

LARRY D. CLARK

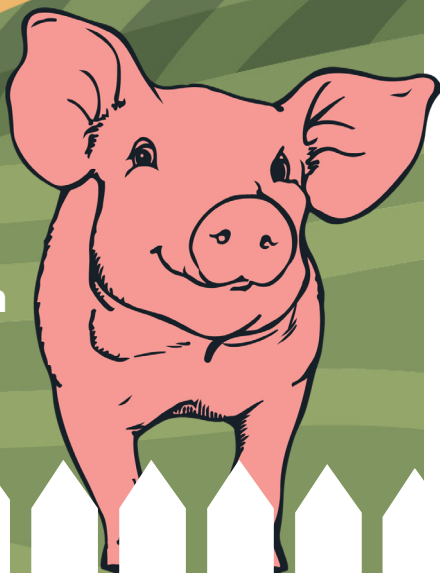
SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS:

Charlotte's Web

Adapted by
Joseph Robinette

Based on the book by E.B. White

Directed by Kasey Lynch
June 12-16
Studio 4



Theatre

University of Missouri

Charlotte's Web

Adapted by
Joseph Robinette
Based on the book by E.B. White



DIRECTOR
Kasey Lynch

DRAMATURG
STAGE MANAGER
Tricia Carver-Horner

COSTUME DESIGNER
Marc W. Vital II

SCENIC DESIGN
Mimi Hedges
Zach Alley

LIGHTING DESIGN
Sebastian Kearney

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to Mizzou's Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre. We hope you enjoy the heartwarming tale of *Charlotte's Web*.

Please plan to join us this fall when Mizzou Theatre returns with performances of original works in our Life and Literature Series, *American Girl(s)*, an award-winning play written by Mizzou student Abby Uphoff, and the hilarious *Urinetown, the Musical*.

Thank you for your support of Mizzou Theatre as we work to cultivate our students' talents in design, performance, and writing, and in working for theatre as social justice on the national and global stage. We encourage you to continue support of our program through the Stage Door Fund.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mimi Hedges".

Dr. Mimi Hedges, Chair
MU Department of Theatre

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Salutations!

Friendship, community, sacrifice, and a good old-fashioned sense of humor all help to make the story of *Charlotte's Web* the perfect combination of slops to pour into the troughs of both the young and the young at heart.

As many of you already know, *Charlotte's Web* was a novel before it was a play and since its publication in 1952, has consistently been listed as one of the most influential children's books of all time. As Charlotte might say, it is definitely "Some Book."

Author E.B. White is perhaps best known for his three children's books, *Stuart Little* (1945), *Charlotte's Web* (1952), and *The Trumpet of the Swan* (1970), but he got his start as a journalist, writing for various newspapers and magazines on the East coast. In fact, White's revision of William Strunk Jr.'s writing handbook, *The Element of Style*, is still required reading for all students in the MU School of Journalism. Out of all his publications, *Charlotte's Web* is White's most well-known work, it received critical acclaim at the time of its publication and was voted the best children's book of all time in a 2015 BBC poll. The timeless story of Wilbur, Charlotte, Fern, and their friends has been adapted into an animated film, a live-action film, two different plays, and even a musical.

The show you'll see today is a special touring version of Joseph Robinette's play *Charlotte's Web*, which was specifically created to allow this story to reach as many people and environments as possible. As a company, we are incredibly lucky to be able to pack up and take this play to locations around the community and allow even more audiences to experience the magic you are about to witness.

I'll leave you with my favorite quote from the show, a nugget of wisdom from the title character: "By helping you, perhaps I was lifting up my life a trifle. Heaven knows anyone's life can stand a little of that." Charlotte's words of selfless friendship have inspired all of us to continue caring for each other throughout the rehearsal process and beyond. We hope you enjoy the performance today, and that the story of *Charlotte's Web* lifts you up and opens your heart like it has for all of us here at LDCSRT!

— Tricia Carver-Horner, Dramaturg and Stage Manager

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 55th season of the Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre. We are so deeply grateful for your continued support. Even through all of the pivots and adjustments the last few years have brought us, you have remained supportive and steadfast, and I want to let you know how grateful we are.

As we shift our focus to the amazing production you are about to see, I want you to know that we take theatre for young audiences very seriously! Young minds need to be nourished, and we are thrilled to have the honor to do that with *Charlotte's Web*! The characters, the story, the friendship are all so powerful. This team of people has worked so very hard, and I know that you will be amazed at what they have created. We see love and empathy displayed in so many shapes and forms. Thanks for joining us on the farm!

Enjoy the show!

Dr. Joy Powell, Artistic Director
Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

What does community mean to me? This is the question that has guided my engagement with *Charlotte's Web* over the years. In the summer of 2020, I had the privilege and challenge of directing E.B. White's beloved story for the first time. Through our virtual spaces, we grappled with not only what it meant to come together to create theatre from different parts of the country amidst global pandemics of disease and violence, but what it really meant to invest in the creation of a community that might withstand crisis. It is through *Charlotte's Web* that I better understand what centering collective well-being can look like.

Through watching Charlotte advocate for Wilbur's life by weaving words in her web, even when she is exhausted. Through Wilbur's determination in saving Charlotte's egg sac because he sees how important it is to her. I see it in Fern uplifting Wilbur's inherent value even when the other humans make fun of her. Or when the barn animals band together to shield Charlotte. I also saw it in our rehearsal room when rides were offered to each other after rehearsals. And when more food was quietly added to our community garden so that everyone could feel nourished on a budget through the rehearsal process. I saw it in the kind words shared between cast members and in the exchanging of stories and knowledge during our daily check-ins. I saw it in the way the understudies continually stepped up when other cast members had emergencies. I saw it during the first week of rehearsal when we were attacked by cicadas on our way to get ice cream, and despite our fears, we stayed together so nobody had to brave the walk alone.

We faced adversities far more challenging than cicadas during the rehearsal process, but we made it through because this Charlotte's Web team has forged a community that nourishes, uplifts, and grows together. This is the kind of community that the world needs more of. I am thankful to E.B. White's story for bringing us together in the spirit of community, and I am thankful that you, the audience, are here to celebrate this story and its message with us.

– Kasey Lynch, Director

LARRY D. CLARK SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE CAST

Wilbur	Helen Miller
Charlotte.....	Ryan Deshyla Jordan
Narrator/Gander	Symonne Sparks
Fern/Goose	Lily Ream
Templeton/John Arable/Lurvy	Dani Major
Homer Zuckerman/Sheep/Avery.....	Luca Freccia
Uncle/Reporter (Mr. Carter)	
Spectator #2/Understudy	Cole Nowlin
President/Spectator #1/Understudy	Lewhat Tesfaldet
Mrs. Arable/Baby Spiders/Understudy	Zakiya Nickson

SETTING: The Arable Farm, The Zuckerman Farm, County Fair

INTERMISSION: The show is one hour with no intermission.

LARRY D. CLARK SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE
CREW AND STAFF

Director of Production/Department Chair	Mimi Hedges
Artistic Director of LDCSRT.....	Joy Powell
Assistant Director of Production	Tricia Carver-Horner
Technical Director	Zachary Alley
Assistant Technical Director	Cyan Crockett
Production Stage Manager	Elise Hawley
Lighting Designer/Master Electrician	Vincente Williams
Costume Designer	Marc Vital
Sound Engineer	Eliza Brooks
Props Head	Tricia Carver-Horner
Assistant Stage Manager	Lily Ream
Lead Electrician	Sebastian Kearney
Head Carpenter	Carter Davidson
Scenic Shop Staff	Isabella Sokolova
	Autumn Gavlin, Rolondo Castillo
Costume Shop Staff/Wardrobe.....	Claire Johnson, Malakai Williams
Front of House Director	Jabarbara Jennings
House Managers.....	Jack Kunkel, Primula Stonebraker
Front of House Staff	Josh Boysaw, Md Chunnu, Chris Dzorkpata, Cullan Miller, Tanishka Paol, Andrew Shculte, Elizabeth Senu, Cameron Snow, Emma Weber, Titus Weinzierl
Business Affairs	Pat Garmon

2024-25 MU THEATRE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Richard + Patricia Wallace Endowment for the Arts

Ellison Land, Kasey Lynch, Brandon Riley

Donovan and Peggy Rhynsburger Scholarship

Jeremiah Coleman, Sarah Wiley

Terry Perkins Scholarship for Comedic Acting

Summer Dunkley, Jasmine Butler

Sol Feinstone Technical Theatre Scholarship

Ellie Udderson

John Ross Berneche Acting Scholarship

Dana Alexander

Tom Berenger Acting Scholarship

Luca Freccia

Musical Theatre Scholarship

Andy Romero-Compain, Trey Butler

Richard Hennessey Scholarship

Kennedy Rhodes

George C. Scott Memorial Acting Scholarship

Aaliyah Jones

Dan Springer Memorial Scholarship

Maggie McCormack, Joseph SeEVERS

Jon Hamm Scholarship

Jordan Patton, Charles Knocke

Dr. Marcia Berry Scholarship

Irene Gasarah, Keenan Scott II

Carla Waal Johns Scholarship

Virginia Martinez

Francis Mccurdy Memorial Scholarship

Sebastian Kearney, Talia Gritzmaker

Curators' Scholarships

Dana Alexander	Talia Gritzmaker	Abby Murphy
Matthew Antonacci	Abu Hamza	Jordan Patton
Trey Betler	Aaliyah Jones	Brandon Riley
Jasmine Butler	Sebastian Kearney	Kennedy Rhodes
Jeremiah Coleman	Charles Knoke	Andy Romero-Compain
Angelina Derry	Ellison Land	Keenan Scott II
Summer Dunkley	Kasey Lynch	Joseph SeEVERS
Irene Gasarah	Virginia Martinez	Sara Wiley
Josie Glynn	Andrew Marty	
Bryleigh Griffin	William Morris	

MU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE FACULTY

Kevin Brown, Associate Professor

M. Heather Carver, Professor

David Crespy, Professor

Les Gray, Assistant Professor

Mimi Hedges, Department Chair, Associate Teaching Professor

Chris Oliver, Acting Instructor/Coach

Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor

Claire Syler, Associate Professor

Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor



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Rhynsburger Theatre

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*"The actor is an
athlete of the heart."*

- Antonin Artaud

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