Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere

Chandani Mitchell started acting her 10th grade year of high school, and has become more inspired and involved ever since. "I'd like to thank my mom, who has been my backbone and support for everything, and I COULD NOT have done anything without you!"

Lena Belflower

Leaf Coneybear

Lena Rose Belflower is a nursing student at MGC. She graduated from Bleckley County High School in 2010. While attending BCHS, she participated in the One-Act play. Her 11th grade year, she was the understudy for Sylvia in the musical *All Shook Up*, which won regionally and placed 7th in state competition. Her 12th grade year, she played General Cartwright in the musical *Guys and Dolls*, which again won regionally and placed 4th at state. She has also helped in many summer drama camps for young children including *The Jungle Book*, *Grease*, *Camp Rock*, and *101 Dalmatians*. Also, she helped in MGC's spring 2010 production *Leading Ladies*, styling hair and makeup. This is her first performance with MGC and she is super-excited to be playing the role of Leaf Coneybear, who has many cats.



Kile Deal

William Barfeé

Kile Deal is the son of Wendy Abbott and Stanley Deal. He is an Honor Graduate of Tattnall Square Academy and currently majors in Computer Science. In high school, he participated in the One-Act Play competition five years in a row. During that time he played Commander William Harbison in *South Pacific*, General Genghis Khan Schmidt in *Seussical the Musical*, and Linus in *Snoopy!*, for which he won a Best Performer award at the regional competition. He is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and an amateur web designer. Kile would like to thank his family and friends for putting up with him.

Aisha Bryant

Marcy Park

Aisha Bryant is a sophomore majoring in Communications. She has been singing since age 6 at places such as the Governor's Mansion, Walt Disney World, Stone Mountain Park, Kennesaw State University basketball games, and Powder Springs Day Parades. Her film and theater credits include *The Music Man*; *Bye, Bye, Birdie*; *Rock On*; *Alana*; *Mama, I'm Your Child*; *High School Musical*; *Why Did I Get Married Too?*; *Footloose*; and *We Are Marshall*. She would like to thank God for blessing her with this talent and her family and friends for encouraging and supporting her.





Clair Brooks

Olive Ostrovsky

Clair Brooks is from Cartersville, GA. She graduated from Cass High School in 2009. Last year, she was a freshman at Young Harris College on a musical theatre

scholarship. She is now a theater major. She started out in high school doing just music things with the choir, along with different pieces from *RENT*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Spring Awakening*, and others, until her junior year when she played Sally in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and she also went to One-Act competition and placed 4th. She was in a community theatre production of "Godspell", and played the fortune teller in "Sideshow." Also, during her freshman year in college, she played a role in "Schoolhouse ROCKS! LIVE", and is now an official member of Delta Gamma, a Greek life organization for theater. "Music and theater are my life, and are something that I want to do for the rest of my life."

Dennis Moyer

Vice Principle Douglas Panch

Although a Freshman Theater Major here at MGC, Dennis is not a stranger to the MGC stage. He played Owen Musser in *The Foreigner*, Marty Sunshine in



Chicago, the Bellhop in *Lend Me a Tenor*, and Mr. Henderson in the student directed play *Trifles* and is now returning for his fifth production. Dennis has also played Randolph MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Judge Yertle the Turtle in *Seussical*, and the Warden in *All Shook Up* at Bleckley County High School. Dennis is also a dancer with 5 years of tap and jazz instruction and has also taken classes in swing and gymnastics. Dennis hopes to pursue his dreams of acting and Game Design.

Matthew Eargle

Mitch Mahoney

Matthew "Atari" Eargle is a student at Middle Georgia College majoring in Aviation Management and a member of Alpha Eta Rho fraternity. He is one half of the creative team behind the



hit webcomic *Victor 70* (victor70.comicgenesis.com) and writes the semi-regular lifestyle blog *The Geek Shite* (thegeekshite.wordpress.com). Originally, he studied drama under artistic director Prodan Dimov and music under Dr. Scott Weiss. Matthew has previously performed with musical acts *Two-Way Mirror*, *The Ben Windstar Project*, and *The Hill Valley Preservation Society*, comedian/magician Brian Brushwood's *Bizarre Magic* show, as well as improvisational comedy troupe *SwordPlay* and the sketch comedy team *Angst Haben*. He has served as editor for the humor magazine *Slackers, Inc.* and his works have been well-received in various publications nationwide. Matthew enjoys surfing, watching Atlanta Thrashers and Anaheim Ducks hockey, and has found Carmen Sandiego on at least two occasions. Find him on Twitter [@thegeekshite](https://twitter.com/thegeekshite).

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Directors and Crew Heads



Dr. Kathleen R. Downs

Director

Dr. Kathleen Downs comes to MGC with more than two dozen productions to her credit as director. Trained initially in acting and dance at the Hartford

Conservatory of Music and Schiller International University, Dr. Down's interests broadened to include Theatre History and directing during her graduate studies at Miami University and Kent State University. She has toured Europe with the Schiller Repertory Company and Kathakali dance and appeared in a movie of the week in Pakistan. She also studied advanced acting techniques with Earl Gister and attended Micheal Checkov Technique Master Classes at the University of Southern Maine. As a teacher she has trained high school and college actors in Europe, Asia and the United States and she is pleased to be able to share her experiences with the talented students at MGC. She comes to us from Toledo, where her husband, Ken and family still reside. Dr. Downs has done several MGC productions including *Chicago*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Moonlight* and *Magnolias*, and last spring's *Leading Ladies*. She is so excited for this production and hopes that you all enjoy!

Dr. Robert McTyre

Musical Director

While at Middle Georgia College, Robert McTyre has been involved in the following productions: *Finn*, *Sheinkin*, and *Feldman's "The 25th*



Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee;" *Ebb*, *Foss*, and *Kander's "Chicago*;" *Kelso and Nehl's "The Great American Trailer Park Musical*;" *Schmidt and Jones' "The Fantasticks*;" *Rodger's "Two by Two*;" and *Kyte's "Tintypes*." He has also produced and directed a number of music revues and choral concerts. Recent performances with Theatre Macon include *John Hancock* in *Edwards "1776*," *Lt. Shaw* in *Lucy Simon's "Secret Garden*," and *Carmen Ghia* in *Mel Brooks "The Producers*." He has also performed with the *Ocmulgee Symphony Orchestra*. Before coming to Middle Georgia College in 2004, Robert performed with the *Hattiesburg Civic Chorus & Concert Association*, *Capitol City Opera*, *Classic Theater Works*, and the *Savoyards Musical Theatre Company*. Roles have included *Kaspar* in *Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors*," *Sid* in *Fox' "Sid the Serpent who wanted to Sing*," *King* in *Miller's "Big River*," *Joe Hardy* in *Adler & Ross' "Damn Yankees*," and *Cholet* in *Yeston's "Phantom*."



Michelle Jones

Stage Manager

A sophomore here at MGC, Michelle is enjoying her second production as stage manager. She was involved in *Moonlight and Magnolias* last fall and loved it. She has decided to minor in theater at Valdosta State University next fall so that she can live the life that she loves. Since, though, a great production cannot be had without a wonderful cast and crew: "Thank you so much to everyone that was involved for all of your hard work!"

Chris Brackett

Lights

Chris got his start in lighting in high school, *Landmark Christian School*, where he graduated from in 2008.

He started here at MGC with the production of *Chicago*, where he operated a spot light. His 1st solo show was *Lend Me A Tenor*. This is his 5th MGC production. When designing, he likes to think of the stage as a canvas that he can paint with light. He has enjoyed what he has done with the current show, as this is some of his best work yet. He hopes to have even better shows in the future.



Whitney Mitchell

Props & Set

Whitney Mitchell was born on September 19, 1989, in Athens, Georgia. She graduated from *Greene County High School*. She was on the Properties crew for *Leading Ladies*, and assisted with various One Act plays here at the college. She was casted in the role of the *Virgin Mary* in the *Nativity Story*, which was her only brush with acting. This is her third year at MGC. She is currently pursuing a degree in nursing and I plan to transfer to another university in the near future.



Contract Rider

Music and Lyrics by:
William Finn

William Finn (Music/Lyrics) Mr. Finn 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 Critic's Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, the Lucille Lortel Award, and Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition) Mr. Finn wrote the lyrics to Fraciela Deniele's *Tango Apasionado* (music by the great Astor Piazzolla) and, with Michael Starobin, the music to Lanine'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 Fitzhug, two "Brave little Toaster" 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.

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

Book by:
Rachel Sheinkin

Rachel Sheinkin (Book) *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Tony and Drama Desk Awards); *Deaf West's Sleepin' Beauty Wakes* (Los Angeles Ovation Award); *Striking 12: a Groove Lily rock musical* (Lucille Lortel nomination); *Serenade* (Barshnikov Dance Foundation fellowship) and *Blood Drive* (O'Neil National Music Theatre Conference). Commissions include new works for MTC and Playwrights Horizons. Upcoming at the Guthrie in summer, 2008, *Little House on the Prairie*. Rachel teaches at NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program and mentors with TDF's Open Doors Scholarship program. Member Dramatists Guild and ASCAP.

In the first position:
'Based upon C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, and original play by The Farm.'

In the second position:
'The Barrington Stage Company workshop of THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE was originally co-directed by Michael Barakiva and Rebecca Feldman.'

Conceived by:
Rebecca Feldman

'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 interests 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 impetus borne mainly out to 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 2000), 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 "Logaine Schwarzengrubenierre" were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.'

Additional Material by Jay Reiss