



# PROLOGUE

September 2016

## *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* Opens New Season

### Tickets on Sale for September 9–25

At the start of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, we see a middle school gymnasium getting set up for a spelling bee. As the spellers enter one by one, they sing about their anticipation. More spellers—luminaries from town, and guests chosen from the audience—join them onstage. And the show begins!

“The audience is in for a treat,” says Judy Weinberg, show producer. “We’ve got a lot of great singing, dancing, storytelling—and, of course, spelling.”

“It’s always fun to have the audience participate,” says Weinberg, “for us and for them.” Audience members volunteer when they enter the theatre. If they’re chosen, they get guidance about how to proceed in true spelling bee fashion. They’re instructed to request a definition of each word and its usage in a sentence, and to attempt to spell each word rather than giving up.

The final audience participant to be eliminated is serenaded by Comfort Counselor Mitch onstage. Mitch also gives each eliminated finalist a juice box and a hug.

In addition to audience members, guest spellers include luminaries from Arlington. The roster will include Arlington Selectwoman Diane Mahon; Reverend Marta Flanagan, First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington; Author David Whitford; Linda Shoemaker, Director, Arlington Center for the Arts; Andrea Nicolay, Director, Robbins Library; and Principal Michael Hanna from Stratton School.

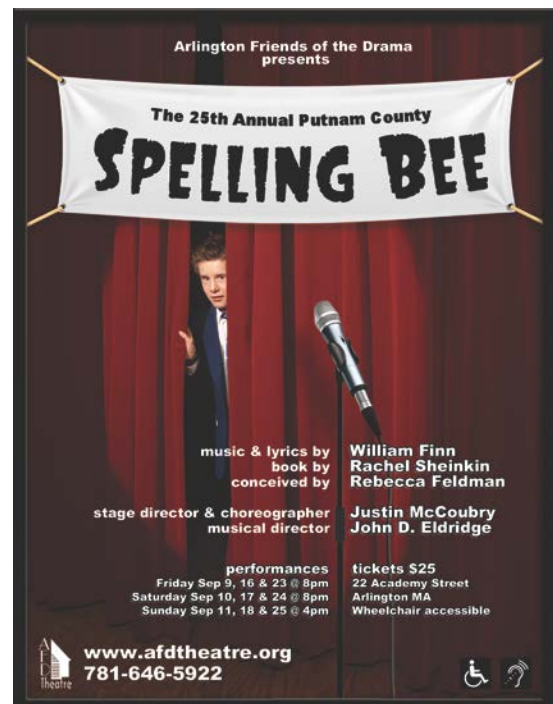
*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* was workshopped at Barrington Stage Company, and had its official stage debut in 2005. It went on to win the Tony for Best Book of a Musical and has been produced around the world.

Justin McCoubry is directing and choreographing the show, his first time at the helm of a show at AFD. Audiences will recognize him from starring roles in last season’s *The Boy from Oz* and from *Avenue* in 2014.

“It’s such a great way to open our season,” says Weinberg. “It’s really funny, and touching, and we have an extremely talented bunch of actors.”

#### Show Dates

Friday, September 9 at 8 PM  
Saturday, September 10 at 8 PM  
Sunday, September 11 at 4 PM (with talkback)  
Friday, September 16 at 8 PM  
Saturday, September 17 at 8 PM  
Sunday, September 18 at 4 PM  
Friday, September 23 at 8 PM  
Saturday, September 24 at 8 PM  
Sunday, September 25 at 4 PM



# What To Do with the Wreckage from a Demolished School? Put on a Musical!

AFD's upcoming production of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* features actual bits and pieces of Stratton School in Arlington

It's not easy to build a middle school gymnasium on a narrow stage in an old church. But the production crew behind the latest production at AFD Theatre has been working overtime to make sure it looks, feels, and sounds completely authentic. Their best move: to gather the pieces of a demolished elementary school in town.

When the curtain rises on the AFD Theatre's new production of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* in September, people in the audience will see the closest thing possible to a real public school gym.

That's because many of the set pieces and props were used in an actual gym in town. It will all come to life: the brushed metal of the water fountains, the red letters of the exit signs, the resounding *kerchUNK* of the panic bars on the doors, the fire extinguisher boxes.

Show producer Judy Weinberg reports that at the first production meeting early in the summer, the director, Justin McCoubry, said he wanted the set to be as authentic as possible.

Weinberg, a realtor in Arlington who knows the goings on about town, recalled that the Stratton School was scheduled to be demolished. She and Mark Bastoni, AFD House Director, got in touch with the school principal, Michael Hanna, about salvaging some of the pieces that would be falling to the ground.

As they toured, Weinberg says "Hanna was fabulous—and everyone on staff was helpful and pleasant. When we got to the nurse's office, she started offering us things like the turquoise Naugahyde couch where the kids go to lie down. We did take a rocking chair."

After they toured the school, Hanna compiled a list and put them in touch with Ken Grizzell, the project manager in charge of the demolition. He's been saving pieces for them during the demolition.

"The set is going to look great," says Weinberg, "and as close to a school gym as you can get."



Part of the old set of *Vanya* and the new set of *Spelling Bee* can be seen behind cast members Eric Rehm, Katie Pickett, and Darius Eslami.



Production Manager Judy Weinberg and Props Manager Evelyn Corsini Alcorn have a conference behind a salvaged door from Arlington's Stratton School.



Drinking fountains and exit signs from Stratton School share a row with Stage Manager Robin D. Liberty.

# Introducing the Amazing Cast of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Director/Choreographer Justin McCoubry is incredibly proud of the *Spelling Bee* cast.  
Mary Babic took these photos at a recent rehearsal.

**William Barfee:**

**Leaf Coneybear:**

**Olive Ostrovsky:**

**Douglas Panch:**

**Chip Tolentino:**

**Rona Lisa Perretti:**

**Mitch Mahoney:**

**Marcy Park:**

**Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere:**

**Paul Alperin**

**Steve Atwater**

**Emma Boroson**

**Darius Eslami**

**Robert McCall**

**Katie Pickett**

**Eric Rehm**

**Aubrie-Mei Rubel**

**Abby Seidel**



# AHS Sophomore Featured in AFD's Production of *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

As a true community theater, Arlington Friends of the Drama taps local talent when mounting its four productions each season. In September, a local student takes the stage singing and dancing to a perennial favorite.

While she may appear shy at first, it doesn't take long to realize that Aubrie-Mei Rubel packs a whole lot of talent and punch into her petite frame. At just fifteen and a half years old, she's already starred in several productions around town, at Arlington Children's Theater, Ottoson Middle School, Menotomy Musical Theater, and Turtle Lane Playhouse.



Aubrie-Mei Rubel

**More rehearsal photos. Could this cast be having any more fun? DO NOT MISS THIS DELIGHTFUL SHOW!**

In September, she'll take the stage for the third time at AFD Theatre, as Marcy Park in *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

She appeared in 2015 in *A Chorus Line* and in *Please Pass the Salt*, one of the plays in the last season's popular ArlingTEN Shortworks Festival.

Rubel, who lives in Arlington with her mother and a Tibetan Terrier named Cajun, is a sophomore at Arlington High School this fall. She says she enjoys all of her courses, but drama and chorus are her favorites.

She also studies dance, piano, and voice with local teachers, and just completed her third year of summer training at the Reagle Music Theatre in Waltham.

Some of her favorite roles have been Peter Pan in *Peter Pan* at Bishop Community Theater and the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods, Jr.* at Menotomy Musical Theater.

Rubel has a passion for musical theater, and travels around the world to attend productions.

She and her mother recently went on a musical cities tour of the South (New Orleans/Memphis/Nashville). This past Thanksgiving break she went to London and saw three West End musicals in three days. She also loves Broadway in New York City, where she has been known to see five shows in three days!



## President's Corner: A Note from David Warnock



As I write, this summer has brought us political theater and the Olympics—exasperating or inspiring spectacles depending on your point of view. As we enter our 94<sup>th</sup> season, here are some AFD people and events to cheer for:

- New board members: Vice President Clare Livak, Recording Secretary Lis Adams, Publicity Director Nancy Rogier, and Box Office Director Cynthia Marsden Williams
- The producers, directors, artists, musicians, crews, actors, and audiences that, together, will bring to life our 2016–2017 season:  
*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, An Inspector Calls, Sunset Boulevard, and The Graduate*
- Our revamped, refreshed, and reorganized [www.afdtheatre.org](http://www.afdtheatre.org) website
- Our enhanced social media presence on Facebook and Instagram
- Town Day on September 17
- The Daniel J. Rabone Memorial Fund benefit concert on October 15
- And, of course, YOU, our membership, without whom, none of this is possible.

Looking forward to seeing you at our theater,

**David Warnock, President**

### Friendly

AFD offers deepest and heartfelt condolences to Lis Adams in the loss of two family members. Our best wishes go to Jim Grana for a complete recovery after recent surgery. Please send your friendly news to Dot Santos at [dotsantos@comcast.net](mailto:dotsantos@comcast.net).

### Donate to AFD Theatre at AmazonSmile!

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), it's the same thing as shopping on Amazon with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to AFD Theatre. **HOW GREAT IS THAT?**

On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Arlington Friends of the Drama Inc before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at will result in a donation to AFD Theatre.

### BOX OFFICE CORNER

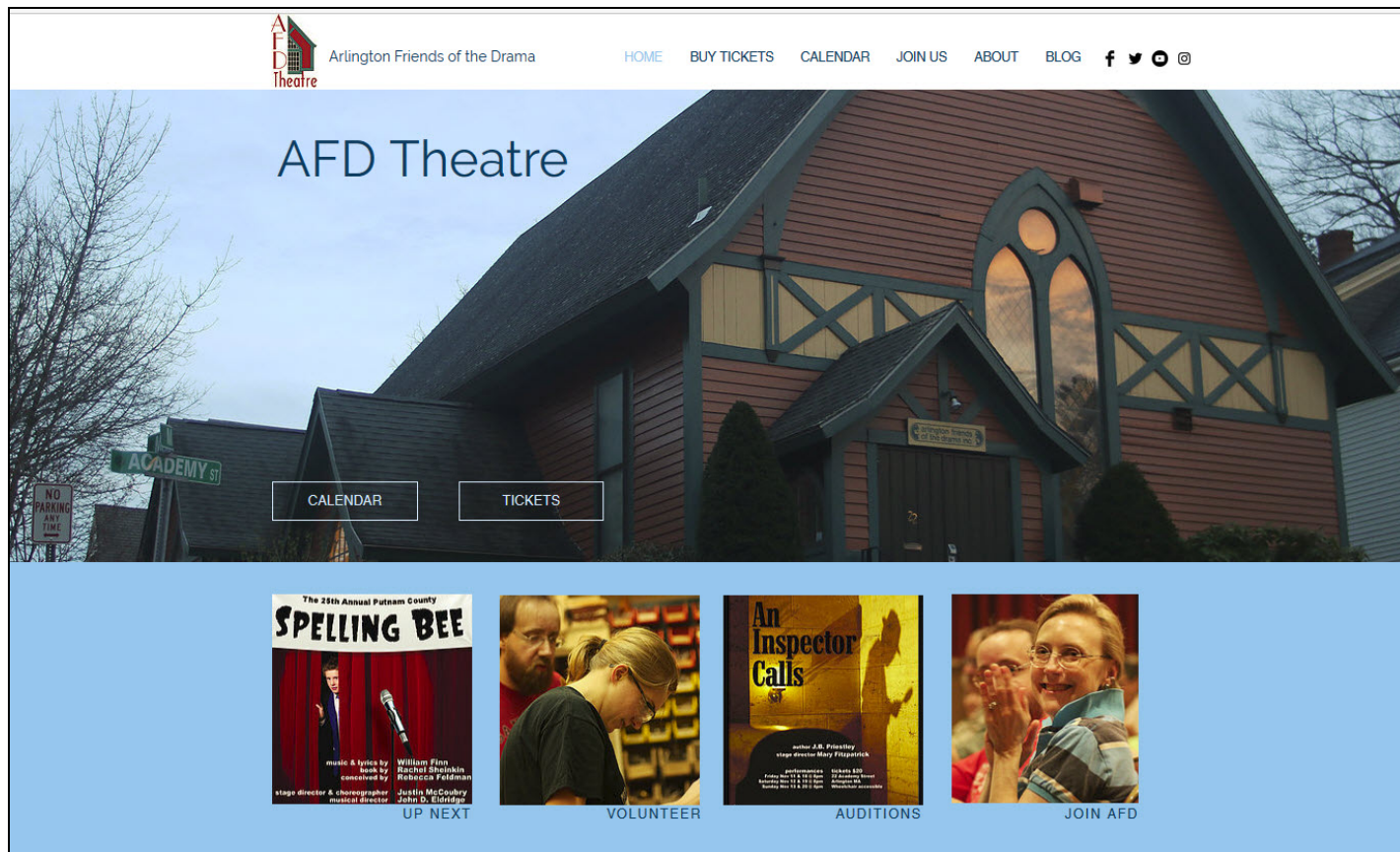
Order your tickets for *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* online at <http://www.afdtheatre.org/>. All ticket exchanges must be made through the Box Office. The easiest way to contact the box office is by email at [office@afdtheatre.org](mailto:office@afdtheatre.org), or you may call 781-646-5922. All phone messages will be checked and returned by a volunteer.

Information on how to order your tickets online was emailed to all members and subscribers, including your password. Make sure to add [afd-members@comcast.net](mailto:afd-members@comcast.net) to your list of safe senders in order to receive all AFD email.

# AFD Theatre Launches Redesigned Website

Have you seen it? AFD Theatre has a newly designed website. With fresh new colors and easier-than-ever navigation, [www.afdtheatre.org](http://www.afdtheatre.org) has the same url and made its debut in August.

Webmaster duties have passed to Mary Babic from longtime webmaster Glen Victor Doyle. Glen first got AFD Theatre up and running online. To honor him for his contribution, the AFD board awarded Glen with lifetime AFD membership at the June members' meeting. Thank you, Glen!



## The Fine Print

The Prologue is a publication of Arlington Friends of the Drama, published four to five times a year. Submissions of articles, information, ideas, and feedback are welcome from members, and may be submitted to Nancy Rogier, Prologue Editor, at [nancyrogier95@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrogier95@gmail.com) or by calling 781-863-1186. Annual membership/subscription to AFD is \$70. Membership includes a ticket to each show, opportunities to get involved in all aspects of the theater, The Prologue, and various social activities.

### Prologue Staff

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**SHATTUCK ACE HARDWARE STORE**



for paying for the printing of tickets  
for our 94th season!

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# Opening November 11: *An Inspector Calls*

It's April 1912 in the home of the prosperous Birling family. Arthur Birling, his wife Sybil, their daughter Sheila, and son Eric are in the drawing room just after dinner celebrating Sheila's engagement to Gerald Croft, son of Sir George Croft, and heir to the most successful family business in the North of England.

Their cozy celebration is suddenly interrupted when Edna, the maid, announces the unexpected arrival of Police Inspector Goole. The inspector has come to the Birling home to investigate the death of a young woman. As the inspector's questions unravel the mystery, each member of the family learns of each other's secrets linking them to the tragedy. His startling revelations uncover the truth and shatter the foundations of their lives.

## Performance Dates

Friday, November 11 at 8 PM

Saturday, November 12 at 8 PM

Sunday, November 13 at 4 PM (with talkback)

Friday, November 18 at 8 PM

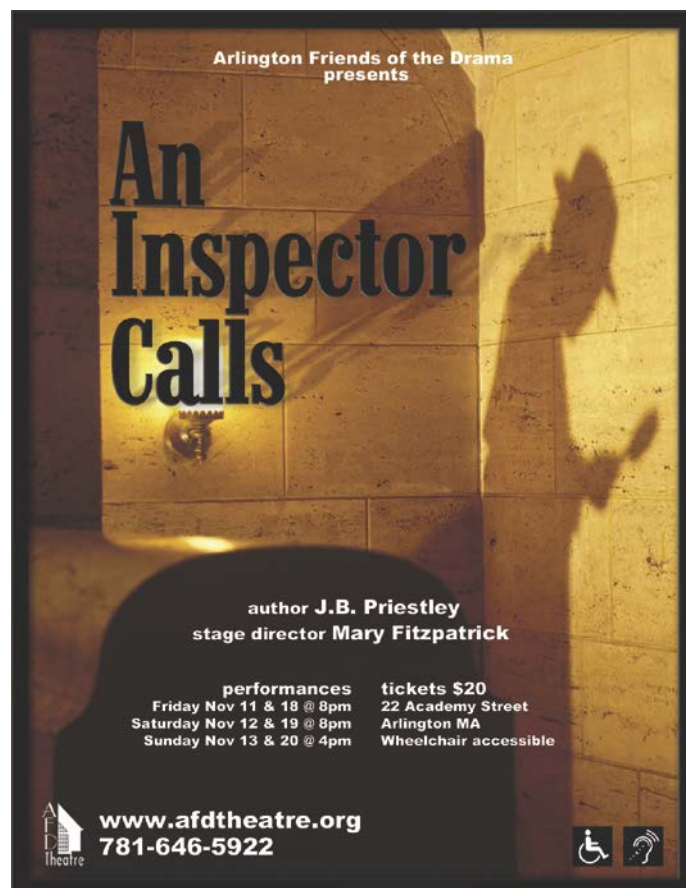
Saturday, November 19 at 8 PM

Sunday, November 20 at 4 PM

By J.B. Priestly

Directed by Mary Fitzpatrick

This riveting mystery challenges us all to examine our views of a wealth-obsessed, entitled society.



## Mark Your Calendars for These Key Dates

### Arlington Town Day

Saturday, September 17, 10 AM to 3 PM

### Opening Meeting

Sunday, October 2, 7 PM

### Auditions for *Sunset Boulevard*

Wednesday, October 5 at 7 PM and Thursday, October 6 at 7 PM. Callbacks Sunday, October 9 at 1 PM

### Daniel's Leading Ladies: A Benefit Concert

October 15 8 PM

Share an evening of reflection and songs by talented ladies to benefit the **Daniel J. Rabone Memorial Fund**. The Daniel J. Rabone Memorial Fund has been established to provide one or more scholarships to students enrolled in the Boston University Summer Theatre Institute (BUSTI); specifically to students who live in and around the Greater Boston area. All performers have shared the stage with Daniel and will be singing selections that were near and dear to his heart. Karin Denison is the Musical Director for this event.

All ticket proceeds will go directly to the Memorial Fund. TICKETS ON SALE SOON AT [www.afdtheatre.org](http://www.afdtheatre.org).

## Announcing the 2016–2017 AFD Season

September 9–25, 2016

### **The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

Music, Lyrics, and Book by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin

**Stage Director and Choreographer, Justin McCoubry**      **Music Director, John D. Eldridge**

In hilarious, touching, and catchy songs, contestants reveal their hopes, struggles, and passions as they make their way through the spelling bee. This show even involves the A-U-D-I-E-N-C-E! About an hour before the show begins, audience members are given a chance to sign up and participate in the show as spelling-bee contestants. Drama Desk Winner for Best Book, Best Director, Best Ensemble, and Best Musical, *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a delight for young and old, and it's worthy of much applause.

November 11–20, 2016

### **An Inspector Calls**

By J.B. Priestley

**Director, Mary Fitzpatrick**

One of the classics of 20<sup>th</sup>-century English theater, *An Inspector Calls* is a psychological drama about a prosperous family living in a comfortable home in the Midlands industrial region of England. The family is visited by a man calling himself Inspector Goole, who questions the family about the death of a young working-class woman. Everyone has a secret in this gripping mystery thriller.

March 3–19, 2017

### **Sunset Boulevard**

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lyrics and Book by Don Black and Christopher Hampton

**Stage Director and Choreographer, Kevin Mark Kline**      **Music Director, Steven Bergman**

*Sunset Boulevard* weaves a magnificent tale of faded glory and unfulfilled ambition. Silent movie star Norma Desmond longs for a return to the big screen, having been discarded by Hollywood with the advent of "talkies." Her glamour has faded in all but her mind. Norma meets failed Hollywood screenwriter Joe Gillis in dramatic circumstances, and their subsequent relationship leads to an unforeseen and tragic conclusion. Andrew Lloyd Webber's score is one of his best. From the rich symphonic ambience of its lush overture, *Sunset Boulevard* captivates dramatically, musically, and visually.

May 18–May 21, 2017

### **The Graduate**

A Play Adapted by Terry Johnson Based on the Novel by Charles Webb  
and the Motion Picture Screenplay by Calder Willingham and Buck Henry

**Director, Joe Stallone**

This is the first play adaptation of the classic novel and cult film. Benjamin's got excellent grades, very proud parents and, since he helped Mrs. Robinson with her zipper, a fine future behind him. A bittersweet comedy that is rich, full, and funny, *The Graduate* gives off starlight. Playwright Terry Johnson has been described as "that rare creature: a moralist with wit."