

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM MUSIC THEATRE PRESENTS

The 25th Annual Putnam County
SPELLING BEE



11 TO 13 NOVEMBER 2022
THE PARKS THEATRE
46 COWAN ST, ANGLE PARK

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: GEORGE TORBAY
DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER: JOSEPH SIMONS
MUSIC DIRECTOR: PETER JOHNS



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM MUSIC THEATRE
PRESENTS A NEW PRODUCTION OF

The 25th Annual Putnam County
SPELLING BEE

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
WILLIAM FINN

BOOK BY
RACHEL SHEINKIN

CONCEIVED BY
REBECCA FELDMAN

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY
JAY REISS

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED ON BROADWAY BY JAMES LAPINE

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY
DAVID STONE, JAMES L. NEDERLANDER, BARBARA WHITMAN, PATRICK CATULLO
BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY, SECOND STAGE THEATRE

BASED UPON C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, AN ORIGINAL PLAY BY THE FARM

THE BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY WORKSHOP OF THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
WAS ORIGINALLY CO-DIRECTED BY MICHAEL BARAKIVA AND REBECCA FELDMAN

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER: JOSEPH SIMONS

MUSIC DIRECTOR: PETER JOHNS

LIGHTING DESIGNER: CHRIS SNAPE

AUDIO DESIGNER: JAMIE MENSFORTH

LICENSED EXCLUSIVELY BY MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALASIA)
ALL PERFORMANCE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA



A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC THEATRE

"You should never trust a man who has only one way to spell a word."

Mark Twain

Second Year productions have the great liberty of being generously silly. I enjoy selecting works that allow our students the freedom to play without the pressures that come with a Third-Year production. In Second Year there is still time...plenty of time to explore, go to extremes and examine the fine art of comedy. On the surface, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* fulfils that brief. The first production I saw many years ago had me in stitches of laughter. However, the broader issues of 'winning' and 'losing' are deeply important in this work. Set against the backdrop of school life (all schools are bizarre) and the weird construct of family life (all families are bizarre), our students have had the chance to explore this work in a deeper way.

I am indebted to Joseph Simons and Peter Johns for their guidance and creativity on this project. Our students are blessed to work with such enormously talented people. I would like to also thank Chris & Carolina Snape (Lighting) and Jamie Mensforth (Sound). You make these projects a joy for the production team and for our students. We owe you too much!!

For the last six months I have been working on the program of productions and events for 2023. My head is already in next year. The students you are seeing now are soon to be the leaders of this degree and the focus of activities next year. We are excited for you to see them now and urge you to return next year to watch them in our major productions of *ON THE TOWN* in concert with the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, *SWEENEY TODD* directed by Helpmann and Green Room Award winner James Millar and *A CHORUS LINE* with choreography by West End and Australian star Luke Alleva.

It will be a ridiculously fun year!

George Torbay
Head of Music Theatre

Y A O R N C



FROM THE DIRECTOR



The challenge: to transform a musical originally written for 9 performers into a production with a cast of 22. Not easy! But with a greater amount people on stage, I've thoroughly appreciated the chance to lean into the more absurd and abstract moments of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, while still staying true to the original format and it's message.

Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn's charming tribute to the world of competitive spelling may appear on the surface to simply be a cute nod to adolescence, but it's been a pleasure to dive into this text with the students to discuss the broader metaphor of the spelling bee. What does a 'winner' or a 'loser' look like? How does expectation guide reality? What does fear of failure do to a person's behaviour? - big questions from a quirky, adorable musical!

To populate the stage, we've decided to explore the family life of each of the spellers, hunting through the original text for clues for how to visually illustrate each competitor's homelife. These young characters represent such a range of family circumstances: children of divorce, children of neglect, children of varying socio-economic backgrounds, helicopter parents, parents who have no faith in their child, long-distance parenting, adoption and rainbow families. As a group we've discussed the effects of such upbringings, and how they may inform a child's personality or their approach to competition.

One of the main purposes of the second-year production is to develop in the students a more sophisticated understanding of how a professional rehearsal room works.

"I have been particularly proud of the second-year group for their commitment to learning about double casting, understudies and the team-effort of rehearsing a musical."

Throughout this process they have also learnt about the audition process, project contracts, industry reporting channels and duties of each role within a production crew. No small feat for the students who are also cast members in their own show! The energy and hunger of this group is inspiring.

My thanks to music director, Peter Johns, for making the cast and band sound so wonderful, and to Chris Snape for his excellent lighting design. And of course, to you, audience, for your participation(!) in this production. Whether you are one of our on-stage spellers or not, I thank you for supporting these student's development into the world of professional theatre. I'm sure you'll agree, just like the delightful characters in the musical, they have bright futures ahead of them!

Joseph Simons

CAST

	FRI 7:30PM & SAT 2:00PM	SAT 7:30PM & SUN 2:00PM
Rona Lisa Peretti	Millicent Sarre	Josie Stanger-Jones
Vice Principal Douglas Panch	Byron Fletcher	Declan Feldhusen
Mitch Mahoney	Sophie Tzioumis	Rosie Russell
William Barfée	Declan Ryan	Matthew Geaney
Leaf Coneybear	Max Walburn	Kieran Humphreys
Olive Ostrovsky	Lilli De Nardi	Angélique Diko
Marcy Park	Taylah Johns	Phoebe Surman
Logainne		
Schwartzandgrubenierre	Chloe Marlow	Gracie Rowland
Chip Tolentino	Mat Monti	Raymond Cullen
Dan Schwartz	Dhuruva Padmanabhan	Dhuruva Padmanabhan
Carl Grubenierre	Cooper Everett	Cooper Everett
Mrs Barfee	Carolyn Crisp	Carolyn Crisp
Mrs Coneybear	Michele Kelsey	Michele Kelsey
Mr Coneybear	Cooper Everett	Cooper Everett
Mrs Ostrovsky	Carolyn Crisp	Carolyn Crisp
Mr Ostrovsky	Matthew Geaney	Mat Monti
Mrs Park	Rosie Russell	Sophie Tzioumis
Mrs Tolentino	Josie Stanger-Jones	Millicent Sarre
Brook Coneybear	Rosie Russell	Sophie Tzioumis
Landscape Coneybear	Dhuruva Padmanabhan	Dhuruva Padmanabhan
Marigold Coneybear	Angélique Diko	Lilli De Nardi
Paul Coneybear	Kieran Humphreys	Max Walburn
Pinecone Coneybear	Carolyn Crisp	Carolyn Crisp
Rasin Coneybear	Phoebe Surman	Taylah Johns
Jesus Christ	Dhuruva Padmanabhan	Dhuruva Padmanabhan
Dictionary	Carolyn Crisp	Carolyn Crisp
Audience Participation Manager	Rosie Russell	Sophie Tzioumis
Bee Staff	Declan Feldhusen, Gracie Rowland, Raymond Cullen	Byron Fletcher, Chloe Marlow, Declan Ryan

Understudies

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance.

Rona Lisa Peretti	Michele Kelsey
Douglas Panch	Dhuruva Padmanabhan
Chip Tolentino	Declan Feldhusen
Leaf Coneybear	Cooper Everett
Marcy Park	Chloe Marlow
Olive Ostrovsky	Carolyn Crisp
William Barfée	Byron Fletcher

PRODUCTION

Executive Producer

George Torbay

Production Manager

Peter Johns

Director & Choreographer

Joseph Simons

Music Director

Peter Johns

Lighting Designer

Christopher Snape

Lighting Operation

Carolina Snape

Audio Designer

Jamie Mensforth

Stage Manager

Amanda Rowe

Assistant Stage Manager

Jay Scott

Mosaic Audio Visual Pty Ltd

Craig Williams (Director)

Radio Mic Technician

Jess Delbridge

Rigging

Mr Rigger Pty Ltd

Poster Design

Imogen Landau

Photography

Gregory Balcombe

Front Of House Manager

Cathy Clark

BAND

Conductor/Piano

Peter Johns

Synthesiser

Paul Sinkinson

Drums/Percussion

Max Ziliotto

Flute/Clarinet/Soprano Sax/Alto Sax

Daniel Burgess

Cello

Heather Stratfold

Keyboard Programming

KeyboardTEK

Percussion Programming

Peter Johns & Max Ziliotto

Ableton Programming

Peter Johns



STUDENT PRODUCTION ROLES

Assistant to the Director

Angelique Diko

Assistant to the Music Director

Declan Feldhusen

Assistant to the Production Manager

Michele Kelsey

Dance Captain

Carolyn Crisp

Costumes

Sophia Tzioumis (leader)

Declan Ryan (assistant)

Kieran Humphreys, Taylah Johns,
Lilli de Nardi

Hair and Make Up

Gracie Rowland (leader)

Angélique Diko (assistant)

Properties

Cooper Everett (leader)

Raymond Cullen (assistant)

Byron Fletcher, Josie Stanger-Jones,
Phoebe Surman

Prompt/Script

Mat Monti, Rosie Russell

Stage Management

Michele Kelsey (leader)

Declan Feldhusen, Matthew Geaney

Marketing

Max Walburn (leader)

Dhuruva Padmanabhan (assistant)

Chloe Marlow, Millicent Sarre

WITH THANKS

The Parks Theatre

Ceri Hutton

Gregory Balcombe

Beth Ottaway

Nick Curnow

Full Hammer

Adelaide University Sport & Fitness

The Fruit Run

Slama Family

Nikki Snelson

Ben Jones

Adam Gardnir

Marina Prior

Mitchell Butel

Jemma Allen

Ruby Pinkerton

Brad Tucker

Michael Griffiths

Sophie Guidolin

Matthew Liersch

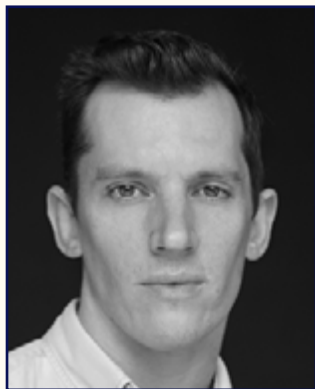
Ryan Mortimer

Zoe Coppinger

Tom New

And all our rehearsal volunteers





JOSEPH SIMONS (HE/HIM) DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Joseph is a director and choreographer working in music theatre, contemporary dance, opera, theatre and ballet.

After graduating from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Joseph was awarded 2009 Outstanding Emerging Artist at Australian Dance Awards and nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Male Dancer.

As a performer, he has toured throughout USA, Asia, UK and Australia with companies including West Australian Ballet (*Pinocchio* - title role), Chunky Move (*Connected, I Like This*), Lucy Guerin Inc. (*Structure and Sadness, Untrained*), Queensland Ballet (*Little Red*), Force Majeure (*I Will Have Beautiful People At My Funeral Too*), Jack Productions and The Australian Ballet (*El Amour Brujo*). He has performed with The Production Company (*Nice Work If You Can Get It*), Opera Australia (*The Ring Cycle, King Roger*), Victorian Opera (*Julius Caesar*) and developed work at Australian Dance Theatre (*Proximity*) and DV8 Physical Theatre, London (*John*). As an actor, Joseph played Tom in the original London cast of *Spider Love* by Mick Goldstein and created the role of Malcom in the world premiere cast of *The Death Of Kings* by Colette F Keen.

His choreography has been performed by West Australian Ballet (*Man Alive*), Footlight Productions (*Miss Saigon*), The Seven Sopranos (*Popcorn*), Queensland University of Technology (*Skank: A Tragic Love Story*), Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (*Self Destruct*) and Flying Fruit Fly Circus (*Storm*) as well as music videos for Elisha Bones' *Guts* and Hounds Homebound's *Sandy*. Joseph was the recipient of the 2013 Tanja Liedtke Fellowship - awarded to one Australian choreographer every two years.

Following his residency at the International Choreographic Laboratory in Frankfurt, Joseph created his solo work *First Things First*, premiering in the Robert Helpmann Theatre at the Margot Fonteyn Academy in New York. His next play, *100 Years Of The History Of Dance As Told By One Man In 60 Minutes With An Energetic Group Finale*, was written during a development at Roundabout Theatre, New York, before touring extensively.

From 2015 Joseph has been a contributing creative with Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University on shows including *Carousel, Little Women, Company, The Wedding Singer, Legally Blonde, Personals, It's Only Life* and *Elegies*.

Joseph directed and choreographed the sold out and extended production of *The Producers* in Brisbane, Queensland. He was the Artistic Director of Altitude Theatre before becoming a full-time lecturer in Music Theatre at Elder Conservatorium, University of Adelaide.



PETER JOHNS (HE/HIM) MUSIC DIRECTOR

Peter is a music theatre repertoire coach, music director, pit orchestra musician, production manager, and stage manager, and has worked on more than 70 productions over the last 25-years. He is the founder and executive producer of Irregular Productions and joined the teaching staff at Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre in 2020.

Peter's company Irregular Productions is the co-creator of *Broadway Sessions*, a monthly music theatre performance and curated open-mic night. (www.broadwaysessions.com.au) His company has also staged the South Australian premieres of *Songs for a New World* (dir. Andy Ahrens), *[title of show]* (dir. Hayley Horton) and *Edges* (dir. Ellis Dolan), as well as a new production of *Godspell* (dir. Karen Sheldon) with Lydian Productions.

Outside of theatre, Peter is the music director of Australia's second-largest candlelight Christmas event, Civic Park Carols, broadcast locally on Channel 9, where he has worked with artists including Rachel Beck, Justine Clarke, Guy Sebastian, Jessica Braithwaite, and many contestants from *The Voice*.

Previous show credits include Music Director for *Urinetown the Musical*, *Mamma Mia*, *Cabaret*, *Beautiful*, *Violet*, *The Story Of My Life*, *The Light In The Piazza*, *Les Misérables*, *Next to Normal*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Into the Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *[title of show]*, *Edges*, *Avenue Q*, *Bring It On*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oliver!*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Chicago*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Grease*, *Once Upon a Mattress*; Associate Music Director for *Kinky Boots*; and Associate Conductor for *City of Angels* and *RENT*.

CAST



CAROLYN CRISP (she/her)
*Mrs Ostrovsky/Mrs Barfee/
Dictionary/Olive Ostrovsky (US)*

In 2021, Carolyn appeared in the student ensemble of *Chess: the Musical* (Storey Board Entertainment) as well as Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre's (ECMT) *Songs and Scenes: Death Divorce and Other Happy Endings* (dir. George Torbay). In 2020, Carolyn performed with the WAAPA Classical Voice Department in *Orpheus in the Underworld* (dir. Nicole Stinton) as a featured dancer as well as with her Musical Theatre Diploma cohort in their own self-devised cabarets. In 2018, Carolyn performed in Manhattan Concert Productions' *Broadway Classics at Carnegie Hall* as part of a student ensemble choir.



RAYMOND CULLEN (he/him)
Chip Tolentino

Raymond has enjoyed performing since a young age. While he has a passion for being on stage he is also fascinated with the behind-the-scenes teams and hopes to one day teach and direct productions himself on completion of his Bachelor of Music Theatre degree at Adelaide University. Away from the stage, Raymond is continually in a creative environment working in web and graphic design.



LILLI DE NARDI (she/her)
*Olive Ostrovsky/
Marigold Coneybear*

Lilli completed a Diploma of Music Theatre at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts before moving to Adelaide to continue her studies at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. She has performed in professional productions including the role of Annie in *Annie* (Gordon Frost Organisation, dir. Karen Johnson Mortimer); as a chorister in *Chess: The Musical* (Storeyboard Entertainment, dir. Tyran Parke); and premiered the role of Lucy in *Kiss*, a Perth Fringe World Musical (Western Sky Productions, dir. Joshua James Webb). Lilli was also a select member of the Qantas Choir performing at the G'day USA Gala in Los Angeles and with Hugh Jackman in his Broadway to Oz tour.



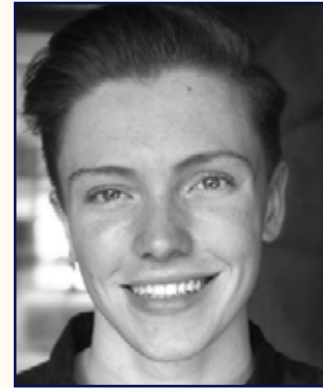
ANGÉLIQUE DIKO (she/her)
*Olive Ostrovsky/
Marigold Coneybear*

Born and raised in Adelaide, Angélique made her professional debut in *La Bohème* (State Opera South Australia, dir. Gale Edwards) at the age of 10. She also featured in *Ode To Nonsense* (Slingsby Productions, dir. Andy Packer) and *Amahl & The Night Visitors* (dir. Emma Knights and Karen Lettice). Most recently, she was a featured chorus member in *Chess: The Musical* (StoreyBoard Entertainment, dir. Tyran Parke), and a Featured Artist in *Death, Divorce, and other Happy Endings* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay)



COOPER EVERETT (he/him)
*Carl Grubenierre/
Leaf Coneybear (US)*

Cooper is an Adelaide-based performer well-versed in the art forms of music theatre, theatre, film, and cabaret. Cooper recently performed as a Chorister in *Chess: The Musical* (StoreyBoard Productions, dir. Tyran Parke) and was a Featured Performer in *Songs And Scenes* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay). Prior to starting at ECMT, Cooper appeared in workshops and readings with the State Theatre Company of South Australia and Brink Productions.



DECLAN FELDHUSEN
(he/him)
*Vice Principal Panch/
Chip Tolentino (US)*

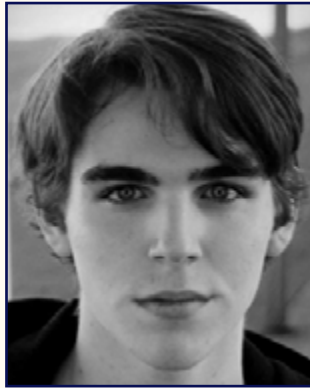
Originally from Canberra, Declan graduated with a Diploma of Music Theatre from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2020. While there, he was a featured performer in their mid-year musical (dir. Nicole Stinton). In 2021, he was featured in *Death, Divorce, and Other Happy Endings* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay). He is also a proud member of the University of Adelaide basketball team that finished 6th out of 34 at University Nationals earlier this year.





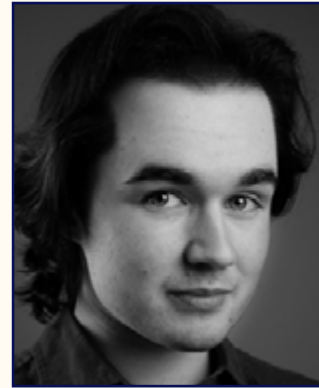
BYRON FLETCHER (he/him)
*Vice Principal Panch/
William Barfee (US)*

Originally from the Hunter Valley in NSW, Byron has performed in both professional and amateur productions including *Shrek the Musical JR*, *Evita* and *Les Misérables*. Byron was awarded the 'Junior Theatre All-Star' at the Junior Theatre Festival of 2017 in Atlanta, USA. He moved to Adelaide in 2020 and has since been attending ECMT.



MATTHEW GEANEY (he/him)
William Barfee/Mr Ostrovsky

Matthew began performing in Brisbane, playing the roles of Ren McCormack in *Footloose* (dir. Emilia Keene), Marius Pontmercy in *Les Misérables* (Savoyards, dir. Robbie Parkin), and Harry in *Kinky Boots* (Phoenix Ensemble, dir. Sherryl-Lee Secomb). He also performed in the Queensland Theatre Youth Ensemble where he played Laertes in an adaptation of *Hamlet* named *The One the River Didn't Keep* (Queensland Theatre, dir. Chris Beckey) and *Love and Information* (QT, dir. Travis Dowling).



KIERAN HUMPHREYS
(he/him)
Leaf Conebear

Kieran hails from Brisbane and in 2020 completed his Certificate III in Dance at the Queensland College of Dance. During his time in Brisbane Kieran was a part of the Australian premiere and touring production of Andy Griffith's *The Day My Bum Went Psycho* (dir. John Boyce). Since moving to Adelaide he has performed as a featured singer and ukulelist in *Death Divorce and Other Happy Endings* (dir. George Torbay) with Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre.



NCA ROY



TAYLAH JOHNS (she/her)
Marcy Park/Rasin Coneybear

Taylah grew up in Brisbane and moved to Adelaide in 2021 to begin a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium. Prior to ECMT, she has trained in Music Theatre for 10 years with Fame Theatre Company (dir. Nicole Wheeler) and singing tutelage under the guidance of Dale Cox and Stephanie Taylor. She is a resident vocalist for Alan Casey Entertainment.



MICHELE KELSEY (she/her)
*Mrs Coneybear/
Rona Lisa Peretti (US)*

Now in her second year studying Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Michele performed in key solo moments during *Songs and Scenes* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay) including Guido's Mother from *Nine*. She also performed during the Adelaide Cabaret Festival 2021 at Trevor Jones' Piano Bar. Other lead roles in community theatre include Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific* and Joanne in *Company* (South Coast Choral and Arts Society). Prior to her career in Physiotherapy, Michele performed in live bands and a cappella groups in South Australia.



CHLOE MARLOW (she/her)
*Logainne
Schwartzandgrubenierre/
Marcy Park (US)*

Chloe began her career at aged 10, credits including the Annie understudy in *Annie* (Gordon Frost Organisation, dir. Karen Johnson-Mortimer), Jemima in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (TML Enterprises, dir. Rodger Hodgman), a solo semi-finalist on *Australia's Got Talent* (Fremantle Media), and the Australian ambassador for the inaugural *Wunderkidz* Convention in Argentina (Piggyback Productions). She is from Perth WA, where in 2020 she graduated with a Diploma in Musical theatre from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.



MAT MONTI (they/them)
Chip Tolentino/Mr Ostrovsky

Mat Monti is a proudly pansexual, non-binary artist with a passion for theatre and activism. With training in musical theatre, cabaret, comedy and jazz, Monti is a performer with a diverse skill set; having performed in the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Fringe Festival, and was part of the Australian Premiere of *Considering Matthew Shepard* as part of Feast Festival in 2019. Monti is taking every opportunity thrown their way at the Elder Conservatorium.



DHURUVA PADMANABHAN
(he/him)
*Dan Schwartz/Jesus/
Vice Principal Panch (US)*

Dhuruva has been performing since the age of five in Chennai, India. At 18, he came to Australia to study an Advanced Diploma of Music Theatre and Commercial Dance at ADPI and QCD Brisbane. While there, he performed in the NRL Magic Rounds 2019, and the ensemble of *The Producers* by Altitude Theatre (dir. Joseph Simons). Since moving to Adelaide, he has worked with Ding Productions in corporate shows and danced for the BBL Adelaide Strikers. In 2022 he danced in *Men Who Dance* (MightyGood Productions, dir. Malcom Harslett) and performed with Matt Gilbertson (aka Accordion Hans) for the Adelaide Fringe and other shows as one of his dancers.



GRACIE ROWLAND (she/her)
*Logainne
Schwartzandgrubenierre*

Gracie lived in Sydney before moving to Adelaide in 2021 to study a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium of Music at University of Adelaide. This will be Gracie's second production of *Spelling Bee* after performing as Olive with St Aloysius College in 2017. Gracie is excited to explore this musical again as the character Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre.





ROSIE RUSSELL

(she/they)

Mitch Mahoney/

Brook Coneybear/Mrs Park

Cedar-Rosie Russell graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) with a Diploma of Musical Theatre in 2020, before relocating to Adelaide to study at the Elder Conservatorium. Rosie is a resident artist of the *Finest Filth Variety Hour* (dir. Annie Schofield), also appearing in *Cabaret Life Drawing* (Adelaide Cabaret Festival, dir. Joel Allan), *Liars & Clowns* (Adelaide Fringe Festival, dir. Kyle Dolan) and *Scene Queens* (Nineteen Ten, dir. Letitia Stitch).



DECLAN RYAN (he/him)

William Barfee

Before studying at the Elder Conservatorium, Declan Ryan obtained a Diploma of Musical Theatre at the Queensland College of Dance in Brisbane. Declan's other notable stage roles include: Featured Performer in *Death, Divorce and Other Happy Endings* (ECMT, dir. George Torbay), Drowned Child in *Three Marys* (Opera Queensland, dir. Andrée Greenwell) backing vocalist for The Angels' tour *Symphony of Angels*, and Featured Performer in *Treading the Boards* (QCD, dir. Tim Hill). Declan is excited to be playing the role of Barfée in ECMT's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.



MILLICENT SARRE (she/her)

Rona Lisa Peretti

Millicent Sarre is an award-winning cabaret artist; her original cabaret shows *Friendly Feminism* and *Opinionated* have toured Australia-wide to critical acclaim. Credits include Ivy in the Australian premiere of *Ivy + Bean: The Musical* (The Gemini Collective, dir: Sarah Williams). Mim is a vocal coach, a fluent French-speaker, and holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Adelaide.





JOSIE STANGER-JONES

(she/her)
Rona Lisa Peretti

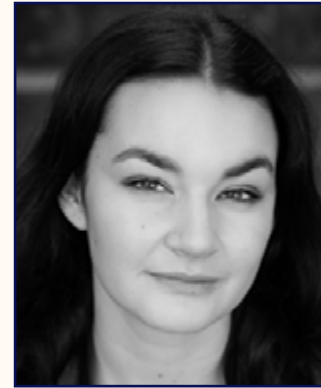
Josie grew up in the town of Dubbo, NSW. In 2020, she moved to Perth to study a Diploma of Music Theatre at Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). During this time, she was Assistant Choreographer for the mid-year Musical and a Featured *Dancer in Orpheus In The Underworld* (WAAPA Classical Voice Department, dir. Nicole Stinton). In 2021, she moved to Adelaide to continue her studies in Musical Theatre.



PHOEBE SURMAN (she/her)

Marcy Park/Rasin Coneybear

Prior to ...*Spelling Bee*, Phoebe Surman has performed as a dancer in *L'Hotel* (Adelaide Cabaret Festival, dir. Craig Illott) and as a singer in *Antithesis* (Adelaide Fringe, ECMTA). Most recently Phoebe has appeared as a featured dancer in *La Traviata* (State Opera South Australia, dir. Sarah Giles). She is also a gymnast, acrobat and gymnastics coach who has competed and performed in numerous events both nationally and internationally.



SOPHIE TZIOUMIS (she/her)

*Mitch Mahoney/
Brook Coneybear/Mrs Park*

Sophie grew up in Sydney and relocated to Adelaide in 2021 to study at the Elder Conservatorium. This will be her second production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, her first being with NUTS in 2019 (dir. Jordan Barnes). Most recently, Sophie performed in StoreyBoard's *Chess: The Musical* (dir. Tyran Parke), and as Lola in *Damn Yankees* (Brent Street, dir. Lisa Callingham). Sophie also holds a Diploma of Musical Theatre from Brent Street.





MAX WALBURN (he/him)
Leaf Coneybear

Prior to ECMT, Max completed a Diploma of Musical Theatre at NIDA. He made his professional debut at the age of 11, playing Jeremy Potts in the Sydney season of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (TML Enterprises, dir. Roger Hodgman). Other stage credits include: *La Traviata* (State Opera South Australia, dir. Sarah Giles), *L'Hôtel* (Adelaide Cabaret Festival, dir. Craig Ilott) and *Snow White - Winter Family Musical* (Bonnie Lythgoe Productions, dir. Bonnie Lythgoe). Max is excited to be performing in the upcoming Sydney season of *La Cage aux Folles* (Showtune Productions, dir. Cameron Menzies) as a Cagelle.

