

Stage Left Productions Presents  
**The 25th Annual Putnam  
County Spelling Bee**

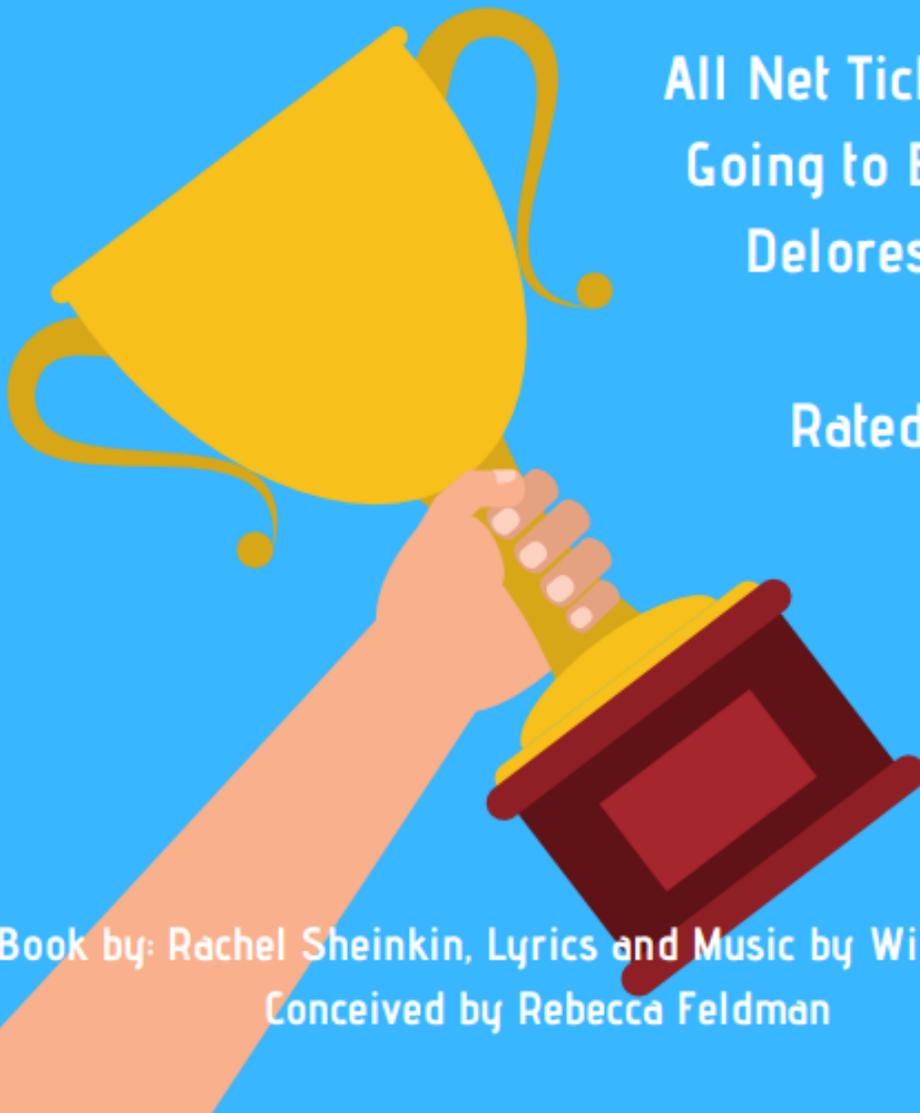


June 20th-22nd at 7:30 pm  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance  
Theatre

All Net Ticket Proceeds  
Going to Benefit "The  
Delores Project"

Rated PG-13

Book by: Rachel Sheinkin, Lyrics and Music by William Finn,  
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman



Stage Left Productions Presents:  
**THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING**  
**BEE**

Music and 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.

**With:**

Grace Nolte  
Josh Morton  
Bennet Forsyth

David Sanders  
Zoe Howell  
Taylor Robinson

Claire McInerney  
David Green  
Chris Martin

Technical Direction by  
Trey Grimes

Orchestration by  
Orin Gotchey

Music Direction by  
Bethany Barrett

Choreography by  
Jessica Swanson

Directed by  
Sophia Johnson-Grimes

“The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

**The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited**

# S-O-N-G-S

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.....	Company
The Rules/Rona Moment 1.....	Rona, Company
My Friend, The Dictionary.....	Olive, Rona, Company
The First Goodbye.....	Company
Pandemonium.....	Company
I'm Not that Smart.....	Leaf
The Second Goodbye.....	Company
Magic Foot.....	Barfee, Company
Pandemonium Reprise/Rona Moment 2.....	Rona, Company
Prayer of the Comfort Counselor.....	Mitch, Company
Chip's Lament.....	Chip
Woe is Me.....	Logainne, Company
I'm Not That Smart (Reprise).....	Leaf
I Speak Six Languages.....	Marcy, Girls
The "I Love You" Song.....	Olive, Olive's Mom, Olive's Dad
Woe is Me (Reprise).....	Logainne, Mitch
Rona Moment #3/Second.....	Rona, Olive, Barfee, Company
Finale.....	Company
The Final Goodbye.....	Company

*Laurie* REALTOR®  
Sanders

(303) 579-5836  
laurie.sanders@equity-usa.com

equity  
COLORADO REAL ESTATE

## C-A-S-T (in Order of Appearance)

Rona Lisa Peretti/Olive's Mom.....	Grace Nolte
Chip Tolentino/Jesus.....	David Sanders
Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre/Leaf's Mom.....	Taylor Robinson
Leaf Coneybear/Carl Dad.....	David "DJ" Green
William Barfee/Leaf's Dad.....	Chris Martin
Marcy Park/Brook.....	Claire McInerney
Olive Ostrovsky.....	Zoe Howell
Vice Principal Douglas Panch.....	Josh Morton
Mitch Mahoney/Dan Dad/Olive's Dad.....	Bennet Forsyth

## B-A-C-K-S-T-A-G-E

Director.....	Sophia Johnson-Grimes
Music Director.....	Bethany Barrett
Choreographer.....	Jessica Swanson
Stage Manager.....	Elysia Vigil
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Elli Ament
Business/Marketing Manager.....	Heather Plastow
Keys.....	Orin Gotchey
Technical Director.....	Trey Grimes
Costumer.....	Christy Izmirian
Lighting Designer.....	Kevin Taylor
Lead Technician.....	Conor Morford

Additional thanks to all of our backstage technicians, house crew members, and security team. We couldn't do  
it without you!



BREAK A LEG BEES!!!

Love,

Sunshine and Sentiments

on facebook @sunshineandsentiments

## Production Team



**Sophia Johnson-Grimes (Director):** Sophia Johnson-Grimes is a proud Colorado native, currently studying directing and creative writing at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She has always had a passion for creativity and working with others to make beautiful art. Favorite performance credits include Alice Beineke (The Addams Family), Cookie Cusak (Rumors), and "The Dancing Cigarette Box" (Cry-Baby). Favorite directing credits include Feeding the Moonfish (Muhlenberg College) and Push (Heritage High School). Thanks to Mom, Dad, and Ponyboy for all their love and support!

**Bethany Barrett (Music Director):** Bethany is excited to be the musical director of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee". She has performed in several musicals and has a decade of music experience. Her favorite roles include Small Alice in "Alice in Wonderland".



**Jessica Swanson (Choreographer):** Jessica Erin Swanson is thrilled to join Stage Left Productions' team for their inaugural show. She started teaching, directing, and choreographing for theatre in 2010. She currently choreographs for several local theatre companies and for Jeffco Public Schools. You can also see her performing professionally across the Denver area taking her to stages such as Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Some favorite past performances: Elle Woods (Legally Blonde), Judy Bernly (9 to 5), Mayzie (Seussical), Tricia (A Chorus Line).

**Elysia Vigil (Stage Manager):** Elysia is very excited to be part of the inaugural show for Stage Left Productions. Previously she has done shows with the Community College of Denver as assistant stage manager for Avenue Q, and stage manager for Dog Sees God. She has also been on stage in Anatomy of Gray and Bang Bang Durang with CCD. In her free time, she volunteers at her high school as the assistant to the director. Elysia is currently attending Metropolitan State University of Denver working towards her master's degree in Special Education with a certificate in Autism and Significant Support Needs. She is also working full time in an elementary school with students with autism. She loves working with her kids and can't wait to have a classroom of her own!



**Elli Ament (Assistant Stage Manager):** Elli is so excited to be working with Stage Left Productions for their first show! She is currently a junior going on senior at Heritage High School, and loves hanging with friends, watching good movies, being outdoors, and loving on her dog. She has taken a bit of a detour in 2018 spending time in both Madagascar and Washington, D.C. but is excited to be back home for her senior year. Elli started tech at the ripe age of 11 at school and has loved doing it ever since! In between rehearsals, Elli also enjoys drawing and painting on whatever she can find. She is so excited to work with an amazing production team and cast this summer to raise funds for an amazing cause.



Heather Plastow (Marketing and Business Manager): Heather Plastow is a soon-to-be junior Theatre Arts major at the University of Northern Colorado, working on a concentration in Directing, certificate in Arts Entrepreneurship, and a minor in Sociology. Her work has been seen in "12 Angry Jurors," "Cinderella," "Flowers for Algeron," and many more, spanning multiple different theatres and multiple performance and production roles. She's so excited to get to work with this amazing group of people and support such a beautiful cause!

Christy Izmirian (Costume Designer): Christy teaches technical theatre and acting at Carmody Middle School. She has taught in Jeffco since 1991: including middle school social studies, high school social studies for adults, teacher librarian, and middle school theatre. Her costumes have been seen locally at Bear Creek HS, Sheridan HS, Dunstan MS, Deer Creek MS, Breckenridge Backstage Theatre, Miners Alley, Evergreen Players, Town Hall Arts Center, Parker Arts, American Academy, and Denver Montessori.



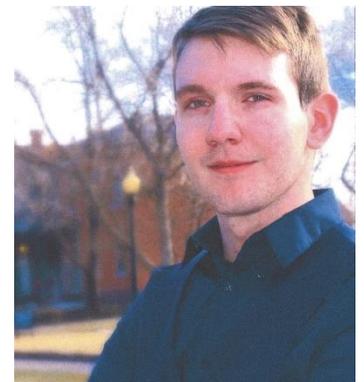
Orin Gotchey (Keys): Orin is excited to be working with SLP on their first show. His past performances include The Addams Family, Beauty and the Beast, Rumours, Romeo and Juliet, Our Town, No No Nanette, Grease, The Wedding Singer, Guys on Ice, and more. He has had a wonderful time working with the cast and crew, thanks you for coming, and hopes you enjoy the show!

## Actors



Bennet Forsyth (Mitch Mahoney): Bennet is heading into his third year as a student at CU Boulder. He is a student working towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. Previous credits include Doctor Madden (Next to Normal), Herr Schultz (Cabaret), and Margaret Mead (Hair). He couldn't be happier to be with a cast and crew so dedicated to bringing this show to life in such amazing ways. His parting message to the audience is, "Go out into the world and give some comfort, spread the love! You never know who could really be needing a little support."

David "DJ" Green (Leaf Coneybear): David Green is a currently enrolled Theatre Major at Metropolitan State University. He was diagnosed with Asperger's at a very young age and uses his experience to bring a fresh perspective to his acting. In his free time, he likes to go to coffee shops and people watch for inspiration.





Zoë Howell (Olive Ostrovsky): Zoë is thrilled to be a part of Stage Left Theatre Productions' 25 Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee! She is an incoming 10th grader at Mountain Vista. Some recent credits include Cabaret with Denver School of the Arts, and a Fractured Moonlight Reading with Carrie Prinz. She will also have the opportunity this summer to play Fiona in Shrek with Front Range Theatre. She would like to thank her parents for their endless amounts of support, and her brother, Ash, for being a constant light in her life.

Chris Martin (William Barfée): Chris Martin is excited to be participating in Stage Left's inaugural production of "Spelling Bee" playing the role of William Barfée. He is a rising sophomore at the University of Northern Colorado as an acting major. He was also seen in productions from Inspire Creative such as Grease (chorus), Mary Poppins (chorus), and The Diary of Anne Frank (Peter van Daan). He hopes you enjoy the show!



Claire McInerney (Marcy Park): Claire is extremely excited to be in her favorite musical of all time again, playing the same diverting role! Most recently, she has appeared in Niwot High School's production of The Drowsy Chaperone as The Drowsy Chaperone and Centerstage Theatre Company's production of Avenue Q as Christmas Eve. Claire was a senior at Niwot High School this past school year and is attending the University of California Irvine in the fall for Drama/Musical Theater. Aside from theatre, Claire enjoys piano, ukulele, guitar, video games, and doing her makeup. Claire would like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending love and support. She really hopes you enjoy the show!

Josh Morton (Douglas Panch): Josh Morton is a film student at CU Denver and has been involved with theatre in varying capacities since he was very young. In the past, he has performed in plays such as The Addams Family, Romeo and Juliet, and Beauty and the Beast. He also recently directed an abridged production of Dracula. He is excited to be a part of Stage Left Productions' inaugural show and hopes everybody enjoys the Bee!



Grace Nolte (Rona Lisa Peretti): Grace will be a junior at Drake University in the fall, studying musical theatre and psychology. Her other favorite roles have included Brenda (Catch Me If You Can) and Marguerite (The Scarlet Pimpernel). She would love to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support in doing what she loves most. Grace would also like to thank the amazing cast and team for making this such an amazing experience. She is incredibly honored to be a part of Stage Left Productions' inaugural show and to help give back to such a wonderful cause.

Taylor Robinson (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre): Taylor just graduated as vocal major from Denver School of the Arts. She has been involved in many professional and community theater productions since she was eight years old. Some of her favorite performances include Baker's Wife in Into the Woods, Maisie La Bird in Seussical, and Flounder in The Little Mermaid; as well as multiple productions at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, and Carmina Burana at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House.





David Sanders (Chip Tolentino): David is pumped to be involved in Stage Left Denver's inaugural production! Some of his favorite past roles include Gomez Addams in *The Addams Family*, Horton in *Seussical the Musical*, and Laurie in *Little Women*. He will be attending Colorado Mesa in the Fall as an incoming Freshman and will be majoring in Computer Science. Enjoy the show!

Flower the Squirrel (Himself): "Sir Flower the Squirrel Esq." is proud to be a part of Stage Left's inaugural production! After graduating with his MFA in Acting from Julliard; he did some soul searching in the Tibetan mountains. Since returning to the states; he has started his own nonprofit teaching long form improv to underprivileged squirrels across the country. He is also in the works of directing and starring in his own version of *King Lear*, to premier here in Denver later this year. He wanted to give thanks to DJ, for being the driving force of his life (literally), and to Danny DeVito, for teaching him that no matter how small and furry you may be, you can still achieve your dreams.



*Host your next corporate meeting or social event at Wild Women Wine*

- Relaxed, casual environment in heart of downtown Denver
  - Wine tasting & wines by the glass
    - Personalized wine labels
  - Design your own exclusive company wine
  - Catering can be ordered for groups of 10+ or bring in your own food



\*No tasting room rental fee when you schedule your group between 1-4 pm Tues-Thur  
Call today!

1660 Champa St Denver, 80202 / 303-534-0788 / winery@winerydenver.com

## Original Production Team

Rebecca Feldman (Conceiver): Rebecca is the conceiver of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* for which she won a Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk and a Tony Nomination for Best Musical. She directed its world premiere at Barrington Stage Company in the summer of 2004. Rebecca is Associate Producer on *TRANSPARENT*, the *MUSICAL FINALE* and served as Staff Writer on the finale as well. She is currently developing an episodic drama with Big Kid Pictures, called *LA COYOTE*, which has been selected to the WeForShe's 2019 Writeher List. She is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab as well as the AFI Directing Workshop for Women where she won the Jean Firstenberg Award for Best Short. Her short films include, *MY FIRST TIME DRIVING* (AFI Jean Firstenberg Award, Best Short at Lake Arrowhead Film Fest, Best of Shorts at Outfest), *A/V CLUB* (TV Pilot, NYTVF), *UBER ALICE* (Woodstock Film Fest), *DEAD CAT* (Producer, Tribeca Film Fest) and *IRVING* (Official Selection Rhode Island Film Fest, Official Selection USA Film Fest, Ft. Lauderdale Film Fest, Atlanta Jewish Film Fest).

William Finn (Music and Lyrics): Mr. Finn is the writer and composer of *Falsettos*, for which he received two Tony Awards, Best Book of a Musical (with James Lapine) and Best Original Score. He has also written and composed *In Trousers*, *March of the Falsettos* and *Falsettoland* (Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, two Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, the Lucille Lortel Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition). Mr. Finn wrote the lyrics to Graciela Daniele's *Tango Apasionado* (music by the great Astor Piazzolla) and, with Michael Starobin, the music to Lapine's version of *The Winter's Tale*. His musical, *Romance in Hard Times*, was presented at the Public Theater. Recently, he wrote *Painting You for Love's Fire*, a piece commissioned and performed by the Acting Company, based on Shakespeare's sonnets. For television, Mr. Finn provided the music and lyrics for the Ace Award-winning HBO cartoon "Ira Sleeps Over," "Tom Thumb and Thumbelina," "Pokey Little Puppy's First Christmas," and, with Ellen Fitzhugh, two "Brave little Toaster" cartoons. Mr. Finn has written for *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *The New Yorker*. A graduate of Williams College where he was awarded the Hutchinson Fellowship for Musical Composition, Finn now teaches a weekly master class at the NYU Tisch Graduate Program in Musical Theatre Writing. His most recent projects include *Elegies*, *A Song Cycle* (Lincoln Center) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* which ran on Broadway and has been produced nationally and internationally, as well.

Rachel Sheinkin (Book): Broadway: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Tony, Drama Desk awards); Off Broadway: *Striking 12* (Lucille Lortel nomination), *Off-Off: Serenade*. Regional: *Guthrie*, *Little House on the Prairie*; Center Theater Group, *Sleeping Beauty Wakes* (Los Angeles Ovation Award); London: *Blood Drive*. Residencies, fellowships, and commissions include: Eugene O'Neill National Theater Center, Baryshnikov Dance Foundation, the MacDowell Colony, Manhattan Theatre Club, Deaf West, McCarter Theatre, Playwrights Horizons. Rachel is a volunteer mentor for TDF's Open Doors program, a visiting instructor at Yale School of Drama, and adjunct faculty member of NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program.

Jay Reiss (Additional Material): Jay is a playwright. He is a Juilliard graduate and provided additional material to the book for *THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE*. Reiss appeared in the original workshops, Off-Broadway cast, and Broadway cast of the musical as Vice Principal Douglas Panch.

*Are you looking to create a style that's uniquely you?*

**Then look no further!**

Cari Harris has a 10 year history as a wardrobe consultant representing the designer clothing brand  
**ETCETERA.**

She provides trunk show style shopping for the busy successful woman.

Her goal is to take the stress out of dressing while assisting you in creating a wardrobe that best represents you and your lifestyle.



**Xcessorize, LLC**  
For the Fashion Savvy Woman!

**Cari Harris**  
Women's Designer Fashion Sales/Owner

2751 Lafayette St.  
Denver, CO 80205

(303)964-0774  
(303)332-2047cell

timirac4@gmail.com  
[www.etcetera.com](http://www.etcetera.com)

# About the Production

## About Stage Left Productions:

Stage Left Productions is dedicated to creating high quality, student-produced productions with proceeds helping to fund local non-profits. This production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is proudly benefitting The Delores Project: a homeless shelter here in Denver providing emergency housing and resources for unaccompanied women and transgender individuals.



## About The Delores Project:

The Delores Project provides safe, comfortable shelter and personalized services for unaccompanied women and transgender individuals experiencing homelessness. They also work to end homelessness by advocating for housing solutions. It is their vision that all individuals have the community of support and housing stability they need to reach their potential.

## About the Venue:

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (CPRD) is a cultural ambassador, infusing vitality, innovation and education into every community we touch—around the corner and around the globe. There are four pillars of the organization: namely, the CPRD Ensemble, Academy, Theatre, and Education programs. Working in concert, CPRD programs have created an oasis where a varied population—by gender, race, age and ethnicity—gather to study and appreciate a modern, cross-cultural approach to creative community development. Housed in the historic A.M.E. Shorter Church in Five Points, CPRD serves as a convener of community, art and dance.

## About "The Farm":

The Farm was founded in 2000 by Rebecca Feldman, Artistic Director. It is a collective of writers and performers, including Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg. The Farm's interest is in the role of improvisation in creating new work for the theatre. The Farm initially designates a two-week intensive period in which to discover, develop, and rehearse a play from the impulses born mainly out of the pressure of a deadline. Previous projects include "Super" (at Atlantic Theatre Studios), "Why I Hate Florida" (workshop at White Wave in DUMBO) and "C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E" (at the Present Company Theatorium in October 2002), on which "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is based. The character and original dialogue of "Beth Margulies," "Vice President Douglas Panch," "Mr. Barfee," and "Logan Schwartzandgrubenierre" were created by Rebecca Feldman, Jay Reiss, Dan Fogler, and Sarah Saltzberg, respectively.

**An *E-N-O-R-M-O-U-S* thank you to all our amazing sponsors, without whom this production would not be possible!**

**Queen Bee Level: \$250+**

Sunshine and Sentiments

**Bumblebee Level: \$50+**

The Ament Family

The Friesen Family

Cari Harris (Etcetera Clothing)

Laurie Sanders (Equity Real Estate)

Wild Women Winery

Karen Winkler

**Beekeeper Level: \$25+**

Round of Appaws Dog Training

Denise Chinburg

Nancy McCall

Jamie Neuhart

Noelle Riccardella

Molly Ross

## Note from the Director

Often, I found myself longing for a creative space for young artists to come together and create theatre outside of an academic environment. Many places offer a version of this, of course, by putting on youth productions, where all kids from all walks of life have a chance to be on stage. I am immensely grateful for these spaces, as I believe arts education is an extremely valuable asset to our society. But what I noticed was while a lot of these companies gave young actors a space to create, there often wasn't much room for students in technical positions, or even in positions of leadership. That's where I got the idea for Stage Left Productions: the idea of creating those opportunities so that young artists can cultivate their talents, and work together to create something magical. That is why I started out every audition and employment notice with "ages 15-23". It wasn't to be rude, exclusive, or hateful—I value artistry at all ages., but young artists get so few opportunities outside of their student life as is. I wanted to make this as student-run and produced as possible—to create as many opportunities as possible—and I wish to continue this tradition in the future.

In addition, I wanted to give students an opportunity to give back to the community through doing something they love. The city of Denver, and the state of Colorado as a whole is truly unique in the way that it cares about its artists and invests time and resources in creating and giving art (one of the many reasons I take great pride in my home state). I wanted to find a truly amazing, community-changing cause to give back to for this reason, as a thanks for all of the times I felt supported and welcomed as an artist and as a person. After researching and reading for hours on end, it was the mission of The Delores Project that stood out to me the most. Many may ask, "why only these specific groups? Why do homeless women and transgender individuals need their own space? Why is that so important?" Here are some facts... It is estimated that 50% of all homeless people are women, and of those, up to 92% have experienced severe sexual or physical assault as some point in their lives (source: Project Renewal). It is also estimated that 1 in 5 transgender individuals have unstable housing, are at risk, or are in need of shelter services (source: National Health Care for the Homeless Council). Transgender people also face greater numbers of violence than other LGBTQA+ groups, and generally have shorter life spans due to violence, homelessness, addiction, and suicide. The Delores Project not only provides a safe place for homeless women and transgender individuals in Denver; they provide financial and human resources, celebrate diversity without judgement, and advocate for better housing solutions in the greater Colorado community. Of course, all homeless lives are deserving of quality shelter and resources, but making a safe, inclusive space for those more at risk is equally important.

What I love most about this show is how human it is. These characters seem like outlandish caricatures on the surface; but when you take a closer look you realize that these are everyday people. A little goofy and silly, yes, but you know them. You know a Leaf. You know an Olive. A Barfee, a Marcy, a Logainne, a Panch, a Mitch, a Rona, and a Chip. These are living, breathing characters with thoughts, feelings, and fears; fears that go much deeper than the simple “ding” of the bell. An overarching theme that stands out to me here is a want of belonging. Every character here is lonely in their own sort of way and just wants that simple, human want for affection, or at least just for somebody, anybody, to say “I care about you.” Marcy wishes for approval from her parents (and God), without having to win it through means of, well, winning. Barfee is mean to his peers, but from a place of vulnerability, and simply wants a friend. Even Mitch, with his rough exterior, is searching for his place in life, and finds it in providing comfort to others. I think we all have had those moments in our life (or many, in some cases) where our loneliness seemed to consume all aspects of our lives, and we desperately craved nothing more than someone else to spend a sunny afternoon with. Or some words of affirmation. Or a hug. Throughout this show, each of these characters comes to terms with their plight and leaves the Bee better than they once were (except maybe Panch, but oh well). I hope you leave our Bee feeling better than you once were. May you find joy, laughter, tears, soul-searching moments, and a new clarity upon entering this little world we have worked on for five spectacular weeks to build.

Special thanks to my beautiful cast and crew, Trey Grimes, Olivia Logan, Cleo Parker Robinson, the Washington Street Community Center, Soundtown, our amazing volunteers, all of our sponsors/supporters, and my wonderful family and friends. So much love and gratitude for all of you.

Signed,  
Sophia

PRESENTED BY:

STAGE LEFT PRODUCTIONS DENVER

