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April/May 2017

Dear Wheelock Family Theatregoers,

Salutations!

We are proud to close our 2016-7 season with the third story of a fiercely determined young protagonist, Fern Arable. Whereas *Akeelah and the Bee* takes place in contemporary Chicago and *Billy Elliot* in northern England in the 1980s, *Charlotte's Web* is set in a farm town in the U.S. in the 1950s. E.B. White's tale is timeless, his message of empathy towards all living things universal. In 1956 (way before many of the audience members were born!), he wrote Fern to say "This is the most terrible case of injustice I ever heard of."

In WFT's fourth staging of this classic, directors James P. Byrne and Emily Ranii continue WFT's tradition of telling stories that resonate with all generations; non-traditional, colorful casting; and featuring young people performing alongside professional actors, but give it a new spin by incorporating aerial silk choreography. We hope that in watching this production you will be transported to a quieter place and time and that when you leave, you will have been transformed by the magic of live theatre.

We are delighted to announce that our upcoming season will include a mixture of reality and fantasy, tales set in the past and in the here and now, stories that meld the human and animal world, three productions that celebrate the love and warmth of family. Please join us for:

In the Heights • October 27 – November 19, 2017

Disney's Beauty and the Beast • February 2 – March 4, 2018

Stuart Little • April 13 – May 13, 2018

Some season!

Linda Chin, Producing Artistic Director

and the staff of WFT: Jamie Aznive, Kay Arden Elliott, Matthew Lazure, Peyton Pugmire, Maryanne Serignese, Nick Vargas, James Williston, Craig A. Zemsky



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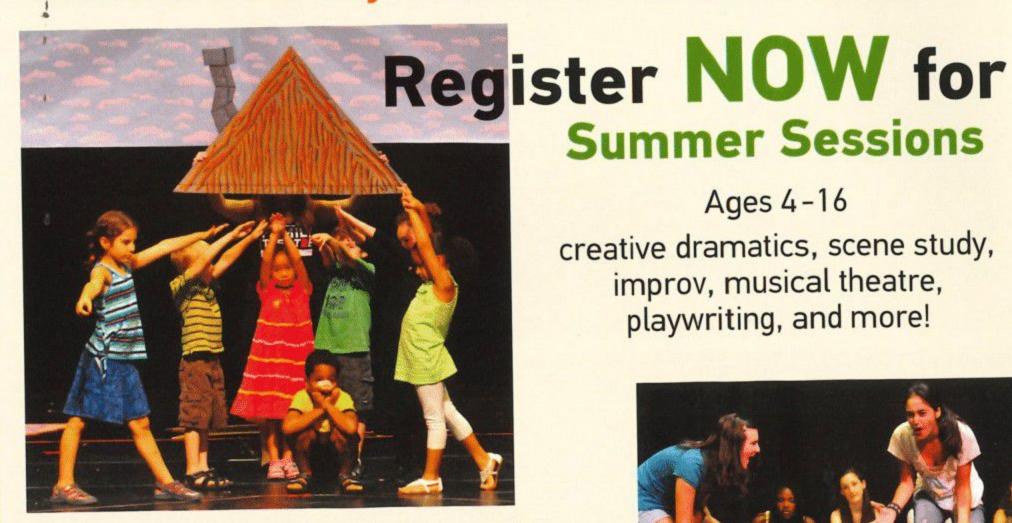
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to their learning. Studio and performing arts and music are integrated across the curriculum.

Wheelock Family Theatre Advisory Board

WFT's Advisory Board is a group of dedicated individuals from broad and diverse segments of the community who provide support and expertise to WFT's staff and artists on an ongoing basis. We are grateful for their insights and their enthusiasm.

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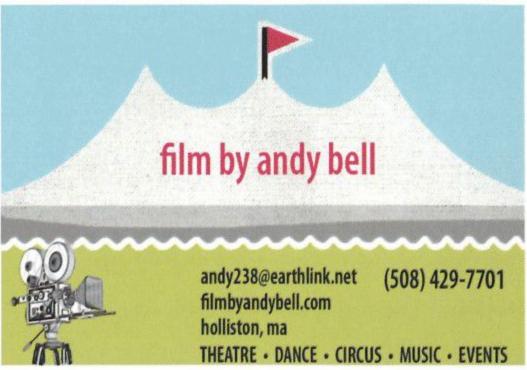
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Charlotte's Web

a full-length play adapted from the book by E.B. White by Joseph Robinette

DIRECTORS James P. Byrne & Emily Ranii

SET DESIGNER James P. Byrne

LIGHTING DESIGNER Franklin Meissner, Jr.

COSTUME DESIGNER Zoë Sundra

PROPS DESIGNER Matthew T. Lazure

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Katie Scarlett*

SOUND DESIGNER Josh Northcutt

AERIAL CHOREOGRAPHER T. Lawrence-Simon

AUDIO DESCRIBERS Cori Couture & Ruth Celia Kahn

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DJ Piper

Wilbur

Michael Hisamoto

Tempelton

Margaret Ann Brady*

Charlotte

Caroline Lawton*

Goose

Shana Dirik*

Gander

John Manning, Jr.

Sheep

Gamalia Pharms*

Lamb

Julia Paolino

Announcer

Robert Saoud*

Uncle

Brian Savage

YOUTH ENSEMBLE: Phoebe Anthony, Will Bourne, Jahnna Boyd, Cecilia Cipullo, Dani Coyle, Franz Criscione, Jackson Daly, Gabriela Ettinger, Mia Giatrelis, Katherine Gustafson, Elfe Hughes, Michael Karezin, Alan Kuang, Anabel Moda, Lily Ramras, Jason Saperstone, Jacqueline Scholl, Josh Sussman, Tony Weissinger, Arthur Wheelock-Wood, Carly Williams

BABY SPIDERS: Hannah Ahn, Ruby Anderson, Audrey Buller, Ekin Cakim, Henry Celli, Oliver Celli, Alicia Choi-Harris, Ben Choi-Harris, Anna Contu-James, Jonah Cramer, Alexa Davidson, Charlotte Davis, Nate Davis, Ezra Devonshire, Wylie Dublin, Maia Ettinger, Kristina Gonzalez del Reigo, Hazel Harmon, Ellie Hoglund, Tessa Hoglund, Lâle Johnson, Roman Karezin, Anthony Lee, Eila Marino-Brown, Eila Murray, Inaya Nasser, Xion Pitts, Max Shertenlieb, Minna Sweitzer-Shalit, Katherine Amy Tong, Sienna Tow, Deni Valdez, Sean Verre, Gwenyth Wheeler, Brandon Williams-Green, Ezra Zemsky

UNDERSTUDIES: John Manning, Jr. (John Arable, Homer Zuckerman, Announcer), Julia Paolino (Charlotte, Edith Zuckerman, Tempelton), DJ Piper (Wilbur), Josh Sussman (Lurvy), Tony Weissinger (Avery), Sierra White (Goose, Sheep), Carly Williams (Fern)

The taking of photographs and use of video or audio recording devices is strictly forbidden. Please turn off all electronic devices. Please, no eating or drinking in the theatre.

> There will be one 15-minute intermission between the acts. Ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices.

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois Wheelock Family Theatre is a member of ArtsBoston; Cultural Access New England (CANE); MASSCreative; and StageSource, the Alliance of Theatre Artists and Producers.

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Kailey Bennett

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Captioning Jamie Aznive, coordinator

Ruth Celia Kahn, compositor Sheelagh Cook, Evan Kersey,

Elizabeth King, Cong Minh Nguyen,

Ngoc Dung Tran

Sound Operator

Phillip Fernandes

Child Guardian

Maxine Nicole Buretta

Scenic Painters & Carpenters

Robert Dew, Jeff Gardiner, Daniel Stone, Jerry Wheelock

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Electricians

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Ivan Korn, Aurelia Lyman,

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SPECIAL THANKS

Joanne Baez; Charles G. Baldwin; Cipullo Family; Lindsay Clinton; Glenn Cook; Megan Doerr; Sanjeev Joshi; Stephen Reinstein; Residence Inn Boston Back Bay Fenway; Roffi Salon and Day Spa; Frank Romero and members of the Wheelock College Facilities staff; Evelyn Shen; Nancy Viall Shoemaker; Lorie Spencer; Katherine Tong; Rebecca McGee Tuck; Jerry Wheelock; Carol Whitehead; Tom Workman; Ezra and Jodi Leduc Zemsky; Jenya Zhilina

We wish to thank all the people who have joined with us since the program went to press.

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In the Heights • October 27 – November 19, 2017

Disney's Beauty and the Beast • February 2 – March 4, 2018

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The lighting designer of this production is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.





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COUNCIL This program is supported in part by a grant from the

Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture.





Hannah Ahn (Baby Spider) is a 1st grader at Pierce School in Brookline and loves taking classes at WFT.

Ruby Anderson (Baby Spider), a 1st grader at Brookline's Heath School, makes her WFT debut. Thanks to her parents and little sister for cheering her on.

Phoebe Anthony (Youth Ensemble), 11, is honored to return to WFT. Recent roles include Ballet Girl in Billy Elliot (WFT), Snow Child in Carousel (Reagle), Anna in The King and I, Eliza in My Fair Lady, and Joseph in Joseph...Dreamcoat (Newton Youth Players). She has sung with Wellesley Symphony, performed in Artbarn shows, and enjoys reading and swimming. Phoebe thanks WFT for the wonderful opportunity!

Samil Battenfeld (Avery Arable) is thrilled to be appearing in this production. His first acting experience was as a Baby Spider in WFT's 2009 production and this Charlotte is his 7th show at WFT. He most recently appeared in The Velveteen Rabbit at Boston Children's Theatre. A freshman theatre major at Boston Arts Academy, Samil lives in JP with his parents, sisters, and several pets—no pig though.

Kailey Bennett (Assistant Stage Manager) graduated from Bowdoin College in 2014 with a B.A. in Visual Arts and Earth and Oceanographic Sciences. She was a founding member and stage manager of a student-run musical theatre group. In Boston Kailey has worked with many opera companies including Guerilla Opera, Opera Del West, Odyssey Opera, and the North End Music and Performing Arts Center - as Assistant Stage Manager, Stage Manager, Props Master, Producer, and Production Manager. She is currently Production Manager for NEMPAC Opera Project's production of Fidelio. This is her 1st production with WFT.

Will Bourne (Youth Ensemble) is a 5th grader who lives in Newton and loves to act. He has performed in school plays and has been in performances through the LINX theatre program. Will was seen here previously in The Trumpet of the Swan, and he is excited to be part of Charlotte's Web.

Jahnna Boyd (Youth Ensemble), age 9, lives in Boston and, through the METCO program, attends Hadley Elementary School in Swampscott. She is in the 3rd grade and loves theatre, gymnastics, soccer, and science. Jahnna is ELATED to make her debut with WFT. She thanks her mom, dad, sister, grandmother, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends for always encouraging and supporting her!

Margaret Ann Brady (Tempelton) relishes the chance to be a baddie at WFT again, having been a thief in Pippi Longstocking and the Sea Witch in The Little Mermaid. She's appeared at Stoneham, Opera House Arts (Stonington, ME), Lyric Stage, ART, Boston Playwrights', and with Ryan Landry's Gold Dust Orphans. She has written, produced, and performed sketch comedy in Boston and on various festival stages. Margaret Ann currently serves as Creative Manager for The Freedom Trail Foundation's Scholars Program. A proud member of SAG-AFTRA, she serves on the board of StageSource, the New England Alliance of Theatre Artists and Producers.

Audrey Buller (Baby Spider), a 7-year-old from Arlington, is thrilled to be performing in her first-ever WFT production!

James P. Byrne (Director/Set Designer) "grew up" at Harwich Junior Theatre and now produces, teaches, designs, and directs theatre with and for all ages, from Provincetown to Boston, NY to New Orleans to LA. Using drag queens, children, visual artists, and professional actors, Jim has presented works by Shakespeare, L. Frank Baum, Charles Ludlum, Homer, the Dalai Lama, the Hopi, and Ryan Landry and the Gold Dust Orphans. Previous WFT directing credits include The Wizard of Oz, Aladdin, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Winnie-the-Pooh, The Phantom Tollbooth, The Witch of Blackbird Pond, The Tempest, The Hobbit, Stuart Little, and Happy Days.

Ekin Cakim (Baby Spider), a Lexington 7-year-old, loves mermaids, theatre, and ice skating.

Henry Celli (Baby Spider) loves to play Pokémon and is excited to be in his first play with his brother, Oliver.

Oliver Celli (Baby Spider) loves scootering and is delighted to be in his first play with his brother, Henry.

Alicia Choi-Harris (Baby Spider) is excited to make her WFT debut with all her new friends in the cast.

Ben Choi-Harris (Baby Spider) returns to WFT, where he was most recently seen in *Billy Elliot*. Heartfelt thanks to the cast, crew, and entire WFT family.

Cecilia Cipullo (Youth Ensemble), last seen in The Trumpet of the Swan, is thrilled to be returning to WFT. Other credits include Fiddlehead (A Little Princess), José Mateo Ballet Theater (The Nutcracker), the Contemporarily Out of Order Dance Company, Drawin on the Walls (IRNE nom), and Cape Cod Theatre Company (Becky, A Little Princess). Ceci is excited to share this beautiful story. Many thanks to everyone involved and love to her family.

Anna Contu-James (Baby Spider), aged 7, from Brookline, enjoys playing with her friends!

Cori Couture (*Primary Audio Describer*) has described shows for WFT, the Huntington, Open Door Theater, Liars and Believers, and Harvard Business School. At WGBH's Descriptive Video Service, she described movies for home video and many PBS shows. As Education Support Specialist for WFT, Cori helps to make sure that all students have a great experience in our classes. She also creates "social stories" for WFT to help visitors on the autism spectrum prepare for a trip to the theatre.

Dani Coyle (Youth Ensemble) is excited to be making her WFT debut! She has participated in many WFT classes and programs, including the August Musical Theatre Intensive. Recent credits include Artbarn's Fame! and Once on This Island. An 8th grader at Baker School in Brookline, Dani looks forward to performing in Charlotte's Web!

Jonah Cramer (Baby Spider) is a 3rd grader at the Mitchell School in Needham. Thanks to his family for their love and support!

Benjamin Harding Crawford (Avery Arable) is excited for his WFT debut! A Roxbury Latin 8th grader, his favorite credits include Arabian Knights (Vizier/Shahrazad) and The Iliad (Menelaus) at Roxbury Latin and Around the World in 80 Days (Detective Fix) at Stagedoor Manor. Ben enjoys hockey, writing and guitar. Many thanks to his family for their love and support.

Franz Criscione (Youth Ensemble) is a freshman theatre major at Boston Arts Academy, making his WFT debut. He is a film buff, book worm, cyclist, athlete, snowboarder, guitar player, and great friend. At the Pierce School in Brookline, Franz played the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz* and Tony in *West Side Story*. His hair is perfect.

Jackson Daly (Youth Ensemble) is a 6th grader at Lawrence School in Brookline. He is thrilled to return to WFT, where he has previously appeared in Mountain...Moon, The Trumpet of the Swan, and A Year with Frog and Toad. Jackson has also performed at SpeakEasy (Big Fish), Reagle (South Pacific), and Fiddlehead (Show Boat). Thanks to directors, music teacher Stephanie, and family.

Alexa Davidson (Baby Spider), a Cambridge 6-year-old, looks forward to a long career on stage. Thanks for attending the show.

Charlotte Davis (Baby Spider) is in pre-K, loves gymnastics, and is thrilled to be in her first WFT production.

Nate Davis (Baby Spider) is a 2nd grader and avid Harry Potter fan, who is excited to be making his WFT debut.

Ezra Devonshire (Baby Spider), a 2nd grader from Boston, is thrilled to be in his first WFT production!

Shana Dirik (Goose) is thrilled to return to WFT as Goose after being seen here as Miss Andrews in Mary Poppins (IRNE nom). Her recent roles include: Wild Party, Dolores (ArtsImpulse[AI]/IRNE nom); Kimberly Akimbo, Debra (IRNE); Polar Express, Suzy (IRNE nom); The Little Mermaid, Ursula (AI/IRNE nom); Little Princess, Minchen (IRNE nom); Annie, Miss Hannigan; Into the Woods, Witch (NH Theater nom); Full Monty, Jeanette; Xanadu, Melpomone (IRNE nom); Nine, Mama Maddelena; Chicago, Mama Morton; Sunset Boulevard, Norma; Nunsense, Mother Superior; A Little Night Music, Charlotte (IRNE); Sweeney Todd, Mrs. Lovett (IRNE); The King and I, Anna; and Evita, Eva. www.shanadirik.com

Wylie Dublin (Baby Spider) is a Kindergartener at the Hardy School in Arlington. After enjoying many WFT productions from the audience, he is very excited to be on stage for the first time!

Gabriela Ettinger (Youth Ensemble), a 6th grader at Shady Hill School, is thrilled to make her WFT debut. Her credits include Shprintze, Fiddler on the Roof (New Rep); Eva, Caps for Sale (BCT); title role, Annie, and Little Red, Into the Woods (Menotomy); and A Place for Princes (movie, Emerson College Capstone). So much thanks to her wonderful teachers, friends, and family—and to WFT for this amazing opportunity.

Maia Ettinger (Baby Spider), a 6-year-old Kindergartener at Shady Hill School, loves to sing and act – and she is very excited to be in Charlotte's Web.

Mia Giatrelis (Youth Ensemble) is so excited to be cast in her second WFT production! Other credits include A Year with Frog and Toad (Season), Alice in Wonderland (title role), and Cinderella (Fairy Godmother). Mia is very appreciative of the wonderful cast, crew, and production team. She is grateful to Danny Bolton for all his support. Mia thanks her supportive parents, Maria and Todd, and her amazing sister, Julia.

Kristina Gonzalez del Riego (Baby Spider) just turned 7 and loves playing piano, dancing, and learning about science and outer space.

Katherine Gustafson (Youth Ensemble) is thrilled to be back on the main stage at WFT. She literally grew up here, beginning with classes when she was 5 years old, and she had a blast last summer as part of WFT's Story Troupers. Credit here include Charlotte's Web, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, The Wizard of Oz, and Oliver! Katie is involved in arts and music in her hometown and attends Granite State Arts Academy. Thanks to all of her WFT directors, teachers, and friends for instilling in her a love of the arts and giving her the confidence to try new experiences.

Hazel Harmon (Baby Spider), age 5, attends the Park School and is thrilled to be making her acting debut. She is most excited for her little brother, Hugh, to see her perform.

Michael Hisamoto (Wilbur) makes his WFT debut! Most recently, he appeared as Kevin in Stage Kiss (Lyric Stage). Last fall, he assisted director Moritz von Stuelpnagel on Tiger Style! (Huntington), and the previous summer was an undergraduate playwriting resident at the Kennedy Center. Favorite credits include: DHH in Yellow Face (The Office of War Information) and H in Fast Company (Lyric Stage). Michael is currently working on a new audio drama series titled The Ordinary Epic, in which he plays Daniel. Endless love to B, his friends, and his family for their support. michaelhisamoto.com

Ellie Hoglund (Baby Spider) is 8 years old and from South Natick. She thanks her Mom, Dad, Drew (brother), Tessa (sister), and Livvy (baby sister).

Tessa Hoglund (Baby Spider), a South Natick 5-year-old, is excited to be making her WFT and theatre debut!

Elfe Hughes (Youth Ensemble) is happy to be making her stage debut with WFT. She is a 4th grader at the Mendell Elementary School in Boston, where her favorite subject is math. She is on the swim team, loves ice skating in the winter, and is learning how to knit.

Lâle Johnson (Baby Spider), whose name means "tulip" in Turkish, is a Year 1 student at the British International School of Boston.

Ruth Celia Kahn (Audio Describer) is thrilled to be audio describing the sets, costumes, and characters for WFT audience members who are blind or visually impaired, and to be formatting the captions for hard-of-hearing audience members. She has participated personally and professionally in the disability community for more than 30 years. Since receiving her master's degree in Expressive Therapies from Lesley University in 2014, Ruth runs music therapy groups at VNA Assisted Living in Somerville. She also pursues her passion for assessing the need for music therapy in New Mexico's Crypto-Judaic community.

Michael Karezin (Youth Ensemble) is very excited to be back at WFT, where he was last seen in The Hobbit. Other credits include school productions at British School of Boston, where he is a 7th grader, and summer performances at French Woods Festival of the Performance Arts Camp. Michael is so grateful to be part of such a talented cast and thanks his teachers, parents, and little brother—especially—for being so supportive.

Roman Karezin (Baby Spider) is a Kindergartener from BISB who loves his teacher Mrs. DiNitto for being so supportive and fun. He is super excited to be in the same show as his brother!

Alan Kuang (Youth Ensemble) is in the 9th grade at the Boston Latin School. This is his WFT main stage debut. He has worked on film productions with professionals of Emerson College (Rather Be Dead) and Northeastern University (Deep Sleep). Alan has also participated in many performances as a breakdancer (crew member of Floor Lords). He thanks his family for always supporting him, no matter what, with unconditional love.

T. Lawrence-Simon (Aerial Choreographer) currently coaches at ESH Circus Arts in Somerville, and is half of the dynamic Tori and T Trapeze (duo trapeze). He has coached internationally, and was voted one of the top Aerial Hoop instructors in the country. U.S. Aerial Championship Finalist in 2015, he was Head Aerial Coach at Circus Smirkus for 7 years. He is thrilled to come join the WFT team, and immensely proud of the incredible work.

Caroline Lawton (Charlotte) is happy to return to WFT, where she was last seen in The Trumpet of the Swan. International credits include Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune (Chipping Norton Theatre), A Woman of No Importance (Clandon Park), and Private Thoughts in Public Spaces (CASA Festival). US theatre credits include Oceanside (Merrimack Rep), Reconsidering Hanna(h) (Boston Playwrights'), The Taming of the Shrew (Commonwealth Shakespeare), Underpants (Lyric Stage), Arcadia and Comedy of Errors (Publick), An American Daughter (SpeakEasy), and Shear Madness (Charles Playhouse). Many thanks to T. Lawrence-Simon and the entire crew at ESH Circus Arts—you are magic!

Matthew T. Lazure (Set Designer) has designed sets for New Rep (Blackberry Winter, The Little Prince); Stoneham; Gloucester Stage; KidStage; and the Gold Dust Orphans, among others. His designs

for WFT include Billy Elliot the Musical, Shrek the Musical, Alice, Mountain...Moon, Pippi Longstocking, Oliver!, and The Secret Garden (Elliot Norton nom). Matthew's costume designs have been seen on the WFT stage most recently in The Hobbit. A Mass College of Art graduate, he shows his fine art in Boston, Provincetown, and online at matthewlazure.com.

Anthony Lee (Baby Spider) is an 8-year-old boy from Brookline who likes math and sports – and loves singing!

Becca A. Lewis (Martha Arable) is over the moon to be in her first show at WFT! Charlotte's Web had a meaningful impact on her when she was a child, changing the idea of what storytelling could be. Becca is grateful to share that story with you today. Next up is The Women Who Mapped the Stars at Central Square. Ongoing is The Pineapple Project (pineappleproject.org). Just awarded a Live Arts Boston grant for ASL-interpreted performances, this original piece for kids explores gender creativity.

John Manning, Jr. (Gander) is thrilled to be making his debut at WFT. He took many classes during his high school years that inspired him to become an actor. John tours all over New England doing a one-man show about Ben Franklin for Historical Perspectives for Children. Other credits include Entangled (Salem Theater Company); The Battle Not Begun. Munich 1938 (Stage 284); Much Ado About Nothing (CT Rep); and Fiddler on the Roof (Greater Lowell Music Theatre).

Eila Marino-Brown (Baby Spider) is 5 years old, lives in Watertown, and is excited to be in her first WFT production!

Franklin Meissner, Jr. (Lighting Designer) is pleased to return to his favorite Family after designing the lighting for Billy Elliot, Mary Poppins (Norton Award), Oliver!, The Wizard of Oz, The Phantom Tollbooth, and The Secret Garden. He recently designed the lighting for The Snow Queen (IRNE Award) at New Rep, where he has designed 21 other productions, including Sweeney Todd (IRNE Award) and Moby Dick (IRNE Award). Frank's work has been seen at the Lyric Stage, recently receiving an IRNE Award for his design of Sweeney Todd. He also recently designed the World Premiere of Albatross (Norton Award -Outstanding Production) for the Poets' Theatre. His work has been seen Off- and Off-Off Broadway in NYC, at Boston Playwrights' (IRNE Award), Boston Conservatory, Northeastern University, SpeakEasy, Stoneham (IRNE nom), Central Square, NSMT, South Shore Music Circus, Sanders Theatre, various corporate events and colleges around the state, and at 40 Carnegie Hall performances. For more info: www.FranklinMeissner.com. For Abby: who is also "Terrific" and "Radiant."

Anabel Moda (Youth Ensemble) is excited to be returning to WFT, where she was last seen in Billy Elliot (Tina Harmer/Swing). Other recent credits include Snow Child (Carousel), Reagle; Clara (The Nutcracker), Albany Berkshire Ballet; and Jane Banks (Mary Poppins). Offstage credits: Mary Throckmorton in the Bristol Renaissance Faire, WI. Anabel has taken part in choirs with BCT and NSMT, as well as sung the national anthem at events. Thanks to her family for all the support! www.anabelarts.com

Eila Murray (Baby Spider) loves acting and singing, and her favorite food is pizza.

Inaya Nasser (Baby Spider) is a 1st grader at Kingsley Montessori and she loves to read, dance, and act.

Josh Northcutt (Sound Designer) is a freelance sound designer, musician, and producer. He studied Composition and Audio Engineering at Berklee College of Music and cut his teeth at a number of recording studios. Then introduced to theatre sound, Josh has never looked back. His favorite production he's worked on is the rarely performed Funny Girl, starring Shoshana Bean, at North Shore Music Theatre. When not behind the soundboard, Josh can be found playing in multiple bands in the New England area.

Julia Paolino (Lamb, Charlotte, Tempelton u/s) is thrilled to be back at WFT after appearing in Shrek, Hairspray (Norton Award), and It's a Wonderful Life! She is a senior at Wheelock College studying Communications/Media Literacy and Performing Arts with minors in Political Science and Community Arts. Back home in Rhode Island, Julia works as a director and teaching artist with Bishop Hendricken Summer Stage. Special thanks to the wonderful WFT family for another fantastic experience!

Gamalia Pharms (Sheep) is delighted to be part of this amazing cast! She was last seen at WFT in Mary Poppins, feeding the birds! Some of her favorite WFT shows include Hairspray, Beauty and the Beast, The Sound of Music, and The Good Times Are Killing Me. Gamalia has performed in regional theatres up and down the East Coast, and has a BFA from Boston Conservatory of Music. Thanks to the WFT staff and crew! A shout out to MassArt! Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

DJ Piper (*Lurvy*, *Wilbur u/s*) is a senior at Wheelock College studying Special Education and Performing Arts. He is ecstatic to be back on stage after a long hiatus during his studies. Although he has been House Manager here for the past 3 years, this is his WFT acting debut. DJ thanks his parents, Jamie Aznive, Charles Baldwin, and all others working on this production for their support through his final moments at Wheelock!

Xion Pitts (Baby Spider) is a Kindergartner from Boston and this is her WFT debut!

Lily Ramras (Youth Ensemble) is thrilled to be back on stage at WFT! Favorite credits: School of Rock Broadway Promotional Tour, Jane Banks in Mary Poppins, Debbie in Billy Elliot, Susan Waverly in White Christmas, Girl in Witches of Eastwick, Amaryllis in The Music Man, Young Fiona u/s in Shrek, Baby Bird in A Year with Frog and Toad, Belinda Cratchit in A Christmas Carol, Annie (title role), and The Friends of Broadway. Special thanks to WFT, family, friends, and her amazing teachers. www.lilyramras.com

Emily Ranii (Director) is an Assistant Professor of Performing Arts at Wheelock College. She has directed for New Rep (Tongue of a Bird); Playmakers Rep (9 Parts of Desire); Boston University (The Cradle Will Rock, Hydrogen Jukebox, The Old Maid and the Thief); Burning Coal (Heisenberg, Romeo and Juliet, Brigadoon, Much Ado About Nothing, The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer; company member since 2002); and Cornell University (Blood Wedding, The Body Project), among others.

Robert Saoud (Announcer) was last seen here as Edna in Hairspray. This production marks his 16th show at WFT. He appeared in the National Tour of Groucho playing Chico Marx opposite Gabe Kaplan as Groucho. Elsewhere in the Boston area he has worked at the Huntington, Trinity Rep, NSMT, Merrimack Rep, Lyric Stage, SpeakEasy, New Rep, Boston Playwrights', Worcester Foothills, and Overture Productions; he was also in the cast of Boston's longest-running show Shear Madness. Robert has been seen in many commercials and independent films. He is a 2000 Fellow of the Eugene O'Neill Cabaret Symposium and has performed numerous cabarets in New York and Boston. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

Jason Saperstone (Youth Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his WFT debut! His previous credits include Big (Billy) with the Footlight Club, Nine (Little Guido) with Arlington Friends, A Vision (William) with Boston Conservatory, Fame (Jose), and The Music Man (Harold Hill). When Jason is not onstage, he enjoys playing guitar and ukulele. Thanks to his awesome family for all the support!

Brian Savage (Uncle) is making his WFT debut! A native of JP, he was most recently seen as a slave catcher in Hibernian Hall's Top Eye Open and as the Gatekeeper in Puppet Showplace Theater's Midnight Zoo at Franklin Park Zoo. He also appeared as both a slave and a bear in Boston Baroque's Magic Flute. Brian has performed with area theatre companies including Watertown Children's Theatre and Open Theatre Project. Thanks to Zoë for his resplendent suit!

Katie Scarlett (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be making her WFT debut. After graduating from Florida Gulf Coast University, she braved her first winter storms and moved up North. She has since then worked at various New England venues. Katie is the Resident Stage Manager for Harbor Stage. She has also stagemanaged with Boston Playwrights', Poets', NSMT, SpeakEasy, and Theatrezone in Florida.

Jacqueline Scholl (Youth Ensemble), a Wellesley 10th grader, is thrilled to be returning to the WFT stage after previously appearing in Akeelah and the Bee, A Year with Frog and Toad, and Pinocchio. Favorite shows include Godspell ("Day by Day" soloist), Monkey Boogers (Robin), and Seussical (Gertrude). Jackie enjoys dancing, appearing in shows with her high school's acting department, and participating in film projects. She thanks everyone at WFT and dedicates her performance to her family.

Jenna Lea Scott (Edith Zuckerman) is grateful to be at WFT, thanks to Linda, Nick, Jim, Emily, Jane, and Sue. Her credits here include Hairspray, Alice, Anne of Green Gables, The Phantom Tollbooth, Annie, Honk, Seussical, and Peter Pan. Elsewhere, Jenna has been seen in Avenue Q and Dogfight. She trained at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy and through Walnut Street Theatre's Dorothy Haas Acting Apprenticeship. Jenna could not do what she loves without acknowledging her Dad, Betty, Carmichael family, and Joshua for all their love and support.

Max Shertenlieb (Baby Spider) is 6 years old and from Boston. He enjoys making his own movies and creating clothes for his teddy bears – and he loves turtles.

Vincent Ernest Siders (Homer Zuckerman) is an actor, director, producer, and educator. He is the lead teaching instructor for Underground Railway Theater's resident youth acting ensemble, The Ambassadors. He has received two acting awards and two nominations for Best Direction from the Independent Reviewers of New England, the Elliot Norton Award (Best Actor), and Boston Magazine's Best of Boston Award (Best Actor). The Boston Globe referred to Mr. Siders as "...one of Boston's theater treasures." Vincent is founder/artistic director of TYG Productions, home of the Family Beef Feast Fest. Some of his most memorable roles include Shahryar in Arabian Nights (Central Square Theater); Tom in The Glass Menagerie (The Lyric Stage Company of Boston); Uncle Deva in Mr g. (Central Square Theater); Joe Bell in Guided Tour (Hibernian Hall, Roxbury); and Willie in Akeelah and the Bee (WFT). Vincent is delighted to return to WFT and honored to be in the company of its talented cast and crew.

Zoë Sundra (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be designing her first show in Boston at WFT. She worked in the NYC TV and fashion industry for 10 years before returning to the area, where she began her career in costumes. Favorite experiences include TLC's What Not to Wear, The Today Show on NBC, Comedy Central's Inside Amy Schumer, and VH1's Mob Wives. Since 2014, Zoë has also been running the textiles and fashion department for the Cambridge School of Weston's Summer Arts program. Thank you to Linda Chin for giving her this opportunity, Nick Vargas for making life easier, and the incredibly hardworking crew at WFT for inspiration. Gratitude and love to her dad, sister Demia, and Mumsie.

Josh Sussman (Youth Ensemble, Lurvy u/s) is thrilled to be back at WFT, where he was last seen in Oliver! Credits include Far From Heaven (SpeakEasy), A Christmas Carol (Hanover), Bye Bye Birdie, (Reagle), and To Kill a Mockingbird (Roxbury Rep). Josh is so grateful for the mentorship of Nick Vargas, Linda Chin, and the entire company at WFT. Special thanks to Doug Jabara, Keith Greenfield, Take 3 Talent, and RKS Management.

Minna Sweitzer-Shalit (Baby Spider) is a Kindergartener at the Pierce School in Brookline and this is her WFT debut.

Katherine Amy Tong (Baby Spider), from Brookline, thanks her family, friends A, B, C, D, E, I, J, and L, Artbarn, and WFT classes!

Michael Tow (John Arable) and his daughters, Mikayla and Sienna, are thrilled to be back at WFT where they were last seen in Mountain...Moon. He has appeared in the Hollywood TV/films Unfinished Business, RIPD, Royal Pains, Masters of None, Daredevil, and most recently MacGyver on CBS. Selected theatre credits include Warrior Class and Chinglish at Lyric Stage, Wild Swans at ART, and After the Quake at Company One. Thank you Nancy and Alana for your unwavering support.

Mikayla Tow (Fern Arable) is an 11-year-old 5th grader at Newman Elementary. She is ecstatic to be in Charlotte's Web with her dad and sister and back at WFT since Mountain...Moon. Mikayla has been in The Jungle Book at the Huntington Theater, Wizard of Oz, and The King and I at North Shore Music Theater. Mikayla would like to thank her Mom and sister Alana for their support!

Sienna Tow (Baby Spider) is excited to be doing her second play at Wheelock with her dad and sister Mikayla.

Deni Valdez (Baby Spider) is a 6-year-old from Watertown who loves to sing.

Sean Verre (Baby Spider), a Dorchester 6-year-old, is excited to be in his first production (ILYM&D)!

Tony Weissinger (Youth Ensemble, Avery u/s) is thrilled to be back at WFT! His credits include Michael (Billy Elliot, OSTC); Young Mendelssohn (A Midsummer Night's Dream, BSO); A Christmas Carol (Peter, NSMT) (Young Scrooge, Hanover); Bye Bye Birdie (Randolph, Dean College); Hamlet (middle school); Les Misérables (NSMT); The Trumpet of the Swan (WFT); and commercials (Legos, Visa). Tony is a Boy Scout and a member of StageSource. Thanks to all for their support and guidance.

Gwenyth Wheeler (Baby Spider) is 6 years old, from West Medford, and making her professional debut.

Carly Williams (Youth Ensemble, Fern u/s) is honored to be back at WFT, where she was last seen as Young Frog in A Year with Frog and Toad. Other favorite credits include Fiddler on the Roof (New Rep), Billy Elliot (Ocean State), and Les Misérables (NSMT). Carly has also appeared in numerous productions at the Capachione School of Performing Arts. Special thanks to the WFT team and her many teachers and mentors for their guidance and support. Love to Mom, Dad, friends, and family.

Arthur Wheelock-Wood (Youth Ensemble) is thrilled to return to WFT for his 7th production. Recent appearances include Akeelah and the Bee as Chucky; A Year with Frog and Toad as a Season; a Deaf student in A Taste of Sunrise; Da-Fu in Mountain...Moon; an Orphan in Oliver! and a Munchkin in The Wizard of Oz (WFT); Brundibár (Central Square); Kiss Me Kate, Hairspray, Seussical, and Pinocchio (SSST). Arthur now attends Boston Arts Academy as a theatre major.

Brandon Williams-Green (Baby Spider), an 8-year-old from Roxbury, says hello to family and friends!

Ezra Zemsky (Baby Spider) is from East Boston and loves to spend his time singing songs about the solar system.

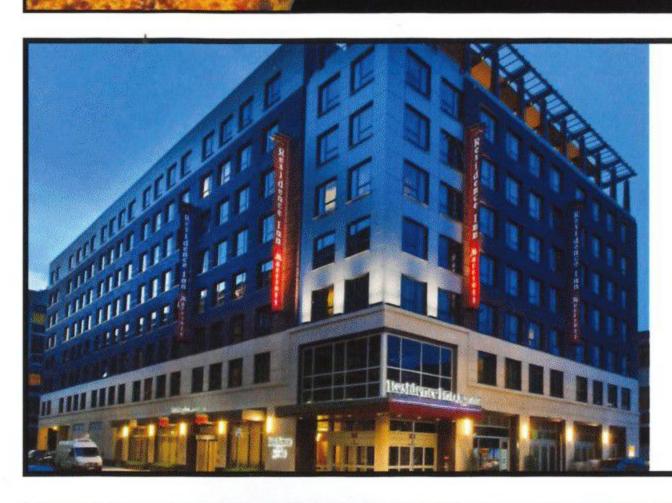


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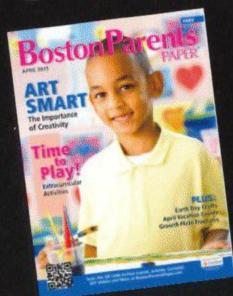


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