

## 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - Character Breakdown

**Disclaimer: It is our hope to have multiple casts of this production depending on the number of students that enroll.**

### **Principal Roles:**

**Chip Tolentino:** An athletic, social, boy scout and champion of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment. (C4 - B5)

**Logainne Schwartzandgruenierre (Schwartzzy):** Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures. She is driven by internal and external pressure, but above all by a desire to win to make her two fathers proud. She is somewhat of a neat freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year. (A3 - F5)

**Leaf Coneybear:** The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark and finds everything about the bee incredibly amusing. He is home-schooled and comes from a large family of former hippies. He has severe ADD and spells words correctly while in a trance. (A3 - A5)

**William Barfee:** A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts and is back for vindication. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy, bullying personality. He develops a crush on Olive. (E4 - B5)

**Marcy Park:** A recent transfer from Virginia, Marcy placed ninth in last year's nationals. She speaks six languages, is a member of all-American hockey, a championship rugby player, plays Chopin and Mozart on multiple instruments, sleeps only three hours a night, hides in the bathroom cabinet, and is getting very tired of always winning. She is the poster child for the Over-Achieving Student, and attends a Catholic school called "Our Lady of Intermittent Sorrows." She is also not allowed to cry. (C4 - E5)

**Olive Ostrovsky:** A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come sometime during the bee. Having found comfort in its words and vastness, Olive made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her to make it to the competition. She starts enormously shy, and shyly blossoms. (B3 - F5)

**Rona Lisa Peretti:** The number-one realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champion herself, and the returning moderator. She is a sweet woman who loves children, but she can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Vice Principal Panch and his feelings for her. Her interest in the competition is unflagging and drives it forward. (B3 - F5)

**Douglas Panch:** The Vice Principal. Frustrated with his life, he finds the drive of the young spellers alien to him. After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the Twentieth Annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, but she does not return his affections.

**Mitch Mahoney:** The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-convict, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students. He has no idea how to offer comfort, but does find himself wishing he could find a way to make the kids feel better. (E4 - A5)

### **Various Ensemble Roles:**

**Carl Schwartz (Carl Dad):** Schwarzzy's main trainer, the more intense and competitive of Schwarzzy's fathers.

**Dan Grubenniere (Dan Dad)** the more laid back and ineffectual of Schwarzzy's fathers. (G3 - D5)

**Coneybear Family:** All more academically gifted than Leaf, they are even more surprised than he is by his success. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Coneybear, and his siblings: Marigold, Pinecone, Brook, Raisin, Landscape, Aloe)

**Olive's Dad:** A fantasy version of Olive's dad coming to the bee from work. (E4 - B5)

**Olive's Mom:** A fantasy version of Olive's mom at her Ashram in India.

**Eliminated Spellers:** These spellers will start off still in the running and will be slowly eliminated throughout the show. Once eliminated these spellers will move to the "Eliminated Bleachers" and will still be involved in the group numbers.

### **PMS Cheerleaders, Fantasy Dancers, Maintenance Guy**

#### **Song List Breakdown:**

1. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee – ALL
2. The Rules – ALL
3. My Friend the Dictionary – Olive and Company
4. Pandemonium – ALL
5. I'm Not That Smart – Leaf Coneybear and his Family
6. Magic Foot – William Barfee and Company
7. Magic Foot Playoff – ALL
8. Pandemonium (Reprise) – ALL but Chip
9. Chip Goodbye – Spellers
10. Rona Moment – Rona
11. Prayer of the Comfort Counselor – Mitch and Company
12. Chip's Lament – Chip
13. Woe Is Me – Logainne and Company
14. Spelling Montage – Panch and Spellers
15. I'm Not That Smart (Reprise) – Leaf Coneybear
16. I Speak Six Languages – Marcy Park and Company
17. Jesus – Marcy, Jesus, Female Company
18. The I Love You Song – Olive, Olive's Mom, Olive's Dad
19. Woe Is Me (Reprise) – Logainne and Company
20. Rona Moment – Rona
21. Second Part 1 – Olive, Barfee, and Company
22. Weltanschauung – Company
23. Olive & Barfee Pas De Deux – Company
24. Second Part 2 – Olive, Barfee, and Company
25. The Champion – Rona and Company
26. Epilogues - Company
27. Finale – Company (All Now Grown Up)