

# phx THEATRE

2009 / 2010 Mainstage Season

## *Curtains*

2 acts  
(2 hrs, 40 mins)

### SHOW SYNOPSIS

Based on the original book and concept by Peter Stone, the musical is a send-up of backstage murder mystery plots, set in 1959 Boston, Massachusetts and follows the fallout when the supremely untalented star of Robbin' Hood of the Old West is murdered during her opening night curtain call. Can a police detective who moonlights as a musical theater fan save the show, solve the case, and maybe even find love before the show reopens, without getting killed himself?

### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(cast size: 22)

#### **LIEUTENANT FRANK CIOFFI (40s):**

Local Boston detective who is also a musical theatre aficionado. Aside from being exceptionally good at his job, he has also aspired to be a musical theatre performer his entire life. He falls in love with Niki.

#### **NIKI HARRIS (20s-early 30s):**

Pretty, naïve ingénue. Niki is a chorus girl/understudy in the chorus of the show-within-the-show during its Boston tryout. She aspires to make it as a performer on Broadway. She meets and falls in love with Dt. Frank Cioffi who is investigating a murder at the theatre. Actress must have legit Soprano and good comic timing.

#### **GEORGIA HENDRICKS (30s):**

Female half of our songwriting team. Ends up taking on the leading lady role. Must sing and dance well

#### **CARMEN BERNSTEIN (45-65):**

Brassy Broadway producer. Terrific comedic actress who sings well.

#### **AARON FOX (40s):**

The composer of the show-within-the-show. His songwriting partner, Georgia, is also his wife from whom he's separated. He's a sexy, charming ladies man.

#### **SIDNEY BERNSTEIN (Late 50s-Mid 60s):**

The producer of an out of town flop. Sidney is tough and self-serving. Seeking a character actor with good comic timing.

#### **CHRISTOPHER BELLING (40-60):**

English director. Very camp. Very funny. Requires a good comic lead actor.

#### **BAMBI BERNÉT (Early 20s-early 30s):**

Performer in the chorus and daughter of Carmen, the lead producer. Hungry to work her way up to leading performer many think she was only hired because of her mother. Bambi is a good dancer/comedienne who sings well.

**DARYL GRADY (30s):**

A Theatre critic for the local Boston newspaper, he enjoys using the power he has to make or break shows during their out of town tryouts.

**JOHNNY HARMON (40s-50s):**

The Stage Manager of the show-within-the-show. Johnny is a character man who is gruff but lovable. He keeps the company in line and on their toes throughout the rehearsal process.

**OSCAR SHAPIRO (45-65):**

The general manager. An agreeable if slightly gruff man. He is always looking for any angle to find money. Seeking a good comic actor who sings.

**BOBBY PEPPER (20s to early 30s):**

The choreographer and lead dancer. Seeking a strong singer who dances well.

**JESSICA CRANSHAW (30s-40s):**

Fading Hollywood star. A diva, who has no right to be one, she is a terrible singer and actress who stars in the show within a show and gets murdered on its opening night.

**Rehearsals Begin:**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Tech Rehearsals:**

Sept. 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Opening:**

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Closing:**

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

# *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a one act musical comedy with music and lyrics by William Finn and a book by Rachel Sheinkin. The show centers around a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School gymnasium. Six quirky adolescents compete in the Bee, run by three equally-quirky grown-ups.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(cast size: 9)

### **RONA LISA PERATTI:**

The #1 Realtor in Putnam County, a former Putnam County Spelling Bee Champ and returning moderator. She's a sweet woman who loves children but can be very stern when it comes to dealing with Principal Panch, who has feelings for her that she most likely doesn't return. It's implied that she sees much of herself in Olive Ostrovsky. Her favorite moment of the Bee is the minutes before it starts, when all the children are filled with the joy of competition, before they begin to resent each other. She later says/sings that she likes how everyone has an equal chance of winning, citing as an example that last year's winner can be this year's loser and vice versa. Another favorite moment is when the last winners go head to head for the top spot because it is so suspenseful and filled with hope. Ms. Peretti herself won the 3rd spelling bee by spelling *zyzygy*, which she recounts at the very beginning of the opening number.

### **VICE PRINCIPAL DOUGLAS PANCH:**

After five years' absence from the Bee, Panch returns as judge. There was an "incident" at the 20th annual Bee, but he claims to be in "a better place" now, thanks to a high-fiber diet and Jungian analysis. He is infatuated with Rona Lisa Peretti, but she does not return his affections.

### **MITCH MAHONEY:**

The Official Comfort Counselor. An ex-con, Mitch is performing his community service with the Bee, and hands out juice boxes to losing students.

### **OLICE OSTROVSKY:**

A young newcomer to competitive spelling. Her mother is in an ashram in India, and her father is working late, as usual, but he is trying to come at some time during the bee. She made friends with her dictionary at a very young age, helping her make it to the competition.

### **WILLIAM BARFÉE:**

A Putnam County Spelling Bee finalist last year, he was eliminated because of an allergic reaction to peanuts. His famous "Magic Foot" method of spelling has boosted him to spelling glory, even though he only has one working nostril and a touchy personality. He has an often mispronounced last name: it's *Bar-FAY*, not *BARF-ee* ("there's an accent aigu," he explains with some hostility). He develops a crush on Olive. It is implied that his one-sided crush on Olive mirrors the one-sided crush Principal Panch has on Ms. Peretti.

### **LOGAINNE SCHWARTZANDGRUBENIERRE:**

Logainne is the youngest and most politically aware speller, often making comments about current political figures, with two overbearing gay men as parents. She is a bit of a neat-freak, speaks with a lisp, and will be back next year.

### **MARCY PARK:**

A recent transfer from Virginia, Marcy placed 9th in last year's nationals. She speaks six languages, is a member of all-American hockey, a championship rugby player, plays Chopin and Mozart on multiple instruments, sleeps only three hours a night, hides in the bathroom cabinet, and is getting very tired of always winning. She is the poster child for the Over-Achieving Asian, and attends a Catholic school called "Our Lady of Intermittent Sorrows." She is also not allowed to cry.

**LEAF CONEYBEAR:**

The second runner-up in his district, Leaf gets into the competition on a lark: the winner and first runner-up had to go to the first runner-up's Bat Mitzvah. Leaf comes from a large family of former hippies and makes his own clothes. He spells words correctly while in a trance. In his song, "I'm Not That Smart", he sings that his family thinks he is "not that smart" but insinuates that he is merely easily distracted. Most of the words he is assigned are South American rodents with amusing names.

**CHIP TOLENTINO:**

A boy scout and champion of the 24th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, he returns to defend his title, but he finds puberty hitting at an inopportune moment.

**Rehearsals Begin:**

Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Tech Rehearsals:**

Nov. 6 - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Opening Day:**

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Closing Day:**

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

# *Glorious*

2 acts  
(2 hrs, 53 mins)

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

If you like those early audition weeks of *American Idol*, you'll love this affectionate look at one of the most unusual performing careers in the history of the American stage. In the first half of the Twentieth Century an oddly unique musical sensation burst upon the New York social scene. Blessed with an unshakable confidence in her vocal skills and an uncanny ability to stay consistently off-key, the musical stylings of Florence Foster Jenkins provided perverse pleasure to legions of devoted fans. Her persistence and blithely misguided faith in her own talent resulted in Mrs. Jenkins singing in front of packed venues, and ultimately a sold-out Carnegie Hall. Don't miss this funny yet touching comedy—we can say in all honesty and with complete confidence, you've never seen or heard anything like it before.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(cast size: 5)

### **FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS (50+):**

*Eccentric American lady, in the autumn of her years. The real Florence was in her 70's, but the part has been played to perfection by actresses of lesser years. So casting should be for someone in her 50s and upwards.*

### **COSME McMOON (early 30s):**

*A pianist*

### **ST CLAIR (60s):**

*Florence's English boyfriend. Casting much younger and "ageing up" should be avoided.*

### **DOROTHY (50+):**

*Florence's friend*

### **MARIA (aggressively middle aged):**

*Florence and St Clair's Mexican cook and housemaid. Severe.*

### **MRS VERRINDER-GEDGE (late middle age):**

*An American lady*

## Rehearsals Begin:

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## Tech Rehearsal:

Jan 1 - 3, 2010

## Opening Day:

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Closing Day:

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

# *The Light in the Piazza*

2 acts  
(2 hrs, 15 mins)

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

*The Light in the Piazza* is a musical with a book by Craig Lucas and music and lyrics by Adam Guettel. Based on a novella by Elizabeth Spencer, it is set in Florence and Rome in the summer of 1953. A young American tourist, Clara Johnson, meets and falls for young Italian Fabrizio Naccarelli. When Clara's mother Margaret learns of the affair, she opposes it for reasons that only gradually become known to the audience.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(cast size: 16)

### **MARGARET JOHNSON (middle aged):**

An Elegant, self possessed, Practical and attractive American woman in middle age

### **CLARA JOHNSON (26):**

Margret's daughter, young and naïve for her age

### **FABRIZIO NACCARELLI (20):**

Good looking and charming Florentine

### **GIUSEPPE NACCARELLI (early 20s):**

Fabrizio's slightly older brother

### **FRANCA NACCARELLI:**

Giuseppe's wife

### **SIGNOR NACCARELLI:**

Fabrizio's Father

### **SIGNORA NACCARELLI:**

Fabrizio's Mother

### **ROY JOHNSON:**

Margaret's husband

## Rehearsals Begin:

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Tech Rehearsals:

Feb 12-14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Opening Day:

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Closing Day:

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

# *All The More to Love*

2 acts

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

Set in a clothing consignment store called “All The More To Love: Almost New Treasures in Plus Sizes”, women and men can purchase large sized, colorful designer rip-offs.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(cast size: 6)

### **MAN 1 (late 30s to mid 40s):**

Plays the following roles: Customer, Tuxedo Clad Man, Head on a Platter, Claude, Marty, Waldo, Doctor, Critic #2, Renoir

### **MAN 2 (late 30s to mid 40s):**

Plays the following roles: Customer, Tuxedo Clad Man, Billy, Head on a Platter, Wickie, Hal, Voice of Jamal, Critic #4, Henri

### **ERNA (40-45):**

The shop owner

### **WOMAN 1 (mid 30s to mid 40s):**

An ample African-American woman that plays the following roles: Customer, Miss Brown, Gilda’s Nutritionist, The Shoe, Beautician, Lakeesha, Woman in Renoir painting

### **WOMAN 2 (mid 30s to mid 40s):**

A plump woman that plays the following roles: Customer, Annie Before, Woman in Red Dress, Gilda’s Secretary, Suzanne, Meryl, Chelsea Freedman, Critic #3

### **WOMAN 3 (mid 20s to mid 30s):**

A thin woman that plays the following roles: Customer, Annie After, Woman in Red Dress, Gilda, Bettina, Olive, Critic #4, Woman in Renoir Painting

## Rehearsals Begin:

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Tech Rehearsal:

April 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Opening Day:

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Closing Day:

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

# *Always...Patsy Cline*

2 acts

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

*Always...Patsy Cline* is based on the true story of Patsy Cline's friendship with Houston housewife Louise Seger.

Having first heard Cline on the "Arthur Godfrey Show" in 1957, Seger became an immediate and avid fan of Cline's and she constantly hounded the local disc jockey to play Cline's records on the radio.

In 1961 when Cline went to Houston for a show, Seger and her buddies arrived about an hour-and-a-half early and, by coincidence, met Cline who was traveling alone. The two women struck up a friendship that was to culminate in Cline spending the night at Seger's house--a friendship that lasted until Cline's untimely death in a plane crash in 1963.

The relationship, which began as fan worship evolved into one of mutual respect. It is the kind of relationship that many fans would like to have with their heroes.

Over a pot of strong coffee, the two women chatted about their common concerns. When Cline finally left for Dallas, her next job, the two women had exchanged addresses and telephone numbers. Seger never expected to hear from Cline again, but soon after she left, Seger received the first of many letters and phone calls from Cline. The pen-pal relationship provides much of the plot of the show.

The play focuses on the fateful evening at Houston's Esquire Ballroom when Seger hears of Cline's death in a plane crash. Seger supplies a narrative while Cline floats in and out of the set singing tunes that made her famous--*Anytime*, *Walkin' After Midnight*, *She's Got You*, *Sweet Dreams*, and *Crazy*--to name a few.

The show combines humor, sadness and reality. It offers fans who remember Cline while she was alive a chance to look back, while giving new fans an idea of what seeing her was like and what she meant to her original fans.

## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

(cast size: 2)

### **PATSY CLINE (20-30):**

The legendary country singer

### **LOUSIE SEGER (40-60):**

A Texas housewife and fan of Patsy Cline

## **Rehearsals Begin:**

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## **Tech Rehearsals:**

May 14-16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## **Opening Day**

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

## **Closing Day:**

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010