theatre arts ••• and dance



# PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music & Lyrics by William Finn
Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Conceived by Rebecca Feldman

Directed by Helen Jaksch Music Direction by Melissa Marshall

## THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

MUSIC & LYRICS BY WILLIAM FINN / BOOK BY RACHEL SHEINKIN
CONCEIVED BY REBECCA FELDMAN

DIRECTED BY HELEN JAKSCH

MUSIC DIRECTION BY MELISSA MARSHALL / CHOREOGRAPHY BY MAGGIE JAUNET

ASSISTANT DIRECTED BY ANNA DUPRÉ

#### **APPLES CAST**

CHIP TOLENTINO Emily Schacht

LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERE Jenevieve Bourgeois

LEAF CONEYBEAR Taylor James

WLLIAM BARFÉE Laura Hamilton

MARCY PARK Emma Velasquez

OLIVE OSTROVSKY Jenevieve Bolen

RONA LISA PERETTI Lizzy Messinger

DOUGLAS PANCH Elise Bourg

MEG MAHONEY Paloma Mariátegui

CARL DAD/OLIVE'S MOM Lilly Cazabon

DAN DAD/OLIVE'S DAD Ana-Claire Perkins

CONEYBEAR FAMILY/JESUS Thomasita Gilbert

#### **ORANGES CAST**

CHIP TOLENTINO Riley Hobbs

LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERE Genesis Scott

LEAF CONEYBEAR Aidan Caliva

WLLIAM BARFÉE Steven Rose Pendleton

MARCY PARK Yeva Guthrie

OLIVE OSTROVSKY Isabella Arnett

RONA LISA PERETTI M. Hui

DOUGLAS PANCH Raegan Parker

MEG MAHONEY Kaylee Gomez

CARL DAD/OLIVE'S MOM Lilly Vita

DAN DAD/OLIVE'S DAD Taryn Ebright
CONEYBEAR FAMILY/JESUS Ariana Cox Vela



#### THE SPELLING BEE BAND

BAND DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD 1 Max DoVale

KEYBOARD 2 Kevin Caparotta

PERCUSSION Dane Castillo

BASS Becky Hicks

REHEARSAL ACCOMPANIST Michael Paternostro

#### ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION TEAM

DRAMATURG Kalena Myers

STAGE MANAGER Claire Schenck, Gwendolyn Walton

DANCE CAPTAIN Riley Hobbs, Emily Schacht

SCENIC DESIGNER Kaeanne Louks-Wiseman

PROPS DESIGNER Layah Chouest, Sergio Rivera

COSTUME DESIGNER Kaci Thomassie

ASST. COSTUME DESIGNER Yalani Warren

HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGNER Joelitza Arroyo-Ramirez

LIGHTING DESIGNER Hilary Nguyen

SOUND DESIGNER Kaelyn Bailey

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR Jackie Downey

FOLLOW-SPOT OPERATOR Simon Whatley

WARDROBE CREW Ava Buckley-Wilson

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Duncan Becker

PRODUCER Salvatore Mannino

#### SPECIALTHANKS

TAD Chair C. Patrick Gendusa, SMTP Director Kate Duncan, James Lanius III, Steff Catsoulis, and the Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Loyola Department of Theatre & Dance

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT
WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI)

#### THE SONG LIST!

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE Full Company

THE SPELLING RULES / RONA MOMENT #1 Panch, Rona, Spellers

MY FRIEND, THE DICTIONARY Olive

GOODBYES Full Company

PANDEMONIUM Chip & Company

I'M NOT THAT SMART Coneybear

MAGIC FOOT Barfee

PANDEMONIUM (REPRISE) / RONA MOMENT #2 Chip, Meg, Rona & Company

PRAYER OF THE COMFORT COUNSELOR Meg

CHIP'S LAMENT Chip

WOE IS ME Schwartzy, Carl Dad, Dan Dad & Company

SPELLING MONTAGE Panch & Spellers

I'M NOT THAT SMART (REPRISE) Coneybear

I SPEAK SIX LANGUAGES Marcy

THE I LOVE YOU SONG Olive, Olive's Mom, Olive's Dad

WOE IS ME (REPRISE) Schwartzy, Meg

RONA MOMENT #3 / SECOND, PART I Rona, Olive, Barfee & Company

WELTANSCHAUUNG / SECOND, PART II Olive, Barfee & Company

FINALE Full Company

### A REFLECTION EXERCISE FROM DRAMATURG KALENA MYERS

Adolescence is marked by feelings of heightened emotions. Fear, anger, passion, hope, excitement are all maximized, and even the smallest actions feel huge. What mattered most when you were 11 years old? What emotions can you recall? How did key moments in your childhood influence you?

#### NOTE FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ANNA DUPRÉ

"At the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, we grew up undeniably..."

I find it fitting that my last show here at Loyola would be one full of characters discovering themselves and their passions, all while their futures seemingly hang in the balance. I may not be in elementary school anymore, but I completely understand the sense of a decision or moment feeling bigger than it will be in the long run, and I don't think I'm alone. All of us have had to make choices about who we wanted to be and what we wanted to care about, on both big and small scales. This show is exciting because we get to see young people make these decisions for some of the first times in their lives.

Even more exciting was watching some of the bravest, kindest, and most talented young adult actors I've had the pleasure of working with resonate with these themes and bond with one another both on and offstage. I could feel their nerves on the first day when they had to sit in their assigned seats and introduce themselves to those they didn't know, and I saw how it allowed them to immediately enter the headspace of their characters. They only went further from there. Throughout rehearsals there were many moments of connection between castmates and counterparts where they discovered just how far they could go with their characters and the text, leaving us teary-eyed or in fits of laughter. Our first run of the opening number in Marquette had each cast cheering the other on and performing as if the house was full. They opened up with one another and formed friendships that became the heartbeat of this show.

Everyone involved in this production could feel this joy and how it pushed us continuously to strive for our best. We did it for the collective because this was a space of growth, fostered by our amazing director, Helen, where we could all learn something from one another. The faith was there that we could make it through if we trusted ourselves and each other. I personally learned so many valuable nuances about theatre-making and myself in general. And I watched the people around me grow as well. I saw confidences soar and hearts open. The work influenced the people, and the people influenced the work in the most beautiful way I've seen.

And now, from all of this hard work and play, we are left with a show that I believe is honest to both the people who made it and life itself. My hope is that as you watch it, you will be able to feel that honesty and resonate with characters and scenarios you might not have thought you would before. I hope you feel free to laugh or cry or feel as though you have also grown up and learned something at this Bee, just the same as me and my friends.

# CAST BOS

ISABELLA ARNETT (she/they) (OLIVE) is in her fourth year studying Theatre Arts at Loyola University. Recent credits: HEAD OVER HEELS (Mopsa), URINETOWN (Makeup Team), Loyola Filmmakers Club's Shadow Cast Production of ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (Columbia), MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Benedick). She's ecstatic to be attending the IPAI Germany this July, a summer intensive surrounding voice, acting, and dance with professionals

from around the globe. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support in pursuing this crazy career. Isabella hopes you all enjoy this hilariously touching musical comedy about these quirky kids and their words.



JENEVIEVE BOLEN (she/her) (OLIVE) is a first-year student at Loyola, and she is beyond excited to play the role of Olive Ostrovsky in this wonderful production! Some of her favorite roles include Anya in ANATASIA and Winnifred in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS. She'd like to thank her family for always supporting her passions, and her friends for being a constant source of support. Most of all, she'd like to thank director Helen Jaksch for making this

such a wonderful experience!



ELISE BOURG (she/they) (PANCH) is a junior Musical Theatre Major and New Orleans native. She stage managed COMEDY OF ERRORS at Loyola University and STEEL MAGNOLIAS with the JPAS. She also was an ASM with the New Orleans Opera Association and Tulane Summer Lyric. Bourg recently played Don Pedro in senior Mika Litton's production of MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. She would like to thank her friends, family, and partner for constantly

supporting their dreams.



JENEVIEVE BOURGEOIS (she/her) (SCHWARTZY) is elated to bring you her last production as a TAD student! Graduating in May with a BA in Musical Theatre, her recent credits include MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Claudio), RED BIKE (Stage Manager), URINETOWN (Ensemble/Little Sally U/S), INTO THE WOODS (Little Red), HEAD OVER HEELS (Philoclea), and THE LITTLE MERMAID (Ariel). She is immensely grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe,

encouraging environment with the TAD staff. Jenevieve's performance is dedicated to the loving memory of her cousin, Logan.



AIDAN CALIVA (he/him) (CONEYBEAR) is a first year student at Loyola. He's so excited to be a part of this show, and his second production at Loyola! He would like to thank his mom and dad for always being so supportive and helping him pursue his college career. He would like to thank his grandmother Bebe for being his #1 fan! He's very excited to play Leaf Coneybear and work with such an amazing cast. He can't wait for everyone to see the show and

hopes they have a F-A-N-T-A-S-T-I-C time!



LILLY CAZABON (she/her) (CARL DAD/OLIVE'S MOM) is a sophomore in the TAD department here at Loyola. Her past roles include Beth March in LITTLE WOMEN and UGC Executive in URINETOWN. Although a performer at heart, Lilly has had a lot of fun stage managing and props designing this past year! She is e-l-a-t-e-d to work with such p-h-e-n-o-m-e-n-a-l people and wants to send a big thank you to everyone involved in this s-u-p-e-r-b show!!



TARYN EBRIGHT (she/they) (DAN DAD/OLIVE'S DAD) is proud to participate in her second show at Loyola. A former speller herself (in kindergarten and fifth grade), she remembers vividly the elation, the anxiety and everything in between and is excited to bring that to life this semester.



THOMASITA GILBERT (she/her) (CONEYBEAR FAM/JESUS) is a forth-year Theatre Arts major. She worked on the short film "Blind Date" in 2022, directed by Noah Hazard. Her first year she worked on STOP KISS with Sal Mannino. Last year, she worked on COMEDY OF ERRORS with Helen Jaksch. In her free time she focuses on meditation, health, wellness, and yoga. She's looking forward to being an "adult" and finding a "real job".



KAYLEE GOMEZ (she/her) (MEG) is a sophomore at Loyola University pursuing a degree in musical theatre, and has been a dancer for 17 years. This is her 4th production with Loyola University. She would like to thank her friends and family for the endless support, and she hopes you enjoy the bee!



YEVA GUTHRIE (she/her) (MARCY) is a 19-year-old first-year here at Loyola. She's from Chicago, IL and in 2023 graduated from Chicago Highschool for the Arts in the "National Honors Society". She's been on the stage since she could speak, but found her passion for musical theater later on in her performance career. Her dream is to live in New York one day as performer and fashion stylist/designer!



LAURA HAMILTON (she/her) (BARFÉE) is a first-year at Loyola this year and she is so excited and extremely grateful to be a part of the TAD program and this show. Her cast, crew, and management peers are so wonderful to work with and this process has been such a blessing. Laura also spends time as a Catholic Studies member and working with students at Holy Name of Jesus as Music Director for their musical MATILDA, JR. She also won her 1st Grade

spelling bee, which she feels qualifies her for this role!



RILEY HOBBS (she/they) (CHIP) is thrilled to be in another production at Loyola University New Orleans. She is a junior pursuing a BA in Musical Theatre. She has also performed in THE MAD ONES (Kelly), URINETOWN (Officer Lockstock), HEAD OVER HEELS (Ensemble/Gynecia US/Dance Captain), ALL IN A DAY'S WORK (Ensemble), THE LITTLE MERMAID (Ariel)—recipient of the Encore Rising Star Award, and CRAZY FOR YOU (Tess/Dance Captain). Riley would like to

thank the directors for this opportunity and her friends and family for all their support.



M. HUI (they/she) (RONA) is elated to be playing Rona in Loyola TAD's production of SPELLING BEE! M. hails from Portland Oregon and is a Sophomore Musical Theatre major at Loyola. They've been performing for nine years; their most recent was Verges/Balthasar in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING directed by Mika Litton. M would like to thank their family back home for supporting them no matter the distance, and their friends in NOLA for choosing

to be part of their wonderful 'found family' every day. They would also like to thank the directors, production, and tech teams for Spelling Bee for building not only a wonderful show but a beautiful community of artists as well.



TAYLOR JAMES (she/her) (CONEYBEAR) Holy Cow! Taylor James is so excited to be performing in her first musical at Loyola! She is a second-year Musical Theatre Major. Some of her recent performing credits include CAPTURE THE MOON the short film (Mae), COMEDY OF ERRORS (Egeon), NOTHING IS LOST the short film (Evalyn), and HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (Gabriella). She also recently received the National Youth Arts Award for Outstanding Supporting

Performance in a Play for her role as The Mad Hatter in ALICE IN WONDERLAND. Taylor also has three loving cats named Kovu (her favorite!), Toulouse, and Cleo! Enjoy the show (BEE)!!



PALOMA MARIÁTEGUI (she/her) (MEG) is from Miami, FL and is a first-year at Loyola. She is so excited to be a part of SPELLING BEE as Meg! Recently, she has played Borachio in Senior Mika Litton's production of MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. She has also released her first Spanglish single "Un Amor" out on all platforms! Palo would like to thank her friends & the BEE team for making her college experience so much better. And last but certainly not least, Palo would

like to thank her parents for always supporting her in all her artistic endeavors!



LIZZY MESSINGER (she/her) (RONA) is a second-year at Loyola New Orleans University. Originally from Arlington, Texas, she has been involved in the arts most of her life. Her previous works at Loyola include URINETOWN (UGC) and GOD HELP THEM IF WE WAKE UP (Chorus). She is excited to be playing Rona in SPELLING BEE. She would like to thank all those involved, cast and crew, as well as, her family and friends for their support! Enjoy the show and laugh bunches!



RAEGAN PARKER (she/her) (PANCH) is a second-year Musical Theatre Major here at Loyola from Houston, Texas. She is ecstatic to be your VICE Principal Paunch. You may recognize her from previous on-campus productions: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, THE MOORS, or COMEDY OF ERRORS. You might also be familiar with her from the film department's shadow cast of THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW as she was the costume designer! She is an actress

by night but by day you'll see her around as a University Programming Board member, New Student Programming leader, or working for the costume shop. Raegan would like to thank you all for being here tonight, especially her friends and mentors who are her biggest supporters. Enjoy the show!



STEVEN ROSE PENDLETON (they/he/she) (BARFEE) is a theatre-maker graduating from Loyola's Theatre Arts program this spring. Recent credits include TWELFTH NIGHT (Curio) at NOLA Shakespeare Festival and Loyola's COMEDY OF ERRORS (Dr. Pinch). Steven would love to thank Helen Jaksch and Salvatore Mannino for the past four years of kindness, talent and support.



ANA-CLAIRE PERKINS (she/they) (DAN DAD/OLIVE'S DAD) is a senior at Loyola University. Her previous credits include ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, COMEDY OF ERRORS, and GOD HELP THEM IF WE WAKE UP. She is incredibly grateful for this experience and is excited to showcase this amazing musical as her last performance at Loyola. She would like to thank her director and the talented cast she is blessed to work with.



EMILY SCHACHT (she/her) (CHIP) is a second-year Musical Theatre Major at Loyola University New Orleans. Some of her recent performing credits include SABOTAGE (Phoebe), THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (Gypsy dancer), FROZEN (Elsa), and R&H CINDERELLA (Stepsister Grace). Emily has been playing the viola (which is better than the violin) for 11 years. She loves to learn and owns about five hundred books (which is why she won the Spelling Bee

last year); she's read less than half of them, but her goal is to finish them all one day. Life is pandemonium! Enjoy the show.



GENESIS SCOTT (she/her) (SCHWARTZY) is a sophomore at Loyola University. She is a Musical Theater Major. She loves bonding with both casts and getting to know everyone better during rehearsals. This is Genesis's first university musical, so she's so grateful for this opportunity and cannot wait for more exciting opportunities to come!



ARIANA COX VELA (they/them) (CONEYBEAR FAM/JESUS) is currently a sophomore majoring in Musical theatre and minoring in Criminology and Justice. This is their first musical at Loyola, They would like to thank their mother for supporting their dreams!



EMMA VELASQUEZ (she/her/ella) (MARCY) is a junior at Loyola University New Orleans studying Musical Theatre. She is thrilled to play the role of Marcy Park in SPELLING BEE. Emma's past productions with LOYNO TAD have been: ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, EVERYONE & EVERYTHING, URINETOWN, and RED BIKE. She is grateful to be working with such an amazing cast and production team!



LILLY VITA (she/her) (CARL DAD/OLIVE'S MOM) is a first-year Musical Theatre major. This is her second time performing in THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE (having previously played the role of Olive). She is ecstatic to be a part of this hilarious show again! Recently she has been seen in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, and THE PRODUCERS. Enjoy the show!!

# ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS



JOELITZA ARROYO-RAMIREZ (she/her) (HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGNER) is thrilled to be working as the Hair and Makeup Designer. She is a third year Theatre Arts Major with an English Writing minor. A couple of her credits are Assistant Costume Designer for Kait Kerrigan's THE MAD ONES and the role of Nell in William Shakespeare's COMEDY OF ERRORS. She would like to thank her friends and family for their unconditional love and support.



KAELYN BAILEY (she/her) (SOUND DESIGNER) is a senior here at Loyola University. Her major is Theatre Arts. She has worked on several shows around the city with The Nola Project and Le Petit Theatre. She is excited to graduate and continue working with new people. She hopes to expand her reach as a theatre-maker.



AVA BUCKLEY-WILSON (she/her) (WADROBE CREW) is a sophomore at Loyola New Orleans studying Theatre and minoring in philosophy. While she's not rollin' like the Mississippi River, Ava enjoys impromptu high fives from strangers and figure skating with Eugene Levy. Thank you to Helen, Kaci, and Gwendolyn! She hopes everyone enjoys the show!!



LAYAH CHOUEST (she/her) (PROPS DESIGNER) is a third year student at Loyola University New Orleans. She has been studying performing arts since she was a child, including singing and acting with some dancing experience. She's studying psychology and musical theater and loves learning and understanding new things about the world and human experience. She's excited to be a part of the production of this show and hopes that everyone

enjoys it. A special thanks to the cast and rest of crew for all their hard work!



MAX DOVALE (he/him) (BAND DIRECTOR) is a New Orleans-based pianist, composer, and educator. Max has previously music directed JPAS' productions of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, THE VIEW UPSTAIRS, GREASE, and SWEET POTATO QUEENS and co-music directed Loyola University's production of URINETOWN. He has also been on stage most recently in Crescent City Theatre Alliance's production of ONEPIECE (Woogie Pringle) and some of his favorite roles were

in NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT (Cookie McGee) and MY FAVORITE YEAR (Benjy Stone). Outside of the theatre, Max works at Loyola University New Orleans as a piano accompanist, teaches piano at the Chase Conservatory for Musical Arts, and plays around town for a variety of events and venues. Max also serves as the music director and pianist/organist at St Augustine's Episcopal Church in Metairie.



JACKIE DOWNEY (they/them) (BOARD OP TEAM) is a second-year at Loyola, is a lover of crochet, playwriting, and going on long drives just to listen to music. They're very excited to get to work on SPELLING BEE as it's been one of their all time favorite musicals for years and hope that you leave tonight feeling the same!

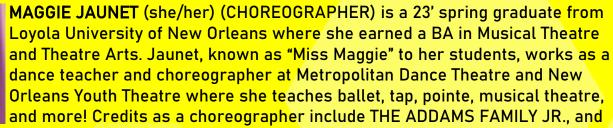


ANNA DUPRÉ (she/her) (ASST. DIRECTOR) is beyond grateful to be involved with this show as her final production here at Loyola! She previously assistant directed THE CRUCIBLE and GOD HELP THEM IF WE WAKE UP. Other stage experience includes performing in HEAD OVER HEELS, URINETOWN, and MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. She would like to thank her family, friends, and professors for everything they've taught her and their meaningful support.



HELEN JAKSCH (she/they) (DIRECTOR) most recently served as Dramaturg and Creation Ensemble Member for Goat in the Road's THE FAMILY LINE. At Loyola, Helen directed RED BIKE and THE MOORS for the inaugural Lower Depths Series and Sara Holdren's adaptation of COMEDY OF ERRORS. They also facilitated and directed EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING, a student-devised piece. Helen has directed, performed, served as dramaturg for new plays, devised

performances, and youth playmaking programs in New York, Connecticut, Louisiana, DC, and Texas. You can listen to Helen play a Mom Robot in Space or a Medium who challenges Houdini on The Snake's Paw podcast. Helen holds a Doctorate of Fine Arts and an MFA in Dramaturgy & Dramatic Criticism from the Yale School of Drama and teaches in the Loyola Department of Theatre Arts & Dance.



PETER AND THE STARCATCHER (Mount Carmel Academy). As a performer, you may have just caught Jaunet in JPAS's production of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (Ensemble). Jaunet's favorite credits include COMEDY OF ERRORS (Dromio of Ephesus/Fight Captain) and HEAD OVER HEELS (Ensemble). Jaunet is so proud to be back working at the TAD department as an alum along side her old mentors and classmates. She would like to thank Sal and Helen for letting her jump on this project, Anna, and both casts for running with her crazy ideas and silliness, and her partner Griffin for his constant support. She hopes you enjoy the show!



MELISSA MARSHALL (she/her) (MUSIC DIRECTOR) is a New Orleans native and versatile performer and scholar of international recognition known for her vocal range, who had been living in Germany and was actively performing in Europe. She was seen singing the role of Carlotta Guidicelli in the Original Broadway Production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA in Germany. Melissa received her Bachelor's Degree in Music

Performance and Drama at Loyola University College of Music, and her Master's of Music Degree and Post Graduate Degree in Voice from the Mannes Conservatory of Music (The New School) in New York City. Melissa also holds an Artist's Diploma from the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Melissa is well known to musical theatre and opera audiences in and around the New Orleans area, New York City, Germany, and Italy and has performed many leading roles in operas and musicals. Melissa is honored to be a part of the Voice Faculty of the Theatre Arts and Dance department at Loyola University and is so thankful to not only teach a group of incredibly wonderful and talented students but to also have been given the opportunity to work with amazing teachers, directors, and choreographers, as well as music direct fabulous productions at Loyola and around the city such as URINETOWN, GUYS AND DOLLS, CINDERELLA, ANNIE, NEWSIES, ONEPIECE and SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL.



KALENA MYERS (she/they) (DRAMATURG) is a junior majoring in Political Science and History with a minor in Theatre Arts. She is very excited to be the dramaturg for this production and to have been given the opportunity to combine her love of academia and theatre. She is so thankful to have had the support of the wonderful director, cast, and crew throughout this production process. This is Kalena's first endeavor with dramaturgy and she has

previously acted in Loyola productions, including RED BIKE in the first Lower Depths Reading Series as well as the devised piece EVERYONE & EVERYTHING.



HILARY NGUYEN (they/she) (LIGHTING DESIGNER) is a Senior Theatre Arts student here at Loyola. They are very excited to work on their very first musical with the university. Previously, Hilary has worked with Loyola TAD department as Assistant Lighting Designer on STOP KISS (2021) and as Lighting Designer for EVERYONE & EVERYTHING (2022), and M.U.S.E. (2022). Most recently, she has worked as the Lighting Designer for Le Petit Theatre, Light Board Operator

for Let The Right One In, and Lighting Designer for a student-run show at Loyola, an adaptation of Shakespeare's MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (2024). She is very thankful to all of her friends and supporters for pushing her to achieve her dreams.



CLAIRE SCHENCK (she/her) (STAGE MANAGER) is incredibly proud to be a part of such an energetic and heartfelt show. Claire is a second-year double majoring in Theatre Arts and English Writing. She recently stage-managed I SELL WINDOWS and URINETOWN at Loyola and A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM with The NOLA Project. Shout out to Co-SM Gwendolyn and a big thank you to the production team, cast, crew, and her mom. Enjoy SPELLING BEE!



KACI THOMASSIE (she/her) (COSTUME DESIGNER) is a New Orleans native costume designer and stylist. She is an ensemble member with Goat in the Road Productions and she won the 2018 Big Easy Award for "Best Costume Design" for her co-design of The NOLA Project's THE THREE MUSKATEERS. Additionally Kaci has costumed locally for Southern Rep, Tulane Summer Lyric, Le Petit Theatre, Melange Dance Company, and the Willow School. She

has worked at Barnard College, the prestigious Stage Door Manor, and interned in the fast paced environment of Martin Izquierdo's costume production company in NYC. She holds a degree in Theatre and Dance from Samford University.



GWENDOLYN WALTON (she/her) (STAGE MANAGER) is a senior at Loyola; She is so honored to be an SM for SPELLING BEE. She recently served as Stage Manager for the Style for Hire Fashion Show and GOD HELP THEM IF WE WAKE UP. She has also worked on the wardrobe crew for 5 Loyola productions from 2019-2022. She would like to thank her Family and Friends for all their support. She would like to give a special shoutout to Kaci, Helen, Sal, and Duncan for

being incredible mentors during her four years. She would also like to thank her AD, Anna Dupré, and Co-SM Claire Schenck for being with her every step of the way in this incredible process. Enjoy these amazing casts spell their hearts out at the Bee!



YALANI WARREN (she/her) (ASST. COSTUME DESIGNER) is incredibly honored to be the Assistant Costume Designer of this season's production of THE 25TH PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE. She is a third-year Theater Arts Major with a concentration in acting and costume design. Yalani lives in Dallas, Tx but still holds on to her Minnesota roots where she was born. She has worked on numerous productions, including COMEDY OF ERRORS (Luciana), HEAD OVER

HEELS (Ensemble Member), THE MAD ONES (Asst. Costume Designer), and more throughout the city of New Orleans. Yalani is grateful for her family and friends and their never wavering support. Like always, she would like to dedicate her work to her grandmother.



SIMON WHATLEY (he/him) (BOARD OP CREW) is so glad to be able to work with you guys!!! <33 This is my 3rd show at Loyola. You guys really inspire and teach me so much! Keep up the good work everyone!

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# COMING UP NEXT AT LOYNO THEATRE & DANCE



A Casual Cabaret featuring the MT Voice Students



Thursday, May 2 12:45 – 1:45 PM Lower Depths Theater





APRIL 29 - MAY 1

7:00PM / LOWER DEPTHS EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE

FEATURING THE STUDIOS OF LIZ ARGUS, MELISSA MARSHALL, AND FLO E. PRESTI

