

Charlotte's Web

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



April 3 – 26, 2026



69 AD APR 12 & 18

.....
April 2026

A Note From Nick Vargas



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Wheelock Family Theatre's production of *Charlotte's Web*. It is a joy to share this enduring story with you as we gather families, classrooms, and audiences of all ages to experience a tale that has touched generations. *Charlotte's Web* also marks the final production of our 45th anniversary season—a milestone that reminds us how powerful shared storytelling can be in bringing communities together.

Few stories speak as simply and profoundly about friendship, compassion, and the quiet acts of courage that shape our lives. At its heart, *Charlotte's Web* is about noticing one another—about choosing kindness, even in moments when doing so requires sacrifice. Through Wilbur's innocence, Charlotte's wisdom, and Fern's steadfast belief in the extraordinary, the story invites us to see the world with a sense of wonder and empathy.

For many in our audience, this story may be a treasured memory from childhood; for others, it may be a first introduction. That is part of what makes *Charlotte's Web* so timeless. Each generation discovers something new within it: a reminder that friendship can come from unexpected places, that words carry great power, and that even the smallest among us can leave a lasting mark on the world.

At Wheelock Family Theatre, we believe stories like this matter deeply, especially for young people. For 45 years, WFT has created space for children and families to gather, imagine, and see their own experiences reflected in the stories unfolding onstage. Our productions are not only about theatre; they are about nurturing empathy, curiosity, and connection across generations.

This production brings together an extraordinary company of artists, led by Ilyse Robbins, who has approached E.B. White's beloved story with creativity, heart, and imagination. I am grateful for their dedication, and for all those who make this work possible. Most of all, thank you for being here. Your presence keeps this theatre vibrant and ensures that stories like *Charlotte's Web* continue to inspire new audiences for years to come.

With gratitude,

Nick Vargas
Executive Director
Wheelock Family Theatre

ANNOUNCING WHELOCK FAMILY THEATRE'S
2026/2027 SEASON

NOV 14 – DEC 13, 2026
Disney • PIXAR
FINDING NEMO
A 60-MINUTE FAMILY MUSICAL

Book, Music, and Lyrics
by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez

Book Adaptation
by Lindsay Anderson

Music and Orchestrations Adapted and
Arranged by Myrna Conn

Based on the 2003 Disney/Pixar film *Finding Nemo* written
by Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson, David Reynolds and
directed by Andrew Stanton

FEBRUARY 13 – MARCH 7, 2027

WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER

Based on the book by **Tae Keller**
Script by **Katie Hae Leo**

APRIL 17 – MAY 15, 2027

THE HULA-HOOPIN' QUEEN

by Thelma Lynne Godin ~ Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
stage adaptation by
Gloria Bonde Clunie

For more information on next season, visit our website at wheelockfamilytheatre.org

Please ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices.

The taking of photographs and use of video or audio recording devices is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all electronic devices. Please, no eating or drinking in the theatre.

Wheelock Family Theatre is a program of the BU College of Fine Arts, a member of ArtsBoston, MASS Creative, Cultural Access New England (CANE), Theatre for Young Audiences/USA, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council's UP Initiative.



Tickets & Subscriptions	(617)353-3001	WFTtix@bu.edu
Group Sales	(617)353-1451	WFTgroup@bu.edu
Classes	(617)353-2994	WFTed@bu.edu
Casting	(617)353-1783	WFTcast@bu.edu
Contributions	(617)353-3345	BBarclay@bu.edu

Boston University; Fenway Campus, 180 Riverway, Boston, MA 02215

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Book by **E.B. White**

Adapted by **Joseph Robinette**

Directed by **Ilyse Robbins+**

Costume Designer
Sophia Baramidze

Scenic Designer
Shelley Barish

Associate Director
Daniel Begin

Assistant Stage Manager
Liz Diamond*

Stage Manager
Fanni Horváth*

Lighting Designer
Isaak Olson

Composer
Dan Rodriguez

Props Designer
Sarabeth Spector

THE CAST

In alphabetical order by last name

Understudy (Wilbur/Mr. Arable/Mr. Zuckerman)

Stephen Caliskan

Understudy (Fern)

Maria Isabel Espinal Lopez

Mr. Arable, Gander, Judge

Janelle Grace*

Understudy (Avery)

Julian Hirshfield

Mr. Zuckerman, Sheep, Uncle

David Jiles, Jr.*

Fern

Anna (AK) Kovaz

Wilbur

Malik Mitchell*

Avery, Photographer

Gray Oliveira

Understudy (Charlotte/Lurvy/ Mrs. Arable)

Hannah Shihdanian

Mrs. Arable, Goose, Judge

Tader Shipley

Charlotte

Anna Slate

Lurvy, Templeton, Announcer at the Fair

Lisa Tucker *

Goslings/Leader Spiders

Claire Castro, Josie Mishelle Dixon, Richey

Gibbons, Golden Snape, Thomas Tedaldi,

Clare Warren.

Baby Spiders with Lines

Audrey Awad, Meira Belenky, Bennett

Cirasuolo, Skylenis Cruz, Naima FitzGerald,

Zoie Gibbons, Zora Laurent, Charlie

McGovern, Nora Rejman.

Baby Spiders

Chava Belenky, Eloise Doré, Miriam

FitzGerald, Emmett Gibbons, Sloane Viola

Goodnight, Maia Martinez-Kratzig, Ramona

"Momo"McCloskey Feller, Orla McKinnon,

Pippa June Roderick, Sam Weed, Addie

Williams, Chelsea Xu.

Produced by special arrangement with DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, Woodstock, Illinois

SPECIAL THANKS

Neil Gustafson, Brian Masters, Elliott Purcell, Kiran Raza, Adam Smith, Franklin Romero & the Fenway BU Facilities Team, Sanjeev Joshi, BU School of Theatre Scene Shop, College of Fine Arts Staff & Faculty, Erin Markham, Savannah Walther, Demi Dicarlo, Jacob Nail & **to everyone else who've supported WFT since this program went to press.**

Meet the
cast of



Stephen Caliskan



Maria Espinal Lopez



Janelle Grace*



Julian Hirshfield



David Jiles Jr.*



Anna (AK) Kovaz



Malik Mitchell*



Gray Oliveira



Hannah Shihdanian



Tader Shipley



Anna Slate



Lisa Tucker*

*Member of Actor's Equity Association
+Member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society

WHELOCK FAMILY THEATRE

STAFF

Asst. Dir. for Audience Services, ADA Coord.
Dir. of Education & Community Engagement
Asst. Dir. of Ed. & Community Engagement
Technical Director
Associate Dir. of Administrative Operations
Executive Director
Production Manager
Marketing & Communications Manager

Jamie Aznive
Jeri Hammond
Marie Libbin
Ben Lieberman
Deborah Rosenstein
Nick Vargas
Steve Vieira
Bonnie VosWinkel

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Painter
Front of House Manager
Scenic Charge Artist
Assistant Stage Manager
Youth Supervisor
Production Electrician
Audio Engineer / Associate Sound Designer
A2/Deck Electrician
Casting Supervisor
Assistant Scenic Designer
Wardrobe Supervisor

Kate Bell
Molly Bercutt
Maggie Kearnan
laslyn Lewis
Jenn Morris
Nate Morrissey
Bekah Rudinec
Ben Ruigomez
Carolyn Saxon
Keith Smykil
Marissa Wolf

ACCESS TEAM

Open Caption Formatter/Social Story
Director of Artistic Sign Language
Pre-Show Audio Describer
In-Show Audio Describer
Blind Consultant
ASL Interpreters

Alyse Clinton
Takiyah "Taki" Harris
Ruth C. Kahn
Gamalia Pharms
Mikey Rose
Jess Meyer, Ember Spera, Jordan Whitlow

GET READY TO SHINE: YOUR DREAM
HOME DESERVES A STANDING
OVATION!



mgsgruprealstate.com
617-714-4544



At MGS Group Real Estate, we've got our finger on the pulse. With insider access and deep local knowledge, we help you move fast and smart. Our "family office" model connects Boston to the 'burbs with strategic thinking, top-tier service, and a powerhouse team behind every transaction.

Bravo to Wheelock Family Theater and the incredible cast and crew of *Charlotte's Web!*



BOSTON BROOKLINE CAMBRIDGE DOVER NATICK NEEDHAM NEWTON SUDBURY WAYLAND WELLESLEY WESTON

WHEELLOCK FAMILY THEATRE

ADVISORY BOARD

Charles G. Baldwin, Gracie Brakeman, Liveda Johnson, Susan Kosoff, Holly Oh, Myran Parker-Brass, Rudina Seseeri, Whitney Sanford, Maggie Gold Seelig, Jane Staab, Jerry Wheelock, and Harvey Young.

WORK STUDY STUDENTS AND INTERNS

Roberto Colotl Miron, Jeremy Cronenberg, Ayanna Dunlop, Madison Forrest, Annalisa Galluscio, Kristina Hill, Kelly Huang, Jaden Huang, Alexis Hutchings, Jessica Jara, Lauren Kelly, Sophia Keohane, Ethan Lee, Maggie Lim, Jacky Lin, Kathy Mao, Stephanie Mutuku, Merrit O'Keefe, Sophia Piechotta, Beau Rehm, Gabriel Serpa-Escobar, Skylar Sherman, Nicole Toro, Maya van Oberbeeke-Costello, Ella Vogel, Baylee Wheelock, and Chloe Yang.

EDUCATION PROGRAM FACULTY

Lindsay Albert, Esme Allen, Steve Bergman, Maegan Bergeron-Clearwood, Danny Bolton, Alex Brodsky-Benedetti, Alisa Cassola, Colton Chaney, Stephanie Charlton, Alyse Clinton, Laura DeGiacomo, Yasmeen Duncan, Maddie Finkelman, Moe Finnerty, Jon Goldberg, Katie Gustafson, Mary Haddad, Frances Hellums, David Jiles, Jr., Audrey Johnson, Bryan Landgren, Isaac Leaverton, Alex Leondedis, Jen Lewis, Dev Luthra, Rachel Maddox, Saskia Martinez, Isabel Molettieri, Jenn Morris, Eva Murray, Anika Nayak, Jordan Oczkowski, Juanita Pearl, Liana Percoco, Mary ElizaBeth Peters, Brad Reinking, Sophie Rich, Anna Riciutti, Josie Ross, Alana Sackman, Miranda Slingluff, Katya Stanislavskaya, Han Taub, Annabel Wall, Fran Weinberg, Shira Weiss, Jennifer White, Mabel White, Kevin Williams, and Thalia Wolff.



 **bostoncentral**



Sign Up (Free)

Free Weekly Family Events Newsletter

WHO'S WHO

THE CAST

Stephen Caliskan (Understudy Wilbur/Mr. Arable/Mr. Zuckerman) Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: *A Christmas Carol*. Lyric Stage: *Hello, Dolly!* The Firehouse Theater: *Million Dollar Quartet*. The Vineyard Theater (NYC): *Space Laser, in Space!* Film: Apple TV+: CODA. 20th Century Studios: *Ella McCay*. Netflix: *Hubie Halloween*. Stephen won a SAG award for Best Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture, along with his CODA castmates, and was also the regional winner and national finalist at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, where he won a New England Theater Conference Best Monologue award. Instagram: stephencaliskan047, Website: www.stephencaliskan.net

Maria Isabel Espinal Lopez (Understudy, Fern) is 12 years old and was born in the Dominican Republic. She loves singing, dancing, and playing basketball. Maria has performed in several productions, including ensemble roles in *Tarzan the Musical* and *In the Heights* at Lawrence High School, where Tarzan won Overall Best Performance at the METG Awards. She also played Matilda in *Matilda Jr.* and *The Witch in Into the Woods Jr.* at Emily G. Wetherbee Middle School. Maria is excited to be part of *Charlotte's Web* and would like to thank her family, teachers, and friends for their support.

Janelle Grace* (Mr. Arable, Gander, Judge) -she/her- is a St. Louis-born, Boston-based actor, singer, and dancer. She has worked and collaborated with some incredible, award-winning and award-deserving actors and directors. Her favorite credits include *Primary Trust* (SpeakEasy Stage), *Crowns* (Moonbox Productions), the world premiere of *The Grove* (Huntington Theatre Company), the regional premiere of *STEW* (Gloucester Stage Company), and a number of shows at Boston University. Janelle is a firm believer in therapy, MUNA, and the magic of community. Shoutout my dawgs at the crib. @j_gracej

Julian Hirshfield (Understudy, Avery) is thrilled to make his debut at WFT! Based in Franklin, MA, Julian is a sixth grade honors student at Dwight Global Online. He also attends the New England Conservatory for piano and voice, and Franklin School for the Performing Arts for dance, acting, voice,

and troupe. Recent credits include *Ralphie* in *A Christmas Story* (TPAC) and *M.A.R.C.* in *Kablam!* (Usdan). Solo vocal appearances include *Don't Tell Mama*, *THE BLACK BOX*, *Plimpton Shattuck Black Box*. Winner, 2025 MMTA Judged Piano Festival. Julian wants to thank his parents and the wonderful WFT team for their incredible support!

David Jiles Jr* (Mr. Zuckerman, Sheep, Uncle) is a Black Boston-based professional actor, singer, and teaching artist. David is a voice teacher and Assistant Professor at Berklee College of Music and teaches voice at Emerson College. Credits: Commonwealth Shakespeare Company: *A Christmas Carol*. Greater Boston Stage Company: *All is Calm, Miracle on 34th Street, It's a Wonderful Life, Jonah and The Whale, Sweet Charity, The Full Monty, Sunfish*. Wheelock Family Theatre: *The Prom, The SpongeBob Musical, A Wrinkle in Time, The Wizard of Oz, Bud Not Buddy, James and The Giant Peach*. He is a proud member of Actors Equity and Musical Theatre Educators Alliance. Davidjilesjr.com

Anna (AK) Kovaz (Fern/Chorus) is thrilled to be returning to WFT! She recently appeared in WFT's *Annie* (orphan/U/S July). Originally from South Carolina, she discovered her passion for acting while living in Maine. Outside of acting, AK loves drawing, playing piano, and practicing gymnastics. She is deeply grateful to her mom, dad, Stephen, Molly, and her grandparents for their encouragement and support. Other select credits include: *The SpongeBob Musical - Youth Edition* (SpongeBob) at MidCoast Theatre Company, *The Nutcracker* (Polichinelle) with Boston Ballet, and *The Two Claras* with Columbia City Jazz. AK is represented by Bercy Talent.

Malik Mitchell* (Wilbur) is an actor born and raised in Boston Massachusetts. He is excited to be returning to Wheelock Family Theatre after previously being apart of the productions of *In The Heights*, and *Bud, Not Buddy*. Previous credits include: *Sojourners* (Huntington Theatre Company) *Once on this Island*, *Pass Over, Choir Boy* (SpeakEasy Stage Company), *The Bomb-itty of Errors* (Actors Shakespeare Project). Awards include: Thomas Derrah Emerging Artist Award from SpeakEasy Stage in 2019. Malik is also an alumnus of Boston Arts Academy and OriginNation Cultural

Arts Center's professional dance division's senior company NIA Dance Troupe where he now serves as a dance instructor

Gray Oliveira (Avery, Photographer) is a 5th grader in Brookline and is thrilled to be back on the Wheelock stage! Most recently, he was part of the *Annie* ensemble and previously appeared in *Frog & Toad*. His love of performing began at ArtBarn, where he appeared in *My Son Pinocchio*, *Pirates Past Noon*, *How to Eat Like a Child*, and *A Comedy of Errors*. When he's not on stage, Gray can be found reading, playing video games, passionately cheering for the Red Sox and Celtics, or convincing his family that another trip to JP Licks with his bulldogs, Trudie and Ruthie, is absolutely necessary. @CenterStageGray

Hannah Shihdanian (Understudy, Charlotte/Lurvy/ Mrs. Arable) Wheelock Debut! Hannah is a freelance Boston performer, choreographer, and director. She has award-winning choreography and has had the pleasure

of directing and choreographing original pilots for MTI. She is the Founder and Director of HDC, a dance community that creates a safe and inclusive space for women, the LGBTQ+ community, POC, and for anyone who loves moving their body! Anytime she gets to work with Ilyse Robbins or Dan Rodriguez, it's always a "yes!" She's so honored to be a part of this beautiful story that she can share with her three kids. www.hannahsdancecommunity.com IG: @hannahsdancecommunity

Tader Shipley (Mrs. Arable/Goose) is thrilled to return to Wheelock Family Theatre! Wheelock credits: *A Year with Frog and Toad* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Other favorite performances include: *Hello, Dolly!* (Lyric Stage), *All Shook Up* (Reagle Music Theatre), *The Full Monty* (Umbrella Stage Company), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Moonbox Productions), *The Donkey Show* (American Repertory Theatre), & *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* (Emerson Colonial Theatre). When not in the theatre, Tader can be found singing in a duo with her partner in music and life, Maxfield Anderson. All my love to mom, dad, and Max. Website: tadershipley.com / @tadershipley

Anna Slate (Charlotte) -she/her- is overjoyed to be making her Wheelock Family Theater debut! Recent credits: *Leopoldstadt* (Huntington & Shakespeare Theatre Companies), *Cold War Choir Practice*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *By the Queen* (Trinity Repertory), *Indecent*; *Natasha, Pierre*, & *The Great Comet of 1812* (Wilbury Theatre Group), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lanes Coven Theater Co.), *Handle with Care* (North Carolina Stage Company), *A Little Night Music*, *The Fantasticks* (Four Seasons Theatre). Opera credits: *Xerxes* (Berkeley West Edge Opera), *Dido and Aeneas* (Heartbeat Opera), *Alcina* (OperaRox). A bug enthusiast since she was a little kid, Anna wants to thank all the bugs that instilled her appreciation for stillness, wonderment, and respect for all tiny beings. Up Next: Anna will be performing with Plays in Place in Newport, RI's *Loyalty or Liberty: Tales of Revolutionary Newport*. www.annaslate.com

Lisa Tucker* (Lurvy, Templeton, Announcer at the Fair) is pleased to return to Wheelock (previous credits *The Good Times are Killing Me* and *The Jungle Book*). She is a founding member of Beau Jest Moving Theatre, co-creating and appearing in all their shows



WFT Education Classes

Summer 2026

Ready for the next step as a young performer?

1 Week Master Classes

2-3 Week Acting Intensives

Advanced Performance Intensives

Monologues, vocal and movement training, character development, and ensemble collaboration.

(creating the title roles in their award-winning *Krazy Kat* and *The Remarkable Rooming-house of Mme. Le Monde*). Other credits: Theatre Espresso, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Lyric Stage, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Plays in Place, Next Door Theater, Aim Stage, Centastage, Fort Point Theatre Channel, New Century Theatre, Foothills Theatre, Greater Boston Stage, Shear Madness, City Stage, and the Boston Theater Marathon. BFA, Emerson College.

BABY SPIDERS/GOSLINGS

Audrey Awad (Baby Spider w/ Lines) is a 2nd grader from Newtown, she does karate, violin, and loves musical theatre. Credits: Molly understudy (*Annie*). Thanks to Nick and the WFT team, mom, dad, Evan, Noah, Chewie.

Meira Belenky (Baby Spider w/ Lines) -she/her- is a 3rd grader from Brighton. Having put on shows in her living room for years, she is thrilled to be making her stage debut at WFT!

Chava Belenky (Baby Spider) -she/her- is a 2nd grader from Brighton. She is making her Wheelock debut and is particularly excited because *Charlotte's Web* is one of her favorite books!

Claire Castro (Gosling/Leader Spider) -she/her- lives in Charlestown and is a 4th grader at the Eliot School in the North End. She is thrilled to make her WFT debut with her cousin Charlie!

Bennett Cirusuolo (Baby Spider w/ Lines) -he/him- is a third grader from Roslindale, MA, making his WFT debut! A special thanks to his mom for signing him up for auditions.

Skylenis Cruz (Baby Spider w/ Lines) -she/her- Skylenis is a first grader from Boston, MA. She is a member of the Performing Arts Club at her school. This project marks her Wheelock debut.

Josie Mishelle Dixon (Gosling/Leader Spider) -she/her- is a 5th grader from Cambridge who was recently seen in WFT's *Annie* as an Orphan. She loves her family, dolphins, and reading.

Eloise Doré (Baby Spider) -she/her- Eloise is a first grader from Roslindale. She loves to sing and dance and is excited for her WFT debut in *Charlotte's Web*!

Ramona "Momo" McCloskey Feller (Baby Spider) -she/her- is excited to make her debut at Wheelock! She is a 3rd grader who enjoys doing art & spending time with her family. Thanks to my supportive family!

Miriam FitzGerald (Baby Spider) -she/her- is a second grader from Boston, and *Charlotte's Web* is one of her favorite books! She is thrilled to be part of this production, especially with her sister, Naima!

Naima FitzGerald (Baby Spider w/ Lines) -she/her- a ten year old from Boston, is excited to make her WFT debut with her sister, Miriam! Special thanks to all of her family for their love and support!

Emmett Gibbons (Baby Spider) -he/him- 7, is ecstatic to join his brother and sister for the first time at WFT. Emmett loves listening to music, making comic books, wrestling with dad, and snuggling with mom.

Richey Gibbons (Gosling/Leader Spider) -he/him- is thrilled to make his debut at WFT. He loves creating, composing short piano songs and making Lego stop-motion. Credits: *My Son, Pinocchio Jr., Truly Scrumptious, and Winnie the Pooh*.

Zoie Gibbons (Baby Spider w/ Lines) -she/her- age 9, is in love with performing. Having played roles in *My Son Pinocchio, Anastasia Jr., and 101 Dalmatians*, Zoie is honored to make her debut at WFT.

**CHARLOTTE'S WEB
FAMILY CONVERSATION
GUIDE**

Stories stay alive when we talk about them. Use these questions to spark conversations before the show, during intermission, and on the way home.

Scan to access



Sloane Viola Goodnight (*Baby Spider*) -she/her- is a kindergartener at the Curley School. She is always looking for a stage, and is excited for the opportunity to work with WFT.

Zora Laurent (*Baby Spider w/ Lines*) -they/them- Zora is a second grader from Cambridge, MA, making their WFT debut; they love to build, and want to be an actor/architect when they grow up.

Maia Martinez-Kratzig (*Baby Spider*) -she/her- is a spirited Kindergartener from Boston, MA. She loved Wheelock's Summer Camp and is so excited to make her WFT debut alongside her fellow spidey castmates!

Charlie McGovern (*Baby Spider w/ Lines*) -he/him- is a first grader at Sarah Roberts Elementary School in Roslindale making his Wheelock debut! He is thrilled to perform, thanks for the support from his family and school community!

Orla McKinnon (*Baby Spider*) -she/her- is spinning onto the stage for her debut! A natural dreamer with a vivid imagination, she loves creating her own stories. She's thrilled to join the barnyard family!

Nora Rejman (*Baby Spider w/ Lines*) -she/her- is a creative eight-year-old who loves performing onstage. When she isn't singing, dancing, or practicing gymnastics, she's having fun with her friends. She is so happy to be here!

Pippa June Roderick (*Baby Spider*) -she/her- Pippa is a first-grader from Cambridge, MA. She is thrilled to be making her debut with Wheelock Family Theatre. She also loves playing violin and Irish Step Dancing.

Golden Snape (*Gosling/Leader Spider*) -she/her- is an imaginative, realist, third grader who does her homework before she gets home. She loves singing, reading funny stories, wears a special smile and boasts the cutest dimple chin.

Thomas Tedaldi (*Gosling/Leader Spider*) -he/him- is a creative fourth grader who loves acting, playing guitar, and making his friends laugh. He's thrilled to make his Wheelock debut and thanks his family for their support!

Clare Warren (*Gosling/Leader Spider*) -they/them- is a 5th grader at Florida Ruffin Ridley School. They love Wheelock Family Theatre, Artbarn Community Theater, Roblox, listening to Hamilton, swinging at the playground, and *Bob's Burgers*.

Sam Weed (*Baby Spider*) -he/him- is a second grader from Boston, performing with the WFT for the first time. His mom, dad, and big sis are excited about his theatrical debut!

Addie Williams (*Baby Spider*) -she/her- is a first grader from Brighton, MA excited to make her WFT debut! She thanks her Mom, Dad, and Zara for their support!

Chelsea Xu (*Baby Spider*) -she/her- is a Kindergarten student at Milton Academy making her WFT debut in *Charlotte's Web*. Much love to her mom, dad, and her musical theatre-loving big brother.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

SCAN HERE

To see a full list of our donors and to learn more about additional giving opportunities.



Foundation, Government, & Corporate Support

Lucy's Legacy Foundation
Mark Edelman Theater Fund
Mass Cultural Council
MGS Group Real Estate
M&T Charitable Foundation
The Yawkey Foundation

The **M&T** Charitable Foundation

YAWKEY FOUNDATION



CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

Sophia Baramidze (Costume Designer) Lyric Stage Company of Boston: *A Sherlock Carol*. CSC Apprentice Repertory Company: *Measure for Measure*, *Richard II*. College Light Opera Company: *Godspell*, *Knickerbocker Holiday*, *Ruddigore*, *Mary Poppins*. Berkshire Theatre Group: *Billy Budd in the Breadbox*. Sophia has a BFA in Costume Design from Boston University. Website: <https://www.sophiabaramidze.com/>

Shelley Barish (Scenic Designer) -she-her-Favorite designs include: Wheelock Family Theatre: *Matilda*. Lyric Stage: *Art*, *Preludes*, *Trouble in Mind*, *The Wolves*, *Camelot*, *Dear Elizabeth*, *Becky's New Car*, *Murder for Two*. Greater Boston Stage: *Little Women*, *Beehive*, *39 Steps*; Central Square Theatre: *Her Portmanteau*, *Young Nerds of Color (Premier)*, *Pipeline*. Merrimack Repertory Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*. Cortland Repertory Theatre: *The Addams Family*, *Legally Blonde*, *Cards on the Table*, *Last Romance*, *West Side Story*, *Newsies*. Off-Broadway: *Gideon's Knot*, *Mare in the Men's Room*. A Professor at UMASS Lowell, named Nancy L. Donahue Endowed Professor in the Arts. With an M.F.A from Michigan State University. shelleybarish.com


Daniel Begin (Associate Director) -he/him- director, educator, and arts administrator whose theatrical philosophy is good theater makes good people. A Wheelock returner, with a B.A. from Emerson College and an M.Ed. from Merrimack College. Daniel has worked in artistic, educational, and administrative roles at the American Repertory Theater, The Huntington, and Trinity Repertory Company, cultivating a career that bridges professional theatre-making with dynamic arts education. Serves as Associate Director of Education and Artistic Associate at Greater Boston Stage Company. Directing credits: *The Old Man and the Old Moon* (Rogers Center for the Arts) Associate Director Credits: *Flora & Ulysses* (Wheelock Family Theatre).

Liz Diamond* (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to finally be working with Wheelock Family Theatre on *Charlotte's Web*! They've enjoyed many shows here with Jolie Frazer-Madge and Becca Cottrell, in-between shows of their own. Recent credits include the ASM for *Midwinter Revels 2025*, SM for *Ululations* and

Gurgles of the Invisible with Guerilla Opera, *FLIGHT* at the New England Conservatory, and *The Gospel According to Susan: Confessions of a Transgender Serial Killer* by Jo Michael Rezes.

Takiyah "Taki" Harris (Director of Artistic Sign Language) is an artist, motivator, engaging speaker, and art educator. They have worked at various Broadway theaters (Arts Emerson, Wheelock Family Theater, Citizens Opera House, A.R.T. company) to support American Sign Language interpreters for two years and half. Taki is involved in the community arts in the Boston area, volunteering to work at the museums as ASL tours and provide art workshops. I am grateful to have a fantastic American Sign Language interpreter team to work with Wheelock Family Theatre.

Fanni Horváth* (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back at Wheelock Family Theatre! She is a Boston-area stage manager who previously worked at theaters such as Central Square Theater, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Arts Emerson, Pariah Theatre



Puppet Showplace Theater

Shows, classes, and creativity for the whole family – including teens & grown-ups!

We've got marionettes, shadow puppets, hand puppets, and so much more!



www.puppetshowplace.org

WHO'S WHO – Creative & Production Team

Company, Harvard University's Theater, Dance & Media, Eastern Nazarene College, and South Shore School of Theatre. When not in the theater, you will find her "stage managing" in real life as a Faculty Admin Coordinator at Harvard's Theater, Dance & Media program. She would like to thank her wife, Allison, who is always her biggest supporter!

Ruth C. Kahn (Pre-Show Audio Describer) is passionate about the convergence of arts, equity, inclusion, disability, and accessibility. As an audio describer for more than 20 years, Ruth has been privileged to describe the on-stage action of theater performances live for blind and visually impaired patrons for productions at WFT, Huntington Theatre, ArtsEmerson, Broadway in Boston, Moonbox, Harvard Dance Center, the Boston Dance Alliance, SpeakEasy, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Axis Dance, and The Weston Playhouse in Vermont. During the pandemic, Ruth collaborated with Our Space Our Place and the Tony Williams Dance Studio at a virtual, week-long workshop for blind and visually impaired participants. Ruth is thrilled to be audio describing with Gamalia Pharms at WFT!

Iaslyn Lewis (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be making her WFT debut! Born and raised in Connecticut, she has had a love for theatre since the age of five. Iaslyn will be graduating this May from Boston University with their BFA in Stage Management. BU credits include: *Roméo et Juliette*, *Fefu and Her Friends*, *Corpus Christi*, *The School for Lies*, *Siren Song*, *Cendrillon*, and *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet*. She has previously worked for The Cape Playhouse and The Majestic Theater and will be working at Prague Shakespeare Company this summer. They would like to thank her partner for their everlasting support!

Jess Meyer (ASL Interpreter) -they/them- is thrilled to be on the *Charlotte's Web* interpreting team! Previous interpreting credits: Wheelock Family Theatre (*Leonardo!*, *Prom*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, *SpongeBob*, *Make Way for Ducklings*), Broadway in Boston (*Suffs*, *Kinky Boots*, *Parade*, *Funny Girl*, *Peter Pan*, *Come From Away*), Huntington (*Fun Home*, *Nassim*), Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (*As You Like It*), American Repertory Theatre (*Wonder*, *Two Strangers Carry A Cake Across New York*, *Becoming A Man*), Open

Door Theatre (*Prom*, *SpongeBob*, *Wizard of Oz*), and Seacoast Repertory Theatre (*Parade*). Thank you to Taki, Embury, Jordan, the entire *Charlotte's Web* team!

Jenn Morris (Youth Supervisor) is thrilled to be back at WFT after being the youth supervisor for *Annie* back in December. Previous WFT credits as Props Supervisor include *Bud*, *Not Buddy*, *The Addams Family*, and *Mr. Poppers Penguins* in addition to being a WFT Teaching Artist since the summer of 2023. Jenn has also designed shows previously with The Lyric Stage Co. of Boston, Moonbox Productions, GBSC Winter festival, and the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. When she is not working on a show, she can be found in a dance studio with tap shoes on or at home covered in paint. Shout Out to my husband Rich, for all his love and support.

Isaak Olson (Lighting Designer) is a Boston-based lighting designer, programmer, and technician. Children and adults can see their upcoming work in "*Gem of the Ocean*" with Actor's Shakespeare Project. They received a BFA from Boston University and now work as the Assistant Lighting Director for the Boston Ballet. They have frequently worked with Glimmerglass Opera Festival, Arrow Street Arts, and Midwinter Revels, and they often act as a mentor for young theatre-makers at Northeastern University, Brighter Boston, and Wilmington Public Schools. Their work can be found at isaakolsonlights.com and on Instagram @isaakolsonlights.

Gamalia Pharms (In-Show Audio Describer) -she/her- is a Boston actor/singer who is delighted to be a part of the audio description team for *Charlotte's Web* at Wheelock Family Theater! A proud member of AEA since 1986, she has performed on the East Coast with BFA from the Boston Conservatory of Music. Credits: American Repertory Theatre, Arts Emerson, Huntington Theatre, Wheelock Family Theater (*Little Women*, *the Musical*, *Mary Poppins*, *Hairspray*, or in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*) Singing: Joyful Voices of Inspiration gospel choir, The Colleges of the Fenway Jazz Band, and has recorded and performed live with WBUR's Circle Round podcast!

Ilyse Robbins+ (Director) is so happy to be playing at WFT once again. Ilyse last directed and choreographed *Mr. Popper's Penguins* at

*Member of Actor's Equity Association
+Member of Stage Directors & Choreographers Society

.....

WFT, performed here for years in productions ranging from *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* to *Once Upon a Mattress* among many others. She was a teacher for the esteemed summer programs with WFT as well as having taught for Wheelock College. Recent directing: *Tick, Tick...BOOM!* (Umbrella Stage), *A Sherlock Carol* (Lyric Stage), and *Barefoot in the Park* (Barnstormers). Choreography includes *Hello, Dolly!* (Lyric Stage). Recent Credits: *The Drowsy Chaperone* as Gangster #2 (Lyric Stage), *White Rabbit*, *Red Rabbit* (Umbrella Stage), and *Peter and the Wolf* as the Storyteller for the Boston Symphony Youth Orchestra. She holds a BS in Communication/Theater from Northwestern, theater certification from BADA and an Ed.M. from Harvard. Ilyse is a proud Member of SDC. She is a multiple Elliot Norton Award winner for direction and choreography. Upcoming projects include *Swept Away* (SpeakEasy) and *She Loves Me* (Barnstormers). Many thanks to Nick, Steve, Ben, Carolyn, the WFT team, and especially Daniel. Love to Glen and the kids. www.ilyserobbins.com

Dan Rodriguez (Composer) is happy to return to Wheelock in a new capacity as the composer for *Charlotte's Web*! Previous WFT credits include *Mr. Popper's Penguins* and *In The Heights*. Other recent credits include Huntington Theatre: *The Hills of California*, *The Band's Visit*, *Sunday in the Park with George*. Lyric Stage Company: *Penelope*, *Hello Dolly*, *Urinetown*. Reagle Music Theater: *Evita*, *Oklahoma!*, *Pippin*. NSMT: *Kinky Boots*, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Front Porch: *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Dan is also an accomplished pianist and conductor, and has worked at the Boston Conservatory, Emerson, Brandeis and Tufts. His work has earned him two Elliot Norton awards for Best Music Direction.

Mikey Rose (Blind Consultant) -they/them- is a Black/queer low-vision audio describer and blind user expert. They have a background in the performing arts and a bachelors in social work. Over the past year, Mikey has been rediscovering their love of theater through a new lens - pair passion with expertise. Mx. Rose has worked production companies across the city of Boston and beyond working on show including - *"A Christmas Carol"*, *"Ain't No Mo'"* and *"Prom"*. Mikey is steady building a vast portfolio of work.

Sarabeth Spector (Props Designer) is a scenic and props designer based in Medford, MA. Credits include: *Annie* (Props Designer, Wheelock Family Theater); *The Spitfire Grill* (Assistant Scenic Designer, The Umbrella); *I Love XXX* (Props Designer, Emerson Stage); *Where We Belong* (Props Designer, The Umbrella); *A Christmas Carol* (Props Designer, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); *Holy Chicken Sandwich* (Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *Mermaid Hour* (Assistant Scenic Designer, Props Designer; Moonbox Productions); *Cost of Living* (Props Designer, SPEAKEASY STAGE); *Legally Blonde* (Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *Honeyhole* (Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *Jado Jihad* (Props Designer, Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *For The Fish* (Associate Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *NIGHTTOWN* (Scenic Designer, Lowell House Opera); *Baltimore* (Scenic Designer, Emerson Stage) sarabethspector.com

Ember Spera (ASL Interpreter) -he/they- is thrilled to join *Charlotte's Web*, marking their fourth collaboration with the esteemed Wheelock Family Theatre! Credits: *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Ember's debut theatre interpretation was *The Heart Sellers* at the Huntington Theatre. A Massachusetts native, CODA, and full-time staff interpreter at a mental health non-profit agency. Ember holds a BA from UMass Amherst. They earned their American Sign Language Interpreting Certificate from Northern Essex in May 2023. Special thanks to Takiyah, Jordan, and Jess, and the *Charlotte's Web* team, Trav, Clover, and Amira for their constant love and support.

Jordan Whitlow (ASL Interpreter) -they/ them- is thrilled to be joining this incredible team for *Charlotte's Web*. They are excited to be back at Wheelock after interpreting *Annie*, *Leonardo!*, *The Prom*, and *The Spongebob Musical*. Their other theatre interpreting credits include Broadway in Boston (*Kinky Boots*, *Back to the Future*, *Peter Pan*, *Mamma Mia*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Beetlejuice*, *Hairspray*), the Huntington (*Prayer for the French Republic*, *Witch*), Plays in Place (*Revolution's Edge*, *Light Under the Dome*), and the A.R.T. (*Gloria: A Life*). Taki, Jess, Ember you guys are the best and I can't wait to tell this story with you all!



THE UMBRELLA
ARTS CENTER

HAIRSPRAY

THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

APR 26 - MAY 17

PREVIEWS: APR 24 & 25

THE TONY-WINNING MUSICAL
PILED BOUFFANT-HIGH WITH
REVOLUTIONARY JOY!



BOOK BY
MARK O'DONNELL &
THOMAS MEEHAN

MUSIC BY
MARC SHAIMAN

LYRICS BY
SCOTT WITTMAN &
MARC SHAIMAN

BASED ON THE NEW LINE
CINEMA FILM, WRITTEN AND
DIRECTED BY JOHN WATERS



GET TIX



POST-SHOW TALKBACKS
APR 30 & MAY 7

DINNERS AVAILABLE
THURSDAYS

KIDCARE AVAILABLE
MAY 3 & MAY 17

GROUPS 10+ GET 10% OFF
STUDENT TIX \$20 EACH

40 STOW ST. CONCORD, MA | THEUMBRELLAARTS.ORG

HAIRSPRAY IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL
ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTISHOWS.ORG







Learn

Actively

Here.

99%

of Meridian graduates get into one of their top 3 college choices

-  Project-based learning giving **5th through 12th graders** the skills to ask and answer their questions about the world
 -  Interdisciplinary courses that inspire creative connection-making and original research
 -  A joyful, diverse, economically accessible community where student ideas and interests matter
 -  Located in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston.
- Join us for an Open House **October 14th (Evening)** or **November 14th (Day)**.

www.meridianacademy.org

