



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE YOUTHSTAGE PRESENTS THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE FOLLOWED BY DISNEY'S MULAN JR.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE: book by Rachel Sheinkin, music and lyrics by William Finn, conceived by Rebecca Feldman, additional material by Jay Reiss.

Disney's MULAN JR.: book adapted and additional lyrics by Patricia Cotter; music and lyrics by Matthew Wilder, David Zippel, Jeanine Tesori, and Alexa Junge; additional music and lyrics by Bryan Louiselle. Based on the 1998 Disney film *Mulan* and the story *Fa Mulan* by Robert D. San Souci.

Berkeley, CA - Every season the YouthStage program produces several youth-only productions performed by young actors aged 7-18. This spring, the **Berkeley Playhouse TeenStage** will perform **THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE** featuring a total of 32 students. Two separate productions will be produced: one, directed by Berkeley Playhouse Casting Director **Matthew McCoy**, will play **May 8-10**; the other, directed by Interim Education Manager **Rik Lopes**, will play **May 22-24**. Both casts will feature music direction by **Stephen Faubel**.

Right on point with the humor and poignancy of adolescence, **THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE** chronicles the experiences of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime and include songs "I'm Not That Smart" and "My Friend, The Dictionary."

Following with performances **June 5-8** will be the KidStage production of **Disney's MULAN JR.** Co-directed by Berkeley Playhouse Founding Artistic Director **Elizabeth McKoy** and **Matthew McCoy** with music direction by **Daniel Savio**. This production will feature a total of 59 young performers.

Disney's MULAN JR. will take you back to the legendary, storytelling days of ancient China with the action-packed, stage adaptation of Disney's film, and feature favorite songs like "Reflection," "Honor to Us All" and "I'll Make a Man Out of You," as well as new songs that will get audiences up on their feet!

ABOUT THE YOUTHSTAGE:

Berkeley Playhouse believes that kids and teens have the ability to command their own audiences. The company's acclaimed YouthStage program gives talented students the opportunity to participate in full-scale, youth-only productions of the highest quality with some of

the best professional directors, choreographers, and designers in the Bay Area. Cast members of YouthStage productions receive ongoing training in acting, voice, and movement.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

TeenStage Presents THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Production one show run: May 8–10; **Opens:** May 8 at 7:00pm; **Closes:** May 10 at 6:00pm.

Production two show run: May 22–24; **Opens:** May 22 at 7:00pm; **Closes:** May 24 at 6:00pm.

All performances: Thursday and Friday at 7:00pm; Saturday at 1:00pm and 6:00pm.

KidStage Presents Disney's MULAN JR.

Show Run: June 5–8; **Opens:** June 5 at 7:00pm; **Closes:** June 8 at 5:00pm.

All performances: Thursday and Friday at 7:00pm; Saturday and Sunday at 11:00am, 2:00pm, and 5:00pm.

Where: Berkeley Playhouse at the Julia Morgan Theater. 2640 College Ave. Berkeley, 94704

Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth. The public may visit www.berkeleyplayhouse.org or call (510) 845-8542 x351. Group rate available.