

USI Theatre Closes the Season with “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”

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University of Southern Indiana Theatre will close its 2015-2016 season with the musical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with music and lyrics by William Finn, book by Rachel Sheinkin and conception by Rebecca Feldman. The production runs April 14-17 in the USI Performance Center located in University Center East.

Directed by Eric Altheide, an eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home life, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words hoping to never hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter, one speller leaves!

Altheide will be joined by a design team including USI faculty member Paul Weimer as scenic designer; USI staff member Kevin Gray as sound designer; and USI students Rachel Thomas as lighting designer, AJ Jones as costume designer and Alex York as production stage manager. *Spelling Bee*’s production also includes community members Patrick Ritsch as music director and Ashley Frary Lutz as choreographer.

The cast of *Spelling Bee* includes USI students Alec Willis, Emily March, Craig Belwood, Nick Smith, Briana Weaver, Maggie Browne, Ashleigh Dulik, Austin Tenbarge and Enjoli Drake.

Tickets are \$10 for USI students, \$12 for USI employees, \$13 for non-USI students and seniors (60+), and \$15 for adults. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. for the Sunday matinee. To purchase tickets or for more information visit USI.edu/Theatre or call the box office at 812-465-1668. Follow us on Facebook at [USITheatre](#) and [NewHarmonyTheatre](#), Twitter [@TheatreUSI](#), and Instagram [@USI_theatre](#) for updates and photos.

Tickets are also now on sale for New Harmony Theatre’s 2016 season. New Harmony Theatre kicks off the summer season with *Other Desert Cities* by Jon Robin Baitz, running June 17-26. For more information on the remainder of the New Harmony Theatre season visit www.usi.edu/nht or call 812-682-3115.

Spelling Bee contains adult language.