

Charlotte's Web

**“Uniformly excellent.
Congratulations,
Theatreworks USA!”**

— Nanciann Cherry, The Blade (Toledo, OH)

Theatreworks USA's production of *Charlotte's Web*, a play by Joseph Robinette with incidental music by Jeffrey Lunden, is based on E.B. White's loving story of the friendship between a pig named Wilbur and a little gray spider named Charlotte.

Wilbur has a problem: how to avoid winding up as pork chops! Charlotte, a fine writer and true friend, hits on a plan to fool Farmer Zuckerman — she will create a “miracle.” Spinning the words “Some Pig” in her web, Charlotte weaves a solution which not only makes Wilbur a prize pig, but ensures his place on the farm forever. This treasured tale, featuring madcap and endearing farm animals, explores bravery, selfless love, and the true meaning of friendship.

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theatre
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JOSEPH ROBINETTE (Playwright) is Professor of Theatre at Rowan University in New Jersey. He holds a B.A. from Carson-Newman College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University. He is the author or co-author of 39 published plays and musicals. In 1976, he received the Charlotte Chorpenning Cup, awarded annually by the Children's Theatre Association of America to "an outstanding writer of children's plays who has received national recognition." Robinette collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*. He has also dramatized *The Paper Chase*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *A Rose for Emily*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Jungle Book*, *Peter Rabbit and his Friends* (based on the life and works of Beatrix Potter), and most recently, *The Littlest Angel* (a musical). His children's plays have been presented by Lincoln Center, The Goodman Theatre, Stage One of Louisville, the Alliance Theatre of Atlanta and the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. A regular contributor to several children's theatre publications, Mr. Robinette is also a founding member of the national organization Opera for Youth, and a member of ASCAP and the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. He has guest-lectured at several universities and has taught playwriting at the Cape Cod Writers' Conference, the Ohio State Writers' Series and the Philadelphia Writers' Workshop.

JEFFREY LUNDEN (Incidental Music) is the composer of *Another Midsummer Night*, proclaimed "the best musical of 1995" by USA Today. First produced at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, the show opened the American Music Theatre Festival (Philadelphia) in February 1997. He and partner Art Perlman (book writer/lyricist) are creators of the highly acclaimed musical, *Wings* (Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Work/Adaptation and the 1994 Lucille Lortel Award). Lunden and Perlman received the Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Foundation Musical Theatre Award which also provided underwriting for an original cast recording, released in August, 1996 on the RCA label. Other works include *Once On A Summer's Day*, at the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York and San Diego's Theatre in Old Town, and four other musicals for Theatreworks USA: *From Sea to Shining Sea*, *Footprints on the Moon*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *The Little Prince*, as well as incidental music and songs for Theatreworks' *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Treasure Island*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, *The Color of Justice*, and *Oliver Twist*, and the incidental score for *Arcadia* at the Goodman. Mr. Lunden has produced several documentaries on musical theatre for National Public Radio, most recently a centenary tribute to Ira Gershwin with Michael Feinstein and Susan Stamberg.

THEATREWORKS USA is one of America's largest not-for-profit professional theatres for young and family audiences, having brought our plays and musicals to over 80 million people since our inception. Theatreworks USA has the distinction of being the only children's theatre company to have won both a Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Award. Theatreworks is also the recipient of the William M. Dawson Award for Programmatic Excellence, from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. Most recently the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award was presented to Theatreworks for its "artistic vision and commitment to the support and development of theatre artists."



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