

Theatre performs children's play



Charlotte's Web. Fern (freshman Patti Knoop) defends the friendly spider Charlotte (senior Gretchen Hall) from Avery (freshman Tom Sheridan) (left). Wilbur (sophomore Peyton Dixon) entertains children (left to right) Nel Morgan Scheiber, Jessica Grove and Ben Isler (right). Publicity photos

By Tracey Young

A young girl named Fern adopts the runt of a litter of pigs, Wilbur. Living in the barn, Wilbur becomes friends with Templeton the rat and Charlotte the spider. The story of these friendships is the basis for the play, "Charlotte's Web."

The Department of Theatre and Dance and the Department of Music will present its Children's Theatre production

Nov. 16-18 in Cowan Hall.

Directed by guest artist Pamela Hill, "Charlotte's Web" stars senior Gretchen Hall as Charlotte, sophomore Peyton Dixon as Wilbur and freshman Patti Knoop as Fern.

Hall said she likes having a woman director because it "brings a new perspective" to the play.

Hall also said she felt a little silly talking to the animals in the play, but then realized

that it was "written like these animals are human." Hall said the story is about relationships.

The performance has been adapted into a musical by Charles Strouse, but follows the original story.

In addition to this weekend's performances, the production was presented in a sold-out matinee yesterday and will be performed again today for school children.

Westerville This Week
11-12-90



NEWS

Otterbein presents 'Charlotte's Web'

A childhood classic comes to the stage as a musical when Otterbein College Theatre, in conjunction with the College's Department of Music, presents *Charlotte's Web*.

This is the story of a girl named Fern who loved a little pig named Wilbur and of Wilbur's true friend Charlotte, a beautiful large gray spider. With the help of Templeton the rat, who never did anything for anybody unless there was something in it for him, Charlotte saves Wilbur from the butcher's ax through her own clever plan to convince the world he is "some pig."

E.B. White's classic tale was adapted for the stage by national award-winning children's playwright Joseph Robinette. The play won even White's endorsement.

"You have kept its spirit and my intent. Congratulations and cheers," White wrote of the play.

Robinette's play was then turned into a musical with music and lyrics by Charles Strouse, who also wrote the music for *Annie* and *'Bye Bye Birdie*. The musical score for *Charlotte's Web* includes *Eating*, Wilbur's humorous yet poignant song about growing up; *Who says We can't Be Friends*, an enchanting duet between Wilbur and Charlotte and *Welcome to the Zuckerman Barn* featuring all the story's unforgettable barnyard animals.

Charlotte's Web, a beautiful play



Courtesy Otterbein College

Otterbein College Theatre, in conjunction with the Department of Music, presents the childhood classic, 'Charlotte's Web.' Fern (middle), played by Patti Knoop, is trying to stop her brother Avery, played by Tom Sheridan, from destroying Charlotte's Web. Charlotte is played by Gretchen Hall.

about friendship, is an event for the entire family.

Guest director Pam Hill will oversee production of this musical at Otterbein. Hill, a 1975 Otterbein graduate, directed *Night Watch* at Otterbein this summer, two highly successful productions of *Quilters* last year, and prior to that, another children's theatre offering, *Sleeping Beauty*.

Otterbein theatre students will fill most of the roles in the cast of *Charlotte's Web* but three local

children will appear in the play including Jessica Grove from Upper Arlington, Ben Isler from Westerville and Nel-Morgan Scheiber from Bexley.

Charlotte's Web will be performed at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Nov. 17 and at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 18. All shows will take place in Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St. For tickets and information call the box office at 898-1109 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. ♦

Westerville This Week:
11-12-90

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'Charlotte's Web' woven this weekend

Children's theatre is alive in Westerville this weekend with Otterbein's College Theatre's musical rendition of "Charlotte's Web."

Each year OCT delights children's audiences with a production just for them. On hand will be Wilbur the pig, Templeton the rat, their friend Fern, the Zuckermans, the Arables and, of course, that lovable spider Charlotte, a "true friend and a good writer."

Performances are Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 17 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and Nov. 18 at 1:30 p.m. Call the box office at 898-1109, 1 to 4:30 p.m. for ticket information.



Hear &
There
DEBI LEAKE
882-0626

to believe but its time to start thinking along the Santa lines again.

The Westerville YMCA will host its third annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Reservations are required by Dec. 3, just three weeks away.

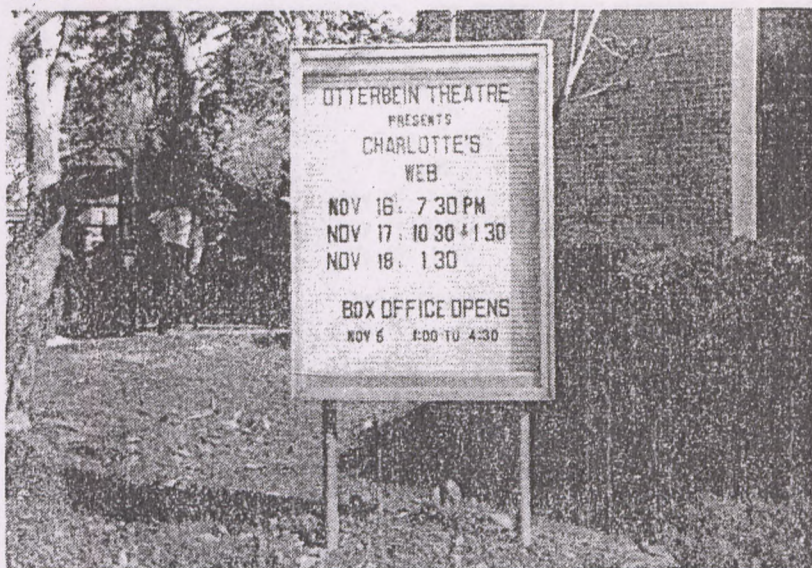
The fee of \$5 per child includes

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Dec - 6, 1990
DEC - 6 - 90

Cardington Third Grade Attends Stage Performance Of "Charlotte's Web"

389



Cardington's third grade children attended a stage performance of E.B.White's "Charlotte's Web", on November 14. The Otterbein Theater players did an outstanding job portraying this story. The scenery and costumes were well done. It gave the children a

third way of seeing the story. They had already read the book and seen the movie.

After the performance the children went to a park close to the theater and ate a sack lunch which they had brought with them.



Performing in 'Web'

Otterbein College Theatre, in conjunction with the department of music, presents the childhood classic, *Charlotte's Web*. Area children in the cast are (from left): Nel-Morgan Scheiber of Bexley, Jessica Grove of Upper Arlington and Ben Isler of Westerville. Wilbur the pig is played by Peyton Dixon. The play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday; 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday in Cowan Hall, 30 N. Grove St. For tickets call 898-1109.

INSIDE ACCENT

Editor: Joe Blundo/ 461-5227

ADVICE

On the eve of the 14th Annual Great American Smokeout, Dear Abby says its time to snuff out those cigarettes/**2H**



Ken Chamberlain/ Dispatch

Charlotte's Web is coming to Otterbein College

THE ARTS

Otterbein College Theatre takes a classic children's tale, *Charlotte's Web*, and sets it to music. Michael Grossberg has a preview of the play, which opens Friday at Cowan Hall/**10H**

COMING THURSDAY

Working at home may sound delightful, but it also has its disadvantages.

Worthington This Week

Nov 12, 1990

White's Webbing

Another fairy tale come to life this weekend as the Otterbien Theatre and Music Departments combine to present *Charlotte's Web*. This is E.B. White's classic tale of the pig and the spider. The play will be performed Nov. 16 - 18 in Cowan Hall. Call 898-1109

from 1 to 4:30 weekdays for tickets and times.