



## Market House Theatre

# September 2011 Off Stage Noises

*We don't just entertain... We change lives!*

How do you spell "wonderful"? It is sure to be "**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**," the opening production of Market House Theatre's 48th season. This 2005 Tony-Award winning Broadway hit by composer-lyricist William Finn and playwright Rachel Sheinkin has been selling out nationwide. In its review of the musical, the *Washington Post* described the musical as "the funniest thing in seven syllables."

**Putnam County Spelling Bee** is set in a middle school gym during a competition among brainy kids (portrayed by adults) vying for a big, shiny trophy attesting to the winner's intelligence and powers of memorization. Supplemented by four guest spellers from the audience (volunteers, not victims!), the competitors represent an array of preadolescent and teen awkwardness.



**September 1-4, 7-11, 15-18**

Boy Scout Chip Tolentino (**Fowler Black** – *The Wizard of Oz*) has an unfortunate tendency to get physically distracted by any mildly attractive girl in the audience. Logainne Schwartzandgrubenniere (**Kim Yocum** – *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*) is a lisping kid with two daddies. Leaf Coneybear (**Al Knudsen** – *Tom, Dick, and Harry*) makes his own clothes, lives in a fantasy world and, truth be told, isn't as sharp as his fellow spellers.

William Barfee (**Chuck Wilkins** – *The Wizard of Oz*) has a chronic sinus condition and an attitude. Super achiever Marcy Park (**Cheri Paxton** – *My Way*) has clearly grown up in a perfection-focused home. And fragile Olive Ostrovsky (**Audra Blake Hall** – *Annie Get Your Gun*) is a shy, lonely girl feeling abandoned by a mother bent on self-fulfillment.

The bee is run by real estate agent (and former champ) Rona Lisa Perretti (**Heather Tomko** - *Annie*) and vice-principal Douglas Panch (**Chris Schnarr** – *The Wizard of Oz*), who is returning after a mysterious absence of several years. As in a real spelling bee, Panch is the one who pronounces words, provides definitions and uses the words in a sentence, all at the request of the spellers. The competitors who mess up -- and eventually all do except one -- get "comforted" by the slightly scary Mitch Mahoney (**Tony Bohannon** – *Beauty and the Beast*), who explains that he's doing this gig as part of his court-ordered community service.

The veteran cast is, to a person, wonderful. And Market House Theatre's production team -- director **Michael Cochran**, music director **Cindy Miller**, assistant director/stage manager **Lisa Humphrey** -- achieves a tone and look for this musical that will leave you laughing and wanting to share the performance with others.

*(continued on p. 2)*

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The cast of the July summer drama camp rocks out in *The Environmental Show!*



Thanks to the cast of the June summer drama camp *101 Dalmatians Kids*, as well as their families and friends--- we raised \$140.60 and lots of food and supplies for Project Hope No-Kill Animal shelter! Thanks everyone! Dalmatians unite to help their fellow canines!



August 27, 2011

MHT Studio Theatre  
(next door to Kirchoff's)

- 8:00 Early Elementary (gr. 1-3)
- 9:00 Upper Elementary (gr. 4-5)
- 10:00 Middle School
- 11:00 High School



(continued from page 1) Spelling Bee is just edgy enough (if musicals got ratings, it would be PG-13) that this tenderhearted romp through a kids' world is a hoot for grown-ups.

The play runs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday nights and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoons **September 1-4, 8-11, and 15-18**. Regular ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$16 for students (21 and under). **There will be one Saturday matinee at 2:30 p.m. on September 10th, with all tickets being \$16.** Contact the MHT box office (270-444-6828) from noon to 5:00 p.m. Tues. through Fri. to purchase tickets or go online to [www.mht-play.com](http://www.mht-play.com).



This show contains adult content and is not intended for children.

## Auditions!

Auditions for *The 39 Steps* will be held Monday and Tuesday, **September 12 & 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.** in the main theatre.

*The 39 Steps* is a two-time Tony Award-winning hit show written by Patrick Barlow. Combining a spy thriller with farcical comedy, *The 39 Steps* is an engaging, fast-paced whodunit.

Needed are 3 men ages 20 and up and 1 woman aged 20-40's. One male will play the lead role; the woman will play several roles; and the other two males will play almost 200 roles each. The play will run November 10-13 and 17-20, 2011. Michael Cochran will direct.

No preparation is necessary for the audition, and newcomers are welcome. Perusal scripts are available in the theatre's box office for a refundable deposit of \$10.



# Spotlight on...

## Debra Harned

When you pick up one of MHT's colorful season brochures or browse the playbill before a show, you are enjoying the work of one of MHT's long-time, loyal, and hard-working volunteers: Debra Harned. Toiling away at home on her admittedly aging Mac, Deb works her magic year-round to create eye-catching materials to promote Market House Theatre.

Trained at WKCTC in Graphic Design and a 15-year veteran of designing ads for beauty publications and telephone books, Deb starts her work for MHT when the new season is announced in the spring of the year. If a show does not have a logo from the publisher, Deb will design one, then work closely with MHT Executive Director Michael Cochran via the internet to gather the logos, show descriptions, and dates to be included in the season brochure, which she then designs and prepares for print.

Summer brings preparation of the permanent portion of the playbill...a considerable effort! Deb gets the program ads from Michael, making sure they are the right size and format for print. She also designs some of the ads and redesigns some that are repeated from year to year. All the color pages for the year are printed at one time before the first show, then the black and white pages are run and inserted for each production.

The work continues through the year as Deb prepares the information pertinent to each of the five main stage shows. She updates the donor information given to her by the theatre, then lays out the cast, scene descriptions, and actor pictures and biographies. The actors have Deb to thank for making them look great! "My favorite tool is Photoshop, and I do my best to make sure all the photos submitted for the programs are the best I can make them."



Graphic Designer Debra Harned

Debra became involved with MHT around 1976. "I had moved home from a life of youthful adventure and was bored. Mother suggested that I volunteer at MHT. My first job was Back Stage Manager for *Our Town*. At that time MHT was totally volunteer and I think the 76/77 season was probably the lowest point. We were lucky if we had 20 people in the audience. There was no money because season tickets hadn't been sold due to the board

president's having a major heart attack. Everyone worked regular jobs by day, rehearsed early evening and built sets late at night and on weekends. Dr. Ben Bradford, one of the founding members, came back in at the end of that season, and, with his influence and talent, helped get the theatre moving again. Things slowly progressed from that point to the incredibly amazing organization it is today."

During the past 30+ years, Deb has done every job at the theatre: acted, directed, costumed, propped, ran lights and/or sound, front house managed and been a member of the board. She feels her training at MHT has helped her to deal with all types of people and keep a smile on her face no matter the situation.

"One of the best results from working at MHT was acquiring the confidence to stand up in front of people and perform. This led me to volunteer at my church, St. Francis De Sales, as a Lector. I love reading the scripture used at Mass and giving it a little extra zing I have learned at MHT."

She certainly adds that zing to MHT publications as well, and we are thankful she gives so generously of her amazing talent!

### Market House Theatre thanks our Adult and Youth Season Sponsors

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The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency, provides operational support funding for Market House Theatre with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



# the masquerade ball

A Market House Theatre Celebration



*A great new event benefitting MHT's award-winning Children's Programming!*

**October 22, 2011  
 6:30 p.m.**

**Costumes or cocktail attire**

**The River Ballroom  
 Julian M. Carroll Convention Center**

**Silent Auction  
 Dinner/Dancing  
 Entertainment  
 Table Decorating  
 Awards/Prizes**

**VIP Reserved table for 8: \$1,000  
 General Admission: \$75  
 Young Adult (ages 21-29): \$35  
 (limited number)**

**Tickets: [www.mhtplay.com](http://www.mhtplay.com) or 270.444.6828**

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