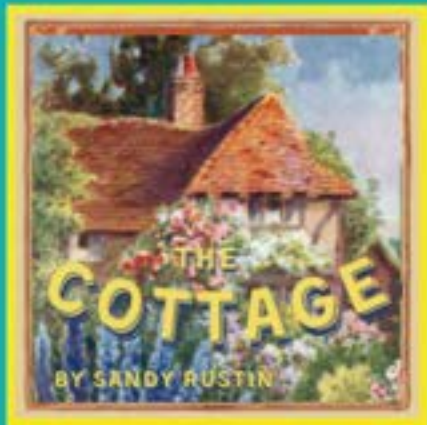


CITADEL THEATRE'S 2024/2025 SEASON



September 13 - October 13

Written by SANDY RUSTIN



November 15 - December 15

Directed by Gregg Denhardt Music by Jim Wise
Book & Lyrics by George Haimsohn & Robin Miller



February 21 - March 23

Directed by SCOTT SHALLENBARGER
Written by LAUREN GUNDERSON



April 18 - May 18

Directed by SCOTT WESTERMAN
Written by PAUL STROHL

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Baby
The Musical

APRIL 19 - MAY 19, 2024

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LYRICS BY **Richard Maltby, Jr.**

BOOK BY **Sybille Pearson**

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Produced on Broadway by James B. Freyberg and Ivan Bloch.

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MUSIC DIRECTED BY **Roger L. Bingaman**

CHOREOGRAPHED BY **Scott Shallenbarger**

Orchestra

Violin.....Renee Henley
Reeds.....Theresa Lams
Percussion.....Debbie Katz Knowles
Bass.....Jacob Nagler

Cast

Madison Jaffe-Richter.....Lizzie
Ben Ballmer.....Danny
Katie Engler.....Pam
Mark Yacullo.....Nick
Julie Bayer.....Arlene
Joe Lehman*.....Alan
Becca Duff.....Fertility Doctor, Woman 1, Chorus, U/S Pam
Lisa Pogofsky Sobelman.....Nurse, Woman 2, Mrs. Hart, Chorus, U/S Arlene
Evan B. Smith.....Professor Weiss, Chorus, U/S Nick
Aaron Rumack.....Dean Weber, Doctor, Chorus
Isabel Koleno.....Female Swing, U/S Lizzie
Jason Sekili.....Male Swing, U/S Danny
Peter Rasey.....U/S Alan

Production Crew

Scott Shallenbarger.....Director/Choreographer
Roger L. Bingaman.....Music Director
Abby Truett.....Stage Manager
Ellen Phelps*/Scott Phelps*.....Production Managers
Bob Silton.....Scenic Designer
Danielle Reinhardt.....Costume Designer
Jodi Williams.....Lighting Designer
Richard Neumann.....Sound Designer
MJ Dougherty.....Properties Designer
Sheryl Williams.....Intimacy Director
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A Note From Our Director,

Spring’s ancient song is once again summoning flora and fauna to burst forward in glory. The smell of renewal is in the air. And... can you hear it...a whisper from Mother Nature reminding us that we humans, too, are in a continual cycle of change; we too, march through time experiencing catalytic events offering us glorious (albeit sometimes terrifying) opportunities for personal metamorphosis.

Welcome to *Baby*, a story about rebirth.

At first glance, the title suggests a story about infants. And while their In-Utero presence is a powerful force, *Baby* is, at its core, about adult lives and relationships transforming with the onset of a pregnancy (or, universally, any major life-changing event.) Notably, it invites us to witness-- in the words of lyricist Richard Maltby Jr.— “how the characters respond to life’s most complex obstacles with love and incredibly bravery.”

I was inspired to set *Baby* in 2024 as a counterpoint to a concerning trend of cultural voices responding to others with cruelty and cowardice. I have found great peace in being reminded, through *Baby*’s characters, that privileging love and bravery while on a perilous emotional journey ensures a more beautiful rebirth for ourselves and those with whom we travel.

Wishing you light and grace,

Scott Shallenbarger



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- “We Start Today”.....Lizzie, Danny, Arlene, Alan, Nick, Pam, Ensemble
- “What Could Be Better?”.....Lizzie, Danny
- “The Plaza Song”.....Alan, Arlene
- “Baby, Baby, Baby”Nick, Pam, Danny, Lizzie, Alan, Arlene
- “I Want It All”.....Pam, Lizzie, Arlene
- “At Night She Comes To Me”.....Nick, Danny
- “Fatherhood Blues”.....Danny, Alan, Nick, Ensemble
- “Romance Part 1” Pam, Nick
- “I Chose Right”.....Danny
- “The Story Goes On”.....Lizzie, Ensemble

ACT II

- “The Ladies Singing Their Song”.....Lizzie, Ensemble
- “Patterns”.....Arlene
- “Romance Part 2”.....Nick, Pam
- “Romance Part 3”.....Pam
- “Easier To Love”.....Alan
- “I Want It All Reprise”.....Lizzie, Arlene
- “Two People In Love”.....Danny, Lizzie, Ensemble
- “And What If We Had Loved Like That”.....Alan, Arlene
- “With You”.....Pam, Nick
- “Birth Sequence”.....Lizzie, Pam, Arlene, Alan, Nick, Danny, Ensemble

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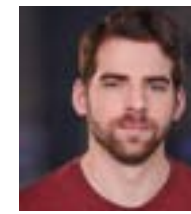
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Nick



Julie Bayer
Arlene



Joe Lehman*
Alan



Becca Duff
Fertility Doctor,
Woman 1,
Chorus, U/S Pam



Lisa Pogofsky Sobelman
Nurse, Woman 2,
Mrs. Hart, Chorus,
U/S Arlene



Evan B. Smith
Professor Weiss,
Chorus, U/S
Nick



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Dean Weber,
Doctor, Chorus



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Ben Ballmer (Danny)

Ben Ballmer is pumped, jazzed, and psyched to be coming back for his fourth show with Citadel! Recent credits include *Snow White, Junior Claus, It Runs in the Family* (Citadel Theatre); *Gay Card* (PrideArts); *Charlotte's Web* (ABS Productions); *Promises, Promises* (Blank Theatre Company). As a composer and playwright, Ben is nationally recognized as a winner of the ACF NextNotes Award & workshop, and a two-time semifinalist in The Blank Theatre's Young Playwright's Festival. Ben is endlessly grateful to his parents for their unconditional support of his inadvisable life choices.

Julie Bayer (Arlene)

Julie is glad to return to Citadel Theatre. She understudied the role of Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap* this season and Sister/Mother in *It Runs in the Family* last season. Her credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Paramount Theatre); *Drood* (Fox Valley Repertory); *Persuasion* (Chamber Opera Chicago: UK, Chicago, NYC tours); *Dial M for Murder, A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis PAC); *Promises, Promises, Noises Off, The Dinner Party* (Brightside Theatre), and The Lyric Opera Chorus.

Roger L. Bingaman (Music Director)

Roger L. Bingaman has conducted *White Christmas, Rag Time, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Peter Pan, Gypsy, Candide, Die Fledermaus*, and many other productions at MUSIC THEATER WORKS, where he was named the company's music director in 2005. From 1999 – 2019, "Bing" was the director of the apprentice program and chorus master for the Sarasota Opera. He is music director of Irving Park Lutheran Church and artistic director of the Irving Park Fine Arts Series. He has worked with Lyric Opera's Opera-in-the-Neighborhoods program, Michigan Opera Theatre, the Savoyaires, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Dayton Opera, Opera Lenawee and Opera Lafayette, among other companies.

MJ Dougherty (Properties Designer)

MJ Dougherty studied theatre technology with a focus in stage management at Columbia College Chicago. After graduating in 2017, she stage managed at several storefront theatres in the Chicagoland area including Citadel Theatre. She discovered her passion for working with props after running props for Drury Lane's 2022 season including *EVITA, Murder on the Orient Express, and Steel Magnolias*. After taking a short hiatus from theatre she is excited to jump back in as Prop Designer for *BABY the Musical!*

Becca Duff (Fertility Doctor, Woman 1, Chorus, U/S Pam)

Becca Duff is delighted to return to Citadel Theatre after playing the role of Lily St Regis in *Annie*. Other recent credits include *Murder Re-Wrote* (Hell in a Handbag) and *Twelfth Night* (Midsommer Flight) as well as costume design for *Spay* (Rivendell Theatre) and *Chagall in School* (Grippo). She has also acted with Erasing the Distance and in several staged readings with Sandbox Theatre Collective and Chicago Dramatists. Love to Alli.



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Katie Engler (Pam)

Citadel debut! Katie is thrilled to be doing what she loves this spring alongside some of Chicago's finest. She recently received her M.M in Music Theatre Vocal Pedagogy from Carthage College, and her BFA in Musical Theatre from Columbia College Chicago. Past theatre credits include: *Young Frankenstein* (Ensemble/US Frau Blucher), Mercury Theater Chicago; *Wild West Spectacular* (Louisa/Dance Ensemble), Rocky Mountain Dance Theatre; *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* (The Waitress), Timber Lake Playhouse; and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Ursula), Riverbank Theatre. All her love to family, Eion, and the Citadel team!! www.katieengler.com

Renee Henley (Violin)

Renee received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music Performance from Northwestern University. She is a tenured orchestral musician with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra and a private violin/viola teacher. In the past year, she returned to the world of musical theatre. Recent productions include, *The Music Man in Concert* (Metropolis), *Grey Gardens* (Big Noise Theatre), *The Addams Family* (Metropolis), and *She Loves Me* (Citadel Theatre). Renee is excited to be working with Citadel Theatre again and joining the cast and musicians in this production of *Baby*.

Madison Jaffe-Richter (Lizzie)

Madison is so excited to be making her Citadel debut in this magical show! Madison recently graduated from Muhlenberg College earning a BA in Theatre and a minor in dance. Past credits include *A Chorus Line* (Kristine), *The Addams Family* (Dance Captain/ Ancestor), *Heathers* (Heather McNamara), *Miss You Like Hell*, *Call Me By Any Other Name*....*Just As Sweet* (A world premiere queer deconstruction of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*) and *The Bacchae*. As always, the biggest thank you goes out to Mom, Dad and Zoey!

Debbie Katz Knowles (Percussion)

Debbie is a busy professional musician and music teacher in the Chicago area. She grew up in a musical family, and has music degrees from Northwestern University. She loves playing percussion and drums for theater shows, symphony orchestras, jazz bands, church concerts, and any other performances that need drums! She's taught percussion students for many years, and currently teaches at Lake Forest College and the Music Institute of Chicago. You can also see her playing baritone sax and other woodwinds in two jazz bands and an occasional theater show.

Isabel Koleno (Female Swing, U/S Lizzie)

Isabel is so excited to be a part of this amazing production. After studying drama at the Washington University in St. Louis, she made her Chicago theatrical debut as an understudy for Miss Polanski and Miss Della Hoya in Blank Theatre Company's *Promises Promises*. Her favorite credits from her time at WashU include *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife), *She Kills Monsters* (Lilith/Lily), and *Legally Blonde* (Vivienne Kensington). A huge thank you to her family and friends for always supporting her.



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Theresa Lams (Reeds)

Theresa is an active performer and educator in the Chicago area. She plays woodwinds and sings with various jazz, classical and rock groups, and performs extensively in musical theater pit orchestras. A state certified music teacher, she's taught a wide array of musical subjects, pre-K through community college. Honors include National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers and Who's Who Among American Teachers and Educators. Her bachelor's degree was from Western Michigan University in both music performance and education and her master's degree from Indiana University, Bloomington, in music performance, jazz cognate. Recent albums: Badass Gumbo's *Wages of Sin*, and Elizabeth Rudolph's *Reflected Reverberations*.

Joe Lehman* (Alan)

Joe Lehman is a proud member of Actors' Equity and is delighted to perform with Citadel Theatre. His previous work with Citadel as a director includes: *Airness*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a play!"* He is a longtime Chicago area actor and director and has worked at Drury Lane Oakbrook, Marriott Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, First Folio, Oak Park Shakespeare Festival, Little Theatre on the Square, Williams Street Rep, Shakespeare Project, Shaw Chicago, Metropolis Theatre, and Light Opera Works (now Music Theatre Works) among others. Regionally, he has worked at Fireside Theatre (WI), Greenbrier Valley Theatre (WV), Meadow Brook Theatre (MI), Springer Opera House (GA), Stage One (KY), as well as touring with Classical Kids Live. Thanks for your support of live theatre! www.joe-lehman.com

Jacob Nagler (Bass)

Jacob Nagler is a graduate from the University of Illinois with a bachelors in music education. He has played bass with multiple groups and ensembles such as the Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonia Da Camera, and the Chicagoland Educators Orchestra. He has also taught bass at the summer program ISYM, taught privately, and currently teaches Band/Orchestra at All Saints in Kenosha.

Richard Neumann (Sound Designer)

Richard Neumanns very happy to be designing for Citadel Theater. Richard has worked with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Stradivari Society, Columbia College, The National High School Institute, The Highland Park Players, Skokie JCC, Big Noise Theater, Rising Stars Theater, Musical Theater Works, North Shore Dance & Theater, Skokie School District 73.5, Rochelle Zell High School, and more.

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Scott & Ellen Phelps* (Production Managers)

Scott & Ellen Phelps are the founders of Citadel Theatre. Scott Phelps is the Artistic Director of the company, while Ellen Phelps serves as the Managing Director. Citadel Theatre, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization & one of Chicagoland's premier live theatres, is in its 22nd season.

Peter Rasey (U/S Alan)

Peter is pleased to make his Citadel debut. Most recently, he appeared in Kinky Boots with Highland Park Players. Favorite credits include Malcolm in *The Full Monty*, Cliff in *Cabaret*, Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*, Tony in *Dial M for Murder*, Tyler in *Crossing Delancey*, and with Circle Theater, Music Theater Works, Vex Theater, Oakton College, and Attic Playhouse. Peter also enjoys directing, choreographing, and producing, including *Follies*, *A Chorus Line*, *Enchanted April*, and *Willy Wonka*. He studied at University of Illinois. Many thanks to the staff, family and friends, and Glenn. Cheers!

Danielle Reinhardt (Costume Designer)

Danielle Reinhardt is delighted to have the opportunity to collaborate once again with the Citadel Theatre, having previously designed costumes for *She Loves Me* and *The Mousetrap*. Recently, she had the rewarding experience of working with the young actors at Mudlark Theater on their production of *Fairy Grimm Tales*. While earning her MFA in Costume Design at Northern Illinois University, she designed *The Children's Hour*, *Melancholy Play*, *The Conference of the Birds*, *Edward II*, *Polaroid Stories*, and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. Prior to NIU, she designed the costumes for Stage Coach Players' performance of *The Little Mermaid* at the Egyptian Theatre, as well as the independent film *The White Horse is Dead*. Her motto is to never stop learning and never stop dreaming.

Aaron Rumack (Dean Weber, Doctor, Chorus)

Aaron is delighted to make his Citadel Theatre debut following his recent performance as Gomez in Uptown Music Theater's *The Addams Family*. With roles ranging from Fred Graham/ Petruchio in *Kiss Me, Kate* to Smudge in *Forever Plaid*, he has performed in more than 20 shows throughout the Chicagoland area. All my love to Shandalla. Appreciation to Colette Todd at Star Music Studio. Numbers 6:24 - 26.

Jason Sekili (Male Swing, U/S Danny)

Jason Sekili is thrilled to be making his Citadel debut! He currently is a senior at Northwestern University, where he is double majoring in theatre and psychology. He also is in the musical theatre and integrated marketing and communication certificate programs. Regional: *A Chorus Line* (Mark, MadKap Productions); *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (Pharaoh, Big Noise Theatre); *Rock of Ages* (Joey Primo/Drew U/S) and *Young Frankenstein* (Dr. Victor Frankenstein) at the Barn Theatre, MI; and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Stanley, Paul Bunyan Playhouse). He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support, and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Donations (continued)

Scott Shallenbarger (Director/Choreographer)

Scott is thrilled to be making his Citadel Theatre directorial debut. Previous Productions include *The Glass Menagerie* (Jeff Award;); *Six Degrees of Separation*; *The Road to Mecca* (Raven Theatre;); *Skyscraper*; *Burn This*; *Our Country's Good*. (Piven Theatre;); *Jeffrey*; *Love, Valour, Compassion* (Hubris Productions.) Scott enjoyed a long tenure as Director of Theatre Arts at Highland Park High School in Highland Park Illinois and thanks his husband and sons for their love and never ending support.

Bob Silton (Scenic Designer)

Bob Silton is excited to be making his Citadel Theatre debut! Currently, Bob is the Production Manager for Fruit Wine Productions and has served as Artistic Director for Encore Theatre in Libertyville, Production Manager for Music Theater Works in Wilmette and Venue Manager for LaJolla Playhouse in San Diego. He has produced *Rockapella* at The Genesee Theatre in Waukegan and *Ellen Greene* (Little Shop of Horrors original Audrey) in Provincetown, MA and London, England. Bob has worked with The Marriott Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, Northwestern University, Big Deal Productions, The Performers School, Big Noise Theatre, Sarah Hall Theatre, Wilmette Park District & Uptown Music Theater. In addition to theatre, Bob has designed numerous restaurants on the North Shore. He has toured the country with *Hocus Pocus Halloween Bash*, *The Golden Girls Live!* A Christmas Musical, *The Golden Gals Live!*, and *The Broads' Way* with RuPaul's Drag Race star, Ginger Minj. Most recently, he created and produced *The Big Gay Cabaret Series*, a monthly series focusing on LGBTQIA+ performers celebrating all aspects of the queer community, from Hollywood and Broadway to local Chicago talent. Featuring well known singers, drag performers, comedians, musicians and more! Instagram: @bobsiltontodesigns & @biggaycabaret

Evan B. Smith (Professor Weiss, Chorus, U/S Nick)

Evan is thrilled to be working with Citadel for the first time! He earned his BFA in Musical Theatre from the Chicago College of Performing Arts, and was most recently onstage as David Van Patten in Kokandy Productions' Chicago Premier of *American Psycho: the Musical*. Other recent Chicago-area credits include J. Bowden Hapgood in the Skokie Theatre's production of *Anyone Can Whistle*, and Tyler/Ensemble in Blank Theatre Company's *Merrily We Roll Along*. Special thanks to Mom, Dad, and brother Ben for their love and support. Enjoy the show!

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Lisa Pogofsky Sobelman (Nurse, Woman 2, Mrs. Hart, Chorus, U/S Arlene)

Lisa Pogofsky Sobelman is so happy to be under the direction of Scott Shallenbarger again, her previous experience being Fiona in *Brigadoon* when she was a senior at Highland Park High School! Lisa is a therapist at Highland Park Psychological Services. She is also a teacher at the Performer's School, where she works with 3rd, 4th and 5th graders directing them in 2 productions a year. Additionally, Lisa freelances as a graphic designer part-time, and enjoys doing one on one vocal and acting coaching out of her home. Favorite performances include Maria in *West Side Story*, Mama Bear in *Shrek*, Mrs. Baskin in *Big* and Rose in *The Secret Garden*. In her former professional days, Lisa performed at Drury Lane Oakbrook in *Follies* and *Charlotte's Web*. Lisa has also sung the National Anthem at a couple of Chicago White Sox games. She would like to thank all of the people in her life who have helped guide, trust and support her during these past few years, especially J, L, S and mom.

Samantha Thielman (Run Crew)

Samantha has been involved behind the scenes in the theatre industry since Junior High but didn't fall in love with the work until high school. Her passion for theatre was so strong, which led her to change her major a month before high school graduation. She received her Associates in Fine Arts from Harper College and then received her Bachelor's in Theater Studies from Northern Illinois University. Some of her favorite works include: *Bartleby the Scrivener* with Organic Theatre, *The Dumb Waiter* with Proud Kate Productions, *Sunset Boulevard* with LZP Productions, *Legally Blonde*, *Seussical*, *The Mousetrap* and *Chicago* with Big Noise Theatre, *Over the River and Through the Woods* with Theatre D and, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Annie*, *Winnie the Pooh* and *Junie B. Jones* with Citadel Theatre.

Alex Trinh (Sound Board Operator)

Alex is excited to close out this season with Citadel Theatre. His most recent works include *The Mousetrap*, *She Loves Me*, *Silent Sky* (Citadel Theatre). He has also done work in film including *The Bottle Cap* (AguirreMorreno Productions), *Madre Mia* (Laura Lopez), and *Where the Flowers Bloom*. You can catch him next at The Revival, a new improv playhouse in Chicago. He would like to thank his family, friends and especially Jessica.

Abby Truett (Stage Manager)

Abby (she/her) is originally from North Carolina and received her BFA from UNC Greensboro. She recently moved to Chicago and is excited to continue her stage management career. Chicago credits include: *Hansel and Gretel*, *Alcina*, *Magic Flute*, *In a Grove* (Northwestern University), *Spring Fling* (Stage Left Theatre), and *Songs for a New World* (Theo Ubique). Other credits include: *A Fox on the Fairway* (Florida Repertory Theatre), *Gypsy* (McLeod Summer Playhouse), *The Full Monty* (McLeod Summer Playhouse), *Shakespeare in Love* (UNCG). This is Abby's first show with Citadel Theatre and she is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with a new team of talented artists.

Jodi Williams (Lighting Designer)

Jodi is happy to be back at Citadel for her second show as Lighting Designer. Working with the Baby creative team has been a joy and taking on the challenges of this show has been an adventure. She is ever grateful for the opportunity to work with different artists and for the welcome at Citadel!

Sheryl Williams (Intimacy Director)

From Phoenix, Az, She received her B.A in Musical Theater From Columbia College Chicago and has been working in and around Chicago since 2017. Along with coordinating support for several Universities such as Roosevelt, North Central and DePaul as an Intimacy Professional, her recent credits include: *Cabaret* (Porchlight Music Theater), *The Nacirema Society* (The Goodman Theater), *Anything Goes* (Porchlight Music Theater), *Antigone* (Court Theatre), *Silent Sky* (Citadel Theater), *The Brightest Thing in the World* (AboutFace Theater) and more. She has also been published as a contributor in Intimacy Directing for Theatre and T.I.E Stunt Coordinator Affiliate.

Mark Yacullo (Nick)

Mark is thrilled to be working with Citadel Theatre again. He was last seen as Albert Einstein in their production *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Other credits include *The Wild Party* at Blank Theatre Company (Jeff Nomination for Best Ensemble and Best Production), Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, Freak in *Columbinus* at Random Acts Chicago, Dean Martin in *Sammy: A Tribute to Sammy Davis Jr.* at Black Ensemble Theatre and Chip Tolentino in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Madkap Productions.

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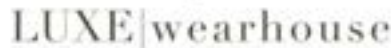
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