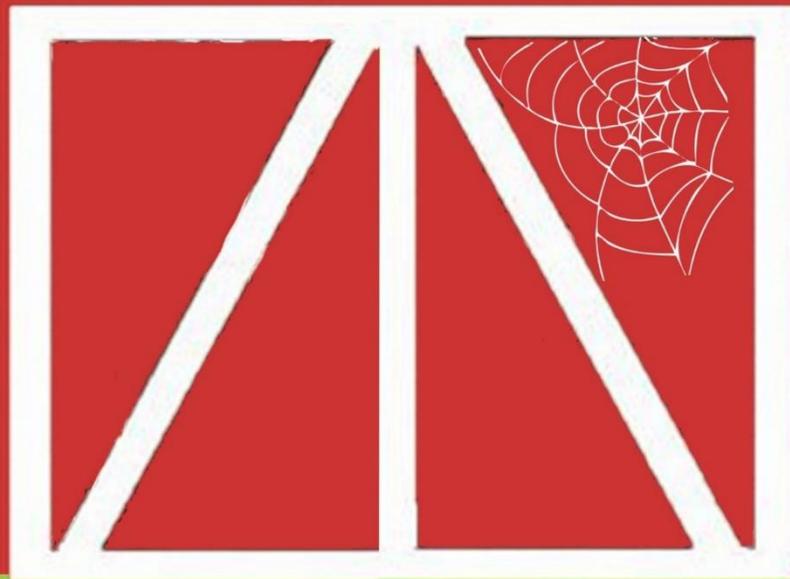


Applause! Cary Youth Theatre 20th ANNIVERSARY SEASON:

Charlotte's Web

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



February 22-24, 2019

Friendship can be found in the most unlikely of places!

PLAY SUMMARY:

On the Arable farm, a litter of pigs is born in the night. Mr. Arable is about to destroy the runt, but his daughter Fern convinces him to let her raise the tiny pig. Fern names her tiny charge Wilbur and he flourishes and grows. Wilbur meets many new friends in the barnyard, including a barn spider named **Charlotte A. Cavatica**. After Wilbur discovers with horror that he is being raised for slaughter, Charlotte decides to weave special words describing Wilbur into her web each night. Wilbur quickly becomes “Zuckerman’s Famous Pig”!

A true and loyal friend, Charlotte continues weaving her “miracle” web until Wilbur wins a special prize at the County Fair and she is sure he’s safe. At the Fair, Charlotte tells Wilbur she is dying – as spiders do in the fall – and cannot return with him to the farm. She has laid some eggs and asks Wilbur to take them back to the farm and look after her children when they hatch in the spring.

With great sadness for his friend Charlotte, Wilbur takes the egg sac home and watches over it all winter. When the eggs hatch, three baby spiders remain to live in Charlotte’s old doorway where they, and many generations of future spiders, keep Wilbur company for many years after.



Charlotte’s name “Charlotte A. Cavatica” is possibly in reference to a species called “Araneus cavaticus”, or barn spider. One of Charlotte’s babies even calls herself “Aranea”.

Activity: Baby Spider Parachutes

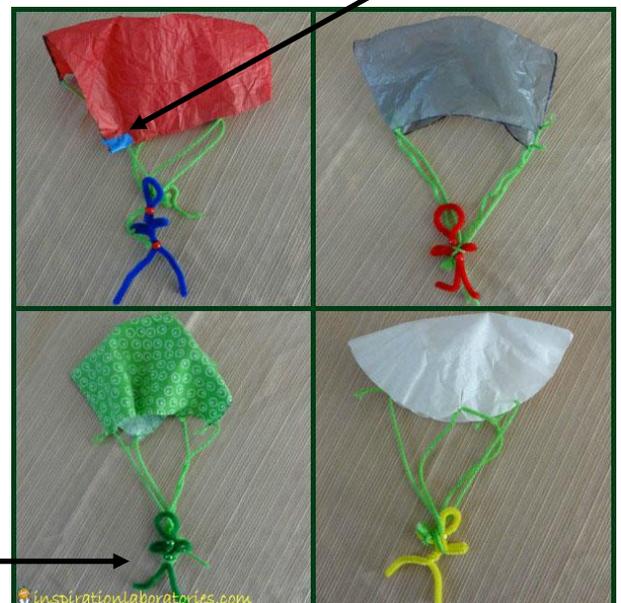
Spiders can lay up to 1000 eggs, which they wrap in their silk to form a ball, or egg sac. After hatching, some baby spiders “balloon” away on tiny silk parachutes.

YOU WILL NEED:

- ❖ Paper napkin, plastic grocery bag, tissue paper, or 8-inch coffee filter
- ❖ Dental floss, string, or yarn
- ❖ Cardboard or pipe cleaner
- ❖ Ruler, scissors, tape

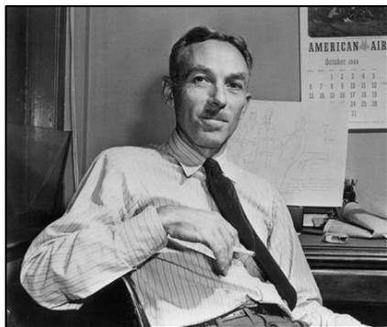
- Cut an 8-inch square out of your parachute material and poke tiny holes in each corner.
- Cut four 8-inch lengths of string and tie one to each hole.
- Make a “baby spider” out of cardboard or pipe cleaner and attach to strings.
- How far can your baby spider fly?

Cover holes with tape if you need more stability.

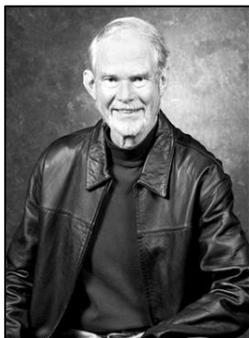


Put your baby spider here!

LITERARY LINK:



E.B. White (1899-1985) was an American writer, well known for his work in *The New Yorker* and as co-author of the English language style guide *The Elements of Style*. In addition, White wrote three books for children: *Stuart Little* (1945), *Charlotte's Web* (1952) and *The Trumpet of the Swan* (1970). White received many awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, **Newbery Medal**, and an honorary Pulitzer Prize. Since its publication, *Charlotte's Web* has sold more than 40 million copies and has been translated into over 20 languages.



Joseph Robinette (1939-) is an award-winning author or co-author of 55 published plays and musicals which have been produced in all 50 states and around the world. Generally a writer of educational and youth-friendly plays, Robinette collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, which is one of the most-produced children's plays in the world.



The John Newbery Medal is a literary award given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to the author of "the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children."

CREATIVE INSPIRATION:

"One day when I was on my way to feed the pig, I began to feel sorry for the pig, because like most pigs, he was doomed... So I started thinking of ways to save a pig's life. I had been watching a big, gray spider at work and was impressed by how clever she was at weaving. Gradually I worked the spider into the story that you know, a story of friendship and salvation on a farm." – E.B. White

Activity: Please Stand Up!

Fern saves Wilbur from death at the start of the story. Tell about a time when you stood up for someone smaller or weaker than yourself.



SALUTATIONS!

“Salutations” is Charlotte’s way of saying “hello”!



The 2018-2019 season is Applause!’s 20th anniversary! To celebrate, we’re bringing back three previous productions that represent major “firsts” for Applause!. *Charlotte’s Web* was Applause!’s first-ever production, presented in 1999 at Cary Academy. Check out some photos from twenty years ago! Recognize anyone?



Mini Activity: The Meaning of Friendship

When Wilbur first meets Charlotte, he wonders if he will ever learn to like someone so different from himself, yet she becomes his best friend.

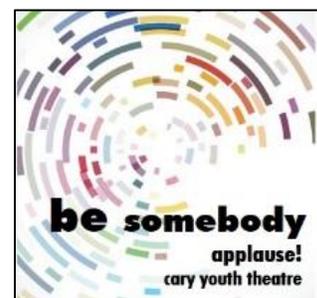
Have you ever changed your opinion of someone once you got to know them better?

“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

REFERENCES:

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LEARN MORE: Search “Applause” at www.townofcary.org.

Charlotte’s Web is produced by special arrangement with
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