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**NEWS RELEASE**

*For immediate release 6/11/07*

*Contact us for photos*



***Get Caught Up In Charlotte's Web!***

***E.B White's Classic to open Childsplay's first season  
in the stunning new Tempe Center for the Arts***

Tempe, AZ -- Childsplay, the nationally renowned theater company for young audiences and families will open its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season in the new Tempe Center for the Arts with one of its most requested and all-time favorite productions, "Charlotte's Web." "Charlotte's Web" is the brilliant stage version of E.B. White's American classic story, one that has delighted young readers and their parents for generations. This will be the first production of Childsplay's new 2007-08 Season, and its first production in the new multi-million dollar theater complex, located on the bank of Tempe Town Lake.

Performances of "Charlotte's Web" are September 15 through October 14 at the Tempe Center for the Arts with Saturday and Sunday shows at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The Target Storybook Preview Performance will be held on Saturday, September 15 at 1 p.m. Tickets for the preview performance are discounted at \$12. Tickets for all other performances are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students, seniors, and children. Tickets will go on sale August 8<sup>th</sup> through the Tempe Center for the Arts Box Office by calling 480-350-2822 or online at [www.childsplayaz.org/tca](http://www.childsplayaz.org/tca).

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## About Charlotte's Web

Meet Wilbur, an endearing piglet in grave danger of ending up as pork chops, and Charlotte, the wise and winsome spider who becomes his true friend. Templeton the rat, the Goose and the Sheep make up his other neighbors who together explore friendship, loyalty, ingenuity and the cycle of life in the barnyard and beyond. "Charlotte's Web" will be directed by Childsplay Artistic Director and Founder David Saar and features Debra K. Stevens as the ingenious spider and D. Scott Withers as Wilbur the pig. This stunning production has been conceived by an inspired design team including Seattle costume designer Kathy Hunt along with acclaimed scenic designer, Robert Klingelhoef, who is the Resident Designer for the Fulton Opera House in Pennsylvania. This production is best suited for families with children ages four and older.

### Synopsis

Wilbur is the runt of the litter who finds a best friend and champion in Fern, the farmer's daughter. And when Wilbur is sent to live at another farm, he is heartbroken. However, he soon meets new barnyard friends, including the wise and caring Charlotte the spider. Life becomes full of hopeful possibilities until Wilbur finds out that he is in danger of becoming dinner on the farm. The resourceful Charlotte makes it her mission to save Wilbur from this fate by establishing him as something special or, in other words, "some pig." Together, Charlotte and Wilbur, discover the value of true friendship and the uniqueness of those that touch our lives the most.

### Charlotte's Web

Playwright: Joseph Robinette  
Based on the book by E.B. White  
Original music by Scott Kasbaum  
Director: David Saar  
Scenic Designer: Robert Klingelhoef  
Costume Designer: Catherine Hunt  
Lighting Designer: Rick Paulson  
Sound Designer: Anthony Runfola  
Props Designer: Jim Luther

### Cast

Charlotte: Debra K. Stevens  
Fern: Yolanda London  
Avery: Ricardo Araiza  
Edith / Sheep: Kristin Hailstone  
Homer / Uncle: Christopher Mascarelli  
Mother / Goose: Katie McFadzen  
Father / Templeton: Jon Gentry  
Wilbur: D. Scott Withers

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**WHAT:**

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

**LOCATION:**

Tempe Center for the Arts  
700 West Rio Salado Parkway  
Tempe, Arizona 85281  
Box office: 480-350-2822 or online at [www.childsplayaz.org/tca](http://www.childsplayaz.org/tca)

**PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES:**

Saturday, September 15: 1 p.m. (Target Storybook Preview Performance)  
Saturday, September 15: 4 p.m. (Opening)  
Sunday, September 16: 1 and 4 p.m.  
Saturday, September 22: 1 and 4 p.m. (ASL Performance)  
Sunday, September 23: 1 and 4 p.m.  
Saturday, September 29: 1 and 4 p.m.  
Sunday, September 30: 1 and 4 p.m.  
Saturday, October 6: 1 and 4 p.m.  
Sunday, October 7: 1 and 4 p.m.  
Saturday, October 13: 1 and 4 p.m.  
Sunday, October 14: 1 and 4 p.m.

**TICKET INFORMATION:**

Tickets for Charlotte's Web go on sale August 8 through Tempe Center for the Arts Box office at 480-350-2822 or online at [www.childsplayaz.org/tca](http://www.childsplayaz.org/tca)

Target Storybook Preview Performance (September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM): \$12

All other performances:       \$25 Adults  
  \$20 Children, Students & Seniors

Play pass packages for 6 or more tickets are on sale now and can be used for any performance during the 2007/08 Season. Call Childsplay at 480-350-8101 or [www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org)

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Childsplay, Inc. is a nonprofit theatre company of professional, adult artists who perform for and teach young audiences and their families. The mission of Childsplay is "to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood which are keys to the future." For information on Childsplay performances, classes or educational presentations please call 480-350-8101 or visit our website at [www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org).

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