
OTTERBEIN
COLLEGE

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GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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 axe 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 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*.

Her recent directing credits include *The Folk of the Air*, a world premiere musical at Weathervane Playhouse; *Aladdin* at the Palace Theatre; *Canterbury Tales* at Wittenberg

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University; *Dawn of Infinite Dreams*, a world premiere opera and *The Music Man* at Timber Lake Playhouse.

Off Broadway, Hill was assistant to the director for *A Murder of Crows* and last year received a certificate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

She is a board member of the Ohio Theatre Alliance and Otterbein College Theatre Guild. As a side line, Hill writes and directs mystery evenings and weekends for unsuspecting coventioners and hotel guests in Columbus.

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 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. All shows will be held 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.