



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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San Jose Repertory Theatre Extends the Hilarious Musical Hit *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!* Seven performances added due to popular demand – tickets on sale now

SAN JOSE, CA (May 20, 2009) — *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* opened last week to sold out houses, rave reviews and standing ovations! Today, San Jose Repertory Theatre announces a one-week extension of the hilarious musical hit, now through June 14th. Along with its originally scheduled performances, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* will now be presented on six additional dates: June 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Tickets are available at the San Jose Rep Box Office at 101 Paseo de San Antonio or can be purchased online at www.SJRep.com or by calling (408) 367-7255.

“We are delighted by the overwhelming public response to this production that has prompted us to extend its run,” remarks Artistic Director Rick Lombardo. “Coming on the heels of the extended run of *The Kite Runner*, it’s clear the Rep has some incredible momentum right now, and that our community is responding very positively to the work on our stage this season. I’ve also been especially pleased to see so many young people attending the “Bee” and having a great theatre experience, and this extension will allow even more families and young people to share this experience.”

Strong ticket sales reflect the remarkable success of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, which has received rave reviews from the press. The San Jose Mercury News calls it “d-e-l-i-g-h-t-f-u-l ... a thoroughly adorable musical...the powerhouse cast just keeps topping itself.”

The San Francisco Chronicle calls this production, “a sure-fire crowd-pleaser.”

A sassy musical comedy, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* follows six young people in the throes of puberty. Overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, they learn that winning isn’t everything and that losing doesn’t necessarily make them a loser. The show’s Tony® award-winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky, yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time. At each performance, four audience volunteers are selected and invited onstage to participate in the “Bee,” making each performance a unique experience.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is sponsored by **Santa Clara University Leavey School of Business, KPMG, McManis Faulkner, Hawgs Seafood Restaurant** and supported, in part, by a **Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose.**

About the Rep

San Jose Rep is the premier non-profit, professional theatre company in the South Bay, presenting six main stage productions each year. As a major contributor to South Bay's cultural community for 28 years, the Rep's mission is to engage, entertain and inspire people. The Rep produces innovative theatrical performances that offer fresh perspectives into the human condition, educational programs that promote life-long learning, and outreach initiatives that benefit our diverse community. For more information, visit www.SJRep.com

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FACT SHEET

WHAT: The Tony® award-winning musical hit *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

WHO: Music and lyrics by **William Finn**
Book by **Rachel Sheinkin**
Conceived by **Rebecca Feldman**
Additional material by **Jay Reiss**
Directed by **Timothy Near**
Musical direction by **Dolores Duran-Cefalu**
Assistant Director/Movement consultant **Amanda Folena**

Set Designer	Robert Broadfoot
Costume Designer	Shigeru Yagi
Lighting/Projection Designer	David Lee Cuthbert
Sound Design	Jeff Mockus
Associate Lighting and Projections Designer:	Seamus Stahan-Mauk
Stage Manager	Laxmi Kumaran

CAST:	Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre	Molly Bell
	Chip Tolentino	Marc de la Cruz
	Rona Lisa Peretti	Alison Ewing
	William Barfee	Mark Ferrell
	Leaf Coneybear	Clifton Guterman
	Mitch Mahoney	Berwick Haynes
	Douglas Panch	Steve Irish
	Olive Ostrovsky	Dani Marcus
	Marcy Park	Sophie Oda

WHERE: San Jose Repertory Theatre
101 Paseo de San Antonio

WHEN: **Extended Dates:**
Previews: May 9th-May 14th, 2009
Opens: May 15th, 2009
Closes: June 14th, 2009
Price range: \$33-\$62



Extended Schedule is as follows:
 Tuesday 6/9 @ 7:30pm
 Wednesday 6/10 @ 8:00pm
 Thursday 6/11 @ 8:00pm
 Friday 6/12 @ 8:00pm
 Saturday 6/13 @ 3:00pm (with post show discussion) and 8:00pm
 Sunday 6/14 @ 2:00pm (with post show discussion)

Previews: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday Evenings & Matinees	Orchestra \$48.00	Parterre \$40.00	Balcony \$33.00
All: Tuesday Evenings, Wednesday Matinees, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday Evenings	\$55.00	\$47.00	\$40.00
Saturday Matinees & Sunday Matinees	\$62.00	\$54.00	\$47.00

Students (full-time, with valid ID) - 1/2 off tickets for all performances, all seats.
Seniors (65 yrs +) and Teachers - \$6 off tickets all performances, all seats.
ADA or ASL discount - \$6 off your ticket and your companion's ticket.
Subscriber Single Ticket Discounts - \$6
Rush Ticket Discounts - Balcony price for that performance

HOW: **By phone:** 408.367.7255
Online: www.sjrep.com
By mail: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113
By fax: 408.367.7236
In person: Rep Box Office, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose
 Between South 2nd & 3rd Streets
For group sales: 408.367.7295