

## = Spellingg Bee =

" Spellingg Bee " , also known as " The Spellingg Bee " , is the second episode of the first season of the American comedy @-@ drama detective television series Psych . It was written by series creator and co @-@ executive producer Steve Franks , and was directed by co @-@ executive producer and director Mel Damski during November and December 2005 . The episode originally aired on USA Network in the United States on July 14 , 2006 with a rating of TV @-@ PG . The installment features guest appearances by Kirsten Nelson , Alexander Calvert , Kyle Pejpar , and Jeremy Loheir , among others . It also features an appearance by sportscaster Bud Collins .

The series follows Shawn Spencer ( James Roday ) and his assistant Burton " Gus " Guster ( Dulé Hill ) , who operate a fake psychic detective agency , which is actually based on Shawn 's hyperobservant ability . In the episode , Shawn and Gus are watching a spelling bee on TV when the expected champion collapses suddenly . Suspecting a set @-@ up , they investigate the bee . While there , the spellmaster ( Alex Bruhanski ) suspiciously falls over a railing to his death , strengthening their beliefs in foul play . With help from Shawn 's father , Henry Spencer ( Corbin Bernsen ) they discover poison in the spellmaster 's meal , confirming their thoughts . Shawn realizes that the entire situation was created by a contestant and his father in order to cover up that they were cheating .

The installment was originally written to be the third episode of the season , but was moved up by the show 's producers to introduce the character Juliet O 'Hara earlier . Like most episodes of the series , it was filmed in and around the Canadian city of Vancouver . " Spellingg Bee " received mixed @-@ to @-@ positive reception from television critics . According to Nielsen Media Research , the episode was watched by 4 @.@ 71 million people during its original broadcast , making up approximately 3 @.@ 35 million households . It received a 1 @.@ 5 rating / 5 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic . Actor Dulé Hill was nominated for an award at the 13th NAMIC Vision Awards for his performance in the episode .

## = = Plot = =

Shawn Spencer ( James Roday ) buys a newspaper and walks back into a restaurant to find his seat taken . The girl in his seat introduces herself as Juliet O 'Hara ( Maggie Lawson ) . Shawn realizes she 's a cop , and immediately after he does , she and several officers arrest a man at the bar . Later , Burton " Gus " Guster ( Dulé Hill ) is in the Psych office , watching the local spelling bee on TV . Shortly after Shawn enters the office , expected spelling bee champion Brandon Vu ( Issey Lamb ) collapses , to the shock of the audience . Shawn notices something wrong with Vu 's inhaler , and realizes that Vu was intentionally harmed . They receive a phone call from interim police chief Karen Vick ( Kirsten Nelson ) asking them to investigate the bee . They interview Vu at the hospital , who tells them that his inhaler was not working during the competition . They begin individual interviews with the competitors , but discover no leads . While they are waiting between interviews , spellmaster Cavanaugh ( Alex Bruhanski ) experiences chest pain and falls over a railing to his death , in front of Shawn and Gus . The police write off his death as a heart attack ; Shawn and Gus are skeptical , and break into Cavanaugh 's booth to investigate .

Gus finds Cavanaugh 's lunch , and believes that it is poisoned due to its unusual smell . Shawn takes it to his father , Henry Spencer ( Corbin Bernsen ) , to have it analyzed . Henry demands that in return , Shawn must build a dog house he promised to make in 1989 . Shawn agrees , and leaves . While riding back to the office , he is run off the road by a mysterious van . Shawn wakes up in the hospital , and after he gets out , Gus informs him that he discovered another fake inhaler . Shawn returns to Henry 's house to finish the dog house . Henry confirms that the lunch was poisoned , and Shawn returns to the bee . He disguises himself as the new spellmaster in order to enter the booth , and discovers that Cavanaugh had found out that Miklous Prochazka ( Richard Zeman ) was helping his son ( Alexander Calvert ) to cheat . Shawn discovers that the fake inhaler was being used to transfer electrical impulses to help Prochazka cheat . After the bee has finished , Shawn has a " psychic vision " where he reveals everything to the police , who arrest Miklous and his son .

= = Production = =

= = = Cast and crew = = =

" Spellingg Bee " was the first episode directed by co @-@ executive producer and director Mel Damski . The episode was the second installment written by co @-@ executive producer and creator Steve Franks , after the previous episode " Pilot " . Tracey Jeffery was the episode 's producer , John J. Sakmar and Jerry Lenhart were the consulting producers , and Mel Damski , Steve Franks , Kelly Kulchak , and Chris Henze were the associate producers . Erin Smith was the production manager . Tracy Hillman was the installment 's associate producer , and Michael McMurray was the director of photography , while Allan Lee and Anupam Nigam acted as the editors . David Crabtree , James Ilcic , Allan Lee , and Gordon Rempel were the script editors . The music for the episode was written by Adam Cohen and John Robert Wood . Assistant directors for the installment were Jack Hardy and Roger Russell .

The episode was originally planned to be the third installment of the season , but was moved up by the show 's producers in order to introduce the major character Juliet O 'Hara , played by Maggie Lawson . The scene introducing O 'Hara was filmed as part of the fourth episode , " Woman Seeking Dead Husband : Smokers Okay , No Pets " , but was added to the installment because of the need to bring in the character . It was also used for Lawson 's audition for the show . Kyle Pejpar and Jeremy Loheir were cast to play Young Shawn and Young Gus in the episode . The show 's casting directors brought in the actors because older versions of young Shawn and Gus were needed for the flashback scenes in the episode . Sportscaster Bud Collins guest starred in the episode . Collins wrote all of his dialogue , and designed his own wardrobe for the installment .

In addition , another guest star for the episode was Kirsten Nelson , who played interim police chief Karen Vick , a major reoccurring character who first premiered in the episode " Pilot " . Shortly before the installment was filmed , Kirsten Nelson gave birth to her daughter , which would later be portrayed in the episode " Shawn vs. the Red Phantom " . Other minor guests included Alex Bruhanski ( who played Spellmaster Cavanaugh ) , Issey Lamb ( who played Brandon Vu ) , Alexander Calvert ( who played Jiri Prochazka ) , Richard Zeman ( who played Miklous Prochazka ) , and Brendan Beiser ( who played the bee 's color commentator ) .

= = = Writing and filming = = =

The show is meant to take place in the Southern California city of Santa Barbara ; however , most of the series is filmed in Vancouver , British Columbia , and the surrounding communities . The majority of the scenes are filmed in the suburb community of White Rock , especially those including the ocean or coastline . Speaking about filming the show , Steve Franks stated that " I swear it 's San Clemente , CA . It couldn 't look more like it " . In order to make the sets appear as Santa Barbara , the show 's crew members installed many props stereotypical to Southern California , including fake palm trees , surfboards , and the California @-@ published newspaper , the Santa Maria Sun . The production crew had to truck in eight palm trees to each set during filming .

Several of the show 's filming sets were changed between episodes . The Psych office was expanded and refurnished , afterwards becoming the second largest stage for the show . The house for Henry Spencer was changed , in order to be closer to the ocean . The set for Chief Vick 's office was also changed , and was repainted to brighten the scenes shot in it . Much of the episode was filmed on a sound stage , while several other scenes were filmed in the basement of the facility . Much of the installment was written to take place in Santa Barbara 's Arlington Theater . Several of the episode 's scenes were written by Franks while filming the pilot episode .

In order to make the show seem more realistic , Franks and other writers talked to his father , a former Los Angeles police officer , and several psychics . Much of the episode 's content was improvised by the actors , and Roday included a pineapple in the episode , continuing the

reoccurring theme on the show . James Roday talked to producers about including singing in the series ' second episode , but the idea was shut down because it was too soon in the show . In addition , Steve Franks considered writing one of the show 's early episodes to be about a psychic claiming Shawn was a fraud , but delayed writing the episode until later . The producers attempted to include themes against smoking and the issues of friendship . Franks also included a character named Mrs. Foote , a reference to his 1999 movie Big Daddy .

= = Release = =

The episode was originally broadcast in the United States on July 14 , 2006 , on USA Network as the second episode of the show 's first season . It aired at a 10 : 00 P.M. EST / PST time slot , following a new episode of the show Monk . The episode aired under a rating of TV @-@ PG , meaning that some of its content may not be appropriate for young children . The show 's previous installment , " Pilot " , was a special extended episode , running for approximately 66 minutes . " Spellingg Bee " was the first installment of the show to run for a normal length , approximately 43 minutes . The National Broadcasting Corporation ( NBC ) , parent company of Psych 's producer , Universal Cable Productions , rebroadcast several of the show 's episodes , due to struggling ratings for the network . The re @-@ airing of the episodes occurred on August 7 and August 14 of 2006 ; " Spellingg Bee " was shown at an 8 : 00 P.M. time slot , on August 7 .

" Spellingg Bee " , along with the fourteen other episodes from Psych 's first season were released on a four @-@ disc DVD set in the United States and Canada on June 26 , 2007 . The set includes full audio commentaries for six episodes , including " Spellingg Bee " , deleted scenes for most episodes , blooper reels , audition tapes , character profiles , the international version of the episode " Pilot " , an " Inside the writers ' room " featurette , and other special features . The set is filmed in 1 @-@ 78 : 1 aspect ratio , with English subtitles available , and Dolby Digital 5 @-@ 1 Surround . The DVD set was released in the United Kingdom and other Region 2 countries on January 9 , 2008 , and was released in Australia on April 30 of the same year . The entire first season has also been released on the iTunes store for digital download , as well as independent downloads of each individual episode .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

According to the Nielsen Media Research , in its original American broadcast , " Spellingg Bee " was viewed by a total of 4 @-@ 71 million people . Approximately 3 @-@ 35 million households were watching the installment during its initial broadcast . The episode earned a 1 @-@ 5 rating / 5 share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , meaning that on average 1 @-@ 5 percent of all television @-@ equipped households were tuned into the installment at any given moment , while 5 percent of households watching TV were tuned into it during the time slot . Approximately 1 @-@ 8 million people in 25 ? 54 demographic also viewed the episode . The installment was the most watched basic cable program for its air date . " Spellingg Bee " was ranked eighth in total viewers in the week of July 10 ? 16 , falling slightly behind its lead @-@ in program , Monk , which was viewed by 4 @-@ 89 million people . The installment 's ratings were a major drop from the show 's previous episode , " Pilot " , which was viewed by 6 @-@ 06 million people , and had a 1 @-@ 9 rating / 6 share . " Spellingg Bee " finished fourth in viewership for Psych 's first season , falling behind the pilot , " Weekend Warriors " ( 4 @-@ 76 million ) , and " 9 Lives " ( 4 @-@ 72 million ) .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Since airing , the episode has received mixed to positive reviews . In his review for IGN , contributor Colin Moriarty heavily criticized the episode , calling it " unintentionally lackluster " . While Moriarty

considered Hill to portray Gus well , he considered Juliet O 'Hara and Carlton Lassiter 's characters " rather forgettable " and stated that " neither character has any traits that make them interesting in the least " . He considered the show to be " admittedly in a difficult spot " . Moriarty criticized the show 's police force , calling it " possibly miscast " . He called the episode " mildly entertaining and mildly boring " and that the show is " not looking too good " . The installment was given a rating of 6 , or " okay " , tying it for the lowest rated episode of the season , with the following episode , " Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Piece " . In an article for The New York Times , journalist Bill Carter mentions that after just the two episodes , " USA Network seems to have found another drama hit with ' Psych ' " . The episode received a positive review from the online critic website Review Stream . The installment was considered to be good for several reasons . The reviewer stated that they " like how they introduce Lassiter 's new partner by having Shawn meet her in a coffee shop " instead of just " having her tagging along on the case and being introduced in the same boring fashion other shows rely on " when they replace a character early in the season . They also stated that the " case itself was also pretty interesting in that they were investigating sabotage at a spelling bee and potentially the murder of the spell master " . The reviewer summarized by saying that the installment " was a funny episode that I could definitely watch again " , and recommended viewing it .

In his review for TV Squad , writer Richard Keller gave the episode a mixed to positive review , calling the installment " pretty unique " , but that it also had its flaws . He enjoyed the fact that the episode revealed the relationship between Shawn and Henry , that it " reflects the relationship many of us have with our own fathers " . He also enjoyed the " fleshing out " of Gus 's character , that " we now see Gus as quite the brainiac " and " rather than saying nothing but ' No , Shawn ' ... Gus actually contributes quite a bit to this episode " . However , Keller also criticized parts of the episode , saying that he disliked the " whole fake psychic concept " . Keller also criticized Timothy Omundson 's character Carlton Lassiter , saying " he just doesn 't fit into the whole show " , and " Omundson 's makes Lassiter look like a cartoon character " . In a comment for TV Guide , the show was called " a diamond in the rough " , and writer Matt Roush called star James Roday " a delight " . The episode was included in Yahoo ! TV 's list of the nerdiest episodes of Psych . Reviewer Tucker Cummings said that " the wordplay in this episode great " and that " it gives you a great insight into how Gus and Shawn 's friendship has functioned ( or dysfunctioned ) over the years " . In addition , she said that the episode 's murder @-@ mystery plot " is actually really engrossing " when compared to later episodes of the show .

In a review of the Syfy channel series Eureka , Boston Globe critic Matthew Gilbert compared the series to Psych , describing both as having " light @-@ hearted dramedic tones " . A few days after the episode aired , Virginia Rohan of The Record called the show a " promising series " . Several critics compared the episode and show to the then @-@ new Lifetime network series Angela 's Eyes ; in his article for the Los Angeles Daily News , journalist David Kronke stated that " Lifetime 's new crime drama ' Angela 's Eyes ' is essentially the USA Network 's new series ' Psych ' inside out and played without laughs " . In an article for the Akron Beacon Journal , Angela 's Eyes main character Abigail Spencer was compared to Shawn Spencer , who was described as being " so good that people don 't believe what he can figure out " . Psych was also described as having " a much simpler premise " , but being more entertaining than Angela 's Eyes " .

The installment has been very positively received by the show 's cast and crew . Series creator Steve Franks was asked by iTunes in 2009 to select his twelve favorite episodes to be put on a special DVD release . The collection , titled Psych : Twelve Episodes That Will Make You Happy , contained four episodes from the first season , including " Spellingg Bee " . When describing the episode , Franks stated that " The Spellingg Bee has my one of my favorite scenes in the run of the show when Shawn takes over for the spellmaster and has to investigate a murder while making up words for the contestants to spell " . In 2013 , iTunes asked stars James Roday and Dulé Hill to select their 20 favorite episodes from the show . The DVD collection was titled Psych : James and Dule 's Top 20 , with " Spellingg Bee " was selected as # 14 on the collection , picked by Roday . Three other episodes from the first season were also selected .

= = = Accolades = = =

For his performance in portraying Burton " Gus " Guster in the episode , Dulé Hill was nominated to win the award for " Best Actor ? Comedy " at the 13th Annual NAMIC Vision Awards . The awards are organized by the National Association for Multi @-@ ethnicity in Communications ( NAMIC ) , and are given for " outstanding achievements in original , multi @-@ ethnic cable programming " . Other nominees for the award were Carlos Mencia , Romany Malco , and Damon Wayans . Hill lost the award to Mencia , for received it for his performance in the Comedy Central program Mind of Mencia .