

LRP's 'Spelling Bee' adult comedy opens June 12

The Last Resort Players are presenting The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee as its second play this season. Putnam, as it is referred to, is not really a spelling bee, but a musical adult comedy, bringing some exciting new talent to performing arts in this area.

Director David Lauria says, "What I like about 'Putnam' is it's different from usual theatre. It 'talks to the audience, not past the audience.'"

Lauria lends his considerable experience to both character development and staging of this production, directing the cast in refining its characters' quirks and idiosyncrasies.

Jason Wood, who audiences might remember as "Captain Von Trapp" in "The Sound of Music," is taking on the musical direction of Putnam.

"The music in this show is incredibly intelligent," said Wood. "Right off the bat, William Finn (music and lyrics) hits the audience hard with a high-energy opening number and he keeps the energy up while adding comedy.

"Something that I really appreciate is

how he takes you by surprise. Just when you think the entire show is going to be all jokes and up tempo music, Finn digs beneath the surface and sneaks in some poignant moments with his characters and this cast brings those moments to the surface beautifully."

In addition to musical direction, Jason is also playing the part of "William Barfee" (pronounced Bar-fay), the arrogant loner who has a lot to prove.

"Barfee has been picked on his entire life so his defenses are up. Friendship takes him by surprise," said Wood.

All of the characters personalities run deep and have stories that everyone can relate to: loneliness, puberty, sibling rivalry, etc.

This show is full of fun, humor, and some audience participation.

The play is suitable for more mature audiences, high school and above. Parental discretion is advised because the play is both comedic and adult at times. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee will be playing Fridays and Saturdays, June 12, 13, 19 and 20, at 7 p.m., with matinee



From left: Cast members Matt Korso, Tamara Cole, Elizabeth Rose, Hilary Roach, Leah Goodwin, Erin Reinke; stage manager LuAnna Moore and keyboardist Johanna Bonisteel rehearse the score for 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee under the musical direction of Jason Wood.

showings on two Sundays, June 14 and 21, at 2 p.m., at the Florence Events Center.

Tickets are available at www.eventcenter.org, by phone at 541-997-1994, or at the FEC box office.

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Find your treasures at FEC's next Indoor Yard Sale

Be the first in line when doors open for the ever-popular summer Indoor Yard Sale at the FEC on June 27, beginning at 8 a.m. Coffee will be waiting for early-bird shoppers, along with booth after booth of treasures ranging from \$1 bargain items to antiques, tools, collectibles, prints, table linens, glass, jewelry, miniatures, art, music, needlework, books, household items, sporting goods, neon signs, clothing, shoes, furniture, appliances, vintage glass and more. Sign-ups for booths are June 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m., at the FEC

Though the doors will close at 2 p.m., you could leave with the find of a lifetime!

