



**IN Performing Arts Initiative**  
at Herron High School

May 19, 2017

For Immediate Release

**IPAI SETS SUMMER THEATRE SERIES**

***Indianapolis. Theatre and Performing Arts***

The **Indiana Performing Arts Initiative (IPAI)**, under the umbrella of local non-profit theatre organization, Claude McNeal Productions, announces their second Summer Stock theatre series opening with:

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**

*June 23 - July 2, 2017*

*Herron High School, Russell Hall*

**About the Musical:**

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful den of comedic genius!

## **About the IPAI:**

In 2016, local non-profit theatre organization, Claude McNeal Productions launched the inaugural season of its INDIANA PERFORMING ARTS INITIATIVE, as an expanded performing arts training program. The premiere season staged two highly successful runs of *Jekyll & Hyde: the Musical* and the absurdist play, *Six Characters in Search of An Author*.

True to its mission of placing students alongside working theatre professionals, the program had over fifty participants from local high schools and area college working to further develop their skills in the performing arts.

This second season marks a return to the foundational roots of American cabaret for Claude McNeal Productions - as our second series offering is a musical review entitled **ON BROADWAY**. Performance dates are July 7-16.

Originally conceived by Claude McNeal, these productions are managed and directed by CMP Project Director and the Artistic Director of the Indiana Performing Arts Initiative, Jeff Owen. Assistant Direction for "Spelling Bee" by IUPUI junior and Herron High School assistant Theatre Arts instructor, Hannah Boswell. Costumes by Jerry Panatieri; Choreography by Emily Jordan and Samantha Pendleton; Musical Direction and Arrangements by Steve Murphy with Set and light design by local designer, Quentin James.

### **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

go to [www.theipai.com](http://www.theipai.com) or call 317-340-4258

- **\$5.00 for all Herron High School faculty, staff or students,**
- **\$8.00 for children 6 to 18 and all area college students (I.D. required),**
- **\$12.00 for adults.**
- **Group Rates available for 10 or more!**
- **Curtain Times: Fridays and Saturdays at 7PM. Sundays at 2:30PM**

### **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)

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

**For More Information or to schedule an interview:**

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**JUNE 23-JULY 2**

Fridays and Saturdays @7pm  
Sundays @2:30pm



**JULY 7-16**

Fridays and Saturdays @7pm  
Sundays @2:30pm

**All performances at Herron High School, Russell Hall**