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NOV-16-00

THE YOUNG AT ART

Lovable spider, pig, pals 389 to weave web at Otterbein

Some childhood memories stick like flies that get caught in a spider's web. So, too, does *Charlotte's Web*, the E.B. White tale that the Children's Literature Association considers "the best American children's book of the past 200 years."

This weekend, Otterbein Children's Theatre will bring the story of Charlotte, Wilbur and the other lovable barnyard characters to life by stretching the imagination.

"We've really worked with character development," said Elizabeth Minnich of Otterbein College. "When you see each actor onstage, you instantly know what animal they are portraying."

The actors will wear costumes not necessarily made of fur and feathers. The director, Robert Behrens, originally envisioned a Charlotte with eight appendages. When he auditioned Natalie Arnold, a sophomore from Reynoldsburg, he figured she could pull off the role without such embellishments.

"She has really great movements," Minnich said. "She's really elegant, with some long lines. She's only working with her arms and legs."

Katie Sanders, a freshman from Dallas making her Otterbein debut as Wilbur, will have the ears and nose of a pig, and a wardrobe that suggests the humanlike emotions that Wilbur experiences while trying to avoid the butcher.



**MICHELE
LEMMON**

With college-age actors playing all the parts, Behrens directed set designer Matt Kari to envision the scenery as a small child might.

Hence, it's "larger than life," Minnich said.

Otterbein Children's Theatre was established in 1962 with *The Emperor's New Clothes*; since then, the Theater Department

has performed more than 40 classics.

Charlotte's Web will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Cowan Hall, 30 S. Grove St., Westerville.

Tickets cost \$6 for reserved seats, \$5 for general admission. For more information call 614-823-1109.



Doral Chenoweth III / Dispatch

Otterbein Children's Theatre's production of *Charlotte's Web* stars Natalie Arnold, left, as Charlotte, Julia Moss as Fern and Katie Sanders as Wilbur.

Charlotte's Web

By E. B. White

Adapted By Joseph Robinette

Directed By Robert Behrens



November 17-19

Tickets: \$5 general admission ~ \$6 reserved

Box Office opens November 6

823-1109



OTTERBEIN COLLEGE THEATRE

30 S. Grove St., Westerville

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