

Lockport Actor E-C-S-T-A-T-I-C to return to Pheasant Run Resort for 'Spelling Bee' Musical

By: NobleFoolTheatricals

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From left: Cara Rifkin, Samantha Dubina, Liza Jaïne, and Chie Isobe. Photo by Trademan Photography.

Noble Fool Theatricals, Pheasant Run Resort's resident nonprofit theater company, was thrilled to welcome back actor Samantha Dubina to be cast as one among six of Putnam County's quirkiest and nerdiest spelling titans in their production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Now playing on the Mainstage through June 13, this Tony Award-winning new musical comedy puts these loveable spellers (played by adults) to the spelling test, letting them fiercely battle it out for the title - only to learn that winning isn't everything and losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. This comical competition comes alive with a cornucopia of spelling words, a plethora of sharp humor, and intelligent interaction with help from only the best spellers in the audience.

Dubina was last seen on the Noble Fool mainstage as Donna in the fifties musical revue, The Taffetas, last spring. With great critic and audience responses to her Noble Fool debut, Dubina was "E-C-S-T-A-S-T-I-C" to return to St. Charles for another musical comedy.

Dubina plays teenage Olive, an awkwardly shy yet very smart girl who seems to get more attention from her dictionary than from her very own parents. Hence her love and dedication

to spelling.

"Olive is quite the opposite of myself," says Dubina. "I was very outgoing and always had the love and support from my parents. I was pretty smart in school - always on the honor roll and was in advanced classes, so really, I didn't have to go too far to find that 'inner nerd' in me for some character inspiration!"

Dubina fondly remembers growing up in Homer Glen and Lockport, having attended Schilling Elementary and Lockport Township High School. In fact, her first theatrical debut was in her teenage years at Lockport High - a one-act play quickly inspired her to go on and perform in her first musical, Once On This Island. Since her high school days, she has performed in numerous productions throughout the Chicagoland area.

"Spelling Bee is a fun, interactive show - and each night, audience members are asked to be guest spellers in the Bee, making each show unique. And while it's very funny, you'll find that there's also some heart to it. It's really a great night of entertainment," says Dubina.

The cast of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee features (in alphabetical order): Ian Paul Custer, Samantha Dubina, Chie Isobe, Liza Jaïne, Randolph Johnson, Erik Kaiko, Cara Rifkin, Jack Sweeney, and Michael Weber.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee runs now through Sunday, June 13, 2010. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Thursday performances are available on May 6, 13, 20 and June 3 at 2 p.m. The show is rated PG-13 due to mature situations and language.

Pheasant Run Resort is located at 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL. For tickets, call the Pheasant Run Box Office at 630-584-6342, or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Additional performance information may be obtained at www.noblefool.org.

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