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Guerin Prep Presents “Spelling Bee” as Spring Musical

Have you always dreamed of winning the school spelling bee?

Then attend Guerin Prep’s performance of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” to be presented Friday, March 26 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 27 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Before every performance, four audience volunteers will be recruited to participate on-stage as guest spellers. They will join the six Guerin Prep students in their roles as adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime.

“Choosing four new participants before each performance guarantees a new show every time,” explained Kristen Mackie, theatre teacher at Guerin Prep who serves as both director and technical director for the play. Her advice to those wishing to participate, “Come early!”

Mackie said that every since she saw “Spelling Bee” five years ago in New York she knew she wanted to bring it to the stage at Guerin Prep. “I laughed so hard when I saw it.”

At the same time, she described the story as bittersweet. “It certainly chronicles junior high traumas, but it also teaches that it is okay to excel. And in the end, if you do your best you’re never a loser.”

The cast includes Seniors Jessica Arroyo, Angeline Motzny and Megan Romberg; Juniors Ryan Donnelly and Vicky Giannini, Anthony Huspen, Anthony Norman and Judy Wrobel; Sophomores Jayson Acevedo and Jenna Zacharias; and Freshmen Jessica Roman, Ronald Johnson and Kyle Schwaba.

The crew for “Spelling Bell” is headed by Junior Branden Castro as stage manager. Freshman Jessie Roman is the assistant stage manager.

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Other members of the crew are Junior Bryan Worman, Sophomore Vanessa Negron and Freshmen Anisa Bravo, Danielle DiBari, Geena Lardino, Gina Lindemann, Shannon Manzella, Gianna Parlich and Oksana Petty.

Parents of Guerin Prep alumni are also playing vital roles. Bill Parsons, whose two students both graduated from Guerin Prep, is the sound coordinator while Sarafina Norman, mother of a current student and two Guerin Prep alumni, is costume coordinator. Ceal Mueller, another alumnae parent is the other costume assistant.

Shynell Owen is the choreographer.

Guerin Prep choir and piano teacher, Jordan Chua, is the vocal and orchestral director.

Guerin Prep students in the orchestra include Seniors Rodolfo Gomez, Anthony Karaskiewicz, Rebecca McManamon and Yleana Morales; and Sophomores Mary Feller and Abigail Sawal. Guerin alumni John Norman is also in the orchestra.

“Spelling Bee” broke musical box office records while it was Off-Broadway and earned two 2005 Tony Awards once it reached Broadway

Tickets are \$8. Guerin Prep is located at 8001 W. Belmont Avenue in River Grove. For more information, call 708-453-6233, ext. 4762.

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