

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE PRESENTS BROADWAY HIT: "THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE" THIS MARCH

For more information:

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BILLINGS – Rocky Mountain College will be presenting the Broadway hit and Tony Award winning musical comedy, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," this March at Billings Studio Theatre.

Directed by Rocky Mountain College Theatre Arts Prof. Gearld Roe, and sponsored by NorthWestern Energy and Streeter Brothers Insurance, the musical will be performed March 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27, 2010. All performances begin at 8 p.m.

The one-act show centers around a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. Quirky adolescents compete in the Bee, run by equally-quirky grown-ups. An unusual aspect of the show is that three or four real audience members are invited on stage to compete in the spelling bee alongside the six young characters.

Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students (the show is R-rated, so children are not permitted).

"'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' was one of the first shows that I saw on Broadway during my sabbatical in New York City. I was totally unprepared for what I saw -- an absolutely delightful, wickedly funny musical. I immediately fell under the spell of this Bee. Discovering that it had become

available for public performances, I jumped at the chance to direct it,” Roe said.

The cast consists of students: Tyler Kaufmann of Elkhorn, Tennessee; Shad Scott of Billings, Montana; Faith Greenlee of McLeod, Montana; Alyssa Guarino of Higganum, Connecticut; Justin Rife of Billings, Montana; Chris Decker of Columbia Falls, Montana; and Bekah Kellison of Billings, Montana.

The two adults are played by Don Havig and Wendy Carlin.

On the technical side, Jennifer Rassley of Belgrade, Montana takes on the duties of the stage manager and the set is design is by Beccah Maier of Kirkland, Washington.

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