

South Coast Repertory
Theatre for Young Audiences

2014/15 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE

E.B. WHITE'S

**Charlotte's
Web**

ADAPTED BY

JOSEPH ROBINETTE



South Coast Repertory Theatre for Young Audiences

Julianne Argyros Stage • November 7 - 23, 2014

E.B. WHITE'S Charlotte's Web

ADAPTED BY

JOSEPH ROBINETTE

SET DESIGNERS
**NEPHELIE ANDONYADIS
TREVOR NORTON**

COSTUME DESIGNER
SOOJIN LEE

LIGHTING DESIGNER
JEREMY PIVNICK

SOUND DESIGNER
CORINNE CARRILLO

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JACKIE S. HILL

STAGE MANAGER
AURORA DE LUCIA

DIRECTED BY

LAURIE WOOLERY



Corporate Honorary Producer

VISIT SCR ONLINE!
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Be sure to check out our website for the study guide to *Charlotte's Web*, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources.

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The Segerstrom Foundation.

Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Fern/Goose/Spectator LOVELLE LIQUIGAN

Avery/Homer/Gander/
Uncle the Pig. NICHOLAS MONGIARDO-COOPER

Mrs. Arable/Sheep/Edith Zuckerman/
Reporter/Spectator. FRAN DE LEON

Mr. Arable/Templeton/Lurvy/Judge BRAD CULVER

Wilbur LARRY BATES

Charlotte ZILAH MENDOZA

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

For Your Information

NO BABES IN ARMS ALLOWED. Everyone must have a ticket; no children under the age of four for Theatre for Young Audiences performances.

To cause the least disruption, SCR patrons who have not entered the theatre when the performance begins will be asked to watch the monitors in the lobby until an appropriate break in the performance. Latecomers, as well as those who leave the theatre anytime during the performance, may be assisted to alternate seats by the House Manager at an appropriate interval and may take their assigned seats at intermission. SCR accepts no liability for inconvenience.

Special seating arrangements can be made for disabled patrons in advance by calling South Coast Repertory's Ticket Services Department at (714) 708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons, please turn off all electronic devices or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins. If doctors or parents expect calls during a performance, please leave your name and seat number with the House Manager, who can be reached at (714) 708-5500, and press 9 at announcement.

The videotaping or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited.



Charlotte's Web

By E. B. White

From Chapter 1: Before Breakfast

When Mr. Arable returned to the house half an hour later, he carried a carton under his arm. Fern was upstairs changing her sneakers. The kitchen table was set for breakfast, and the room smelled of coffee, bacon, damp plaster, and wood smoke from the stove.

"Put it on her chair!" said Mrs. Arable. Mr. Arable set the carton down at Fern's place. Then he walked to the sink and washed his hands and dried them on the roller towel.

Fern came slowly down the stairs. Her eyes were red from crying. As she approached her chair, the carton wobbled, and there was a scratching noise. Fern looked at her father. Then she lifted the lid of the carton. There, inside, looking up at her, was the newborn pig. It was a white one. The morning light shone through its ears, turning them pink.

"He's yours," said Mr. Arable. "Saved from an untimely death. And may the good Lord forgive me for this foolishness."

Fern couldn't take her eyes off the tiny pig. "Oh," she whispered. "Oh, look at him! He's absolutely perfect."

She closed the carton carefully. First she kissed her father, then she kissed her mother. Then she opened the lid again, lifted the pig out, and held it against her cheek. At this moment her brother Avery came into the room. Avery was ten.

"What's that?" he demanded. "What's Fern got?"

"She's got a guest for breakfast," said Mrs. Arable. "Wash your hands and face, Avery!"

"Let's see it!" said Avery. "You call that miserable thing a pig? That's a fine specimen of a pig — it's no bigger than a white rat."

"Wash up and eat your breakfast, Avery!" said his mother. "The school bus will be along in half an hour."

"Can I have a pig, too, Pop?" asked Avery.

"No, I only distribute pigs to early risers," said Mr. Arable. "Fern was up at daylight, trying to rid the world of injustice. As a result,



she now has a pig. A small one, to be sure, but nevertheless a pig. It just shows what can happen if a person gets out of bed promptly. Let's eat!"

But Fern couldn't eat until her pig had a drink of milk. Mrs. Arable found a baby's nursing bottle and a rubber nipple. She poured warm milk into the bottle, fitted the nipple over the top, and handed it to Fern. "Give him his breakfast!" she said.

A minute later, Fern was seated on the floor in the corner of the kitchen with her infant between her knees, teaching it to suck from the bottle. The pig, although tiny, had a good appetite and caught on quickly.

The school bus honked from the road.

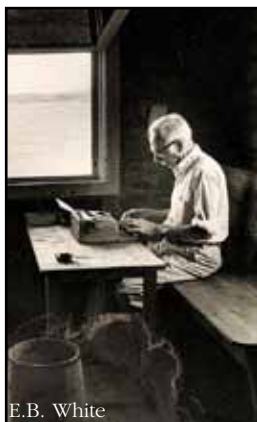
The children ran out to the road and climbed into the bus. Fern took no notice of the others in the bus. She just sat and stared out the window, thinking what a blissful world it was and how lucky she was to have entire charge of a pig. By the time the bus reached school, Fern had named her pet, selecting the most beautiful name she could think of.

"Its name is Wilbur," she whispered to herself.

Bard of the Barnyard

In a famous letter written to kids everywhere, author E.B. White called *Charlotte's Web* a "story of friendship and salvation on a farm." In fact, his book was inspired by a pig and a big grey spider on his own real-life farm. Responding to questions about his stories, he said:

"Are my stories true, you ask? No, they are imaginary tales, containing fantastic characters and events. In real life...a spider doesn't spin words in her web.... But real life is only one kind of life—there is also the life of the imagination. And although my stories are imaginary, I like to think there is some truth in them, too—truth about the way people and animals feel and think and act."



E.B. White

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DRESSER

WIG AND MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF

HOUSE MANAGER



Fun Fact: the heaviest hog in history, Big Bill, weighed 2,552 pounds.

And these folks helped get it ready for you

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Arachno Facts



Fun Fact: Barn spiders take their webs down every day, eat the silk and make another web every night.

When you hear Charlotte introducing herself to Wilbur as “Charlotte A. Cavatica,” you may think that’s just a strange-sounding name made up by the author. Not true! Charlotte is a barn spider, whose official scientific name at the time E.B. White wrote his novel was *Aranea Cavatica*. *Aranea* is the Latin word for “spider’s web” and *cavatica* is an adjective that means “hollow, hole or pit.” So Charlotte’s name tells us that she’s an orb web-weaving spider who lives in shady places such as barns, caves and overhanging cliffs in the northeast part of the United States and Canada. Barn spiders are common residents of the Maine countryside—the location of E.B. White’s farm.

Test Your Spider Arithmetic

1. The first spiders lived on Earth about **300** million years ago, even before the dinosaurs.
2. There are **30,000** different kinds of spiders in the world, and new kinds are still being discovered.
3. Spiders have **2** parts to their body and **8** legs; insects have **3** parts to their body and **6** legs.
4. Hunting spiders such as tarantulas and wolf spiders can live up to **30** years.
5. Web-weaving spiders build **4** basic types of webs.
6. A spider eats **2,000** insects each year.
7. Spiders have **6** spinnerts, or glands which produce silk.
8. There may be as many as **500** spiderlings in each egg sac.



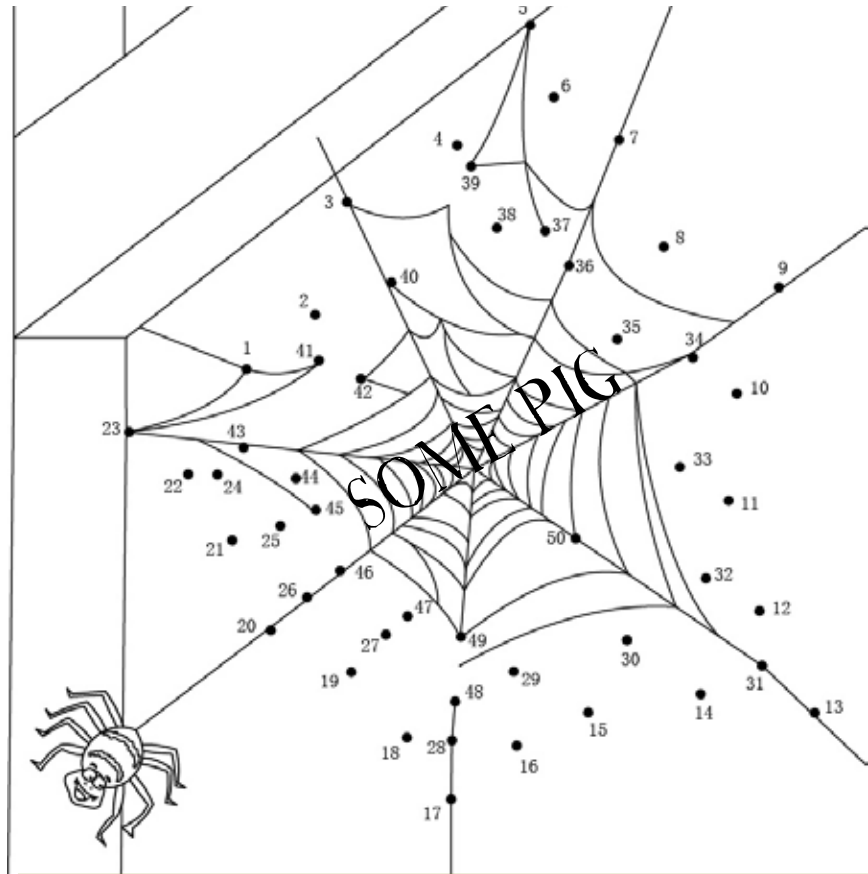
Fun Fact: On average, it takes a spider **60** minutes to spin a web.



Fun Fact: A female jumping spider has **8** eyes.

Making Connections

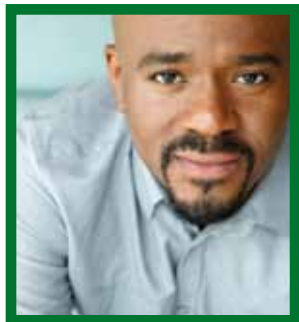
Connect the dots to help Charlotte finish spinning her web.



Charlotte and Wilbur become good friends. Circle the words below that describe your friends.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| awesome | generous | loving |
| brave | gentle | loyal |
| caring | giving | nice |
| cheerful | good listener | sweet |
| considerate | honest | thoughtful |
| forgiving | humorous | trustworthy |
| funny | kind | wonderful |

Who's Who



Larry Bates

Wilbur

Hey guys! I am super excited to be Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web*. I love TYAs. The last ones I did were called *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, one of my favorites, and *Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing*, which was a blast.

Before that, in *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)*, I

got to play a mean ol' giant named the Bloodbottler, and I played Mrs. Gorf in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*. Finally, in another one of my favorites, I was Toby (better known as Power Boy) in *The Only Child*. I also have done some TV here and there, like playing cops on "NYPD Blue," "The Unit" and "Huff;" a real BAD GUY on "Dark Blue;" a Coast Guard member who saves the day on "Numb3rs" and a mortician who gets to be around dead people all day (ugggh) in "Boston Public." And one time, I was placed under a spell by "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch." I haven't been quite right since.

Brad Culver

Mr. Arable/Templeton/ Lurvy/Judge

I have been an actor since I was a much smaller person. In my very first play, Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree*, I ate too much candy backstage and ran around the stage like a monkey. There is no monkey character in *The Giving Tree*. I completely embarrassed my mother. It was during that performance, at the age of 5, that I first fell in love with the stage. Since then, I have acted in movies, TV and a lot of plays. I have done the voices for a few characters on Cartoon Network's "Regular Show." I have performed in places like Croatia, Germany and Scotland. I love to write music and I play bass guitar in a band. I grew up in Pasadena and received my bachelor of fine arts from the California Institute of the Arts.



In the Cast

Fran De Leon

Mrs. Arable/Sheep/Edith Zuckerman/Reporter/Spectator

Like many of you out there I'm California born and raised—from Hollywood, to be exact. One day my mom took me to the movies to see *Jesus Christ Superstar*. I loved it and because I thought the girl who played Mary looked a little like me. I realized that I could make my dream come true and become an actor, too. I love traveling, and I got to see a lot of our country when I toured my one person show *Faces of America*. I mostly traveled to colleges but also to the United Nations Association. I don't travel as much now because I have an 11-year-old son named Kieran, who'd rather have me close by so I can help him with homework and pack his lunch (which is almost always a PB&J sandwich). My husband, Colin, and I run Will & Company, and we do a lot of shows for schools in L.A. and Orange County. I used to do a lot of Shakespeare, but lately I get to act in plays that are brand new and have never been done before. This is my first time working with SCR and I'm really excited to be doing *Charlotte's Web* for you.



Lovelle Liquigan

Fern/Goose/Spectator

Growing up, I was very shy and scared. Even to this day, I don't feel completely comfortable in my skin. The only time I had confidence was playing basketball. Acting was my secret dream; it was another place where I felt free and brave. Sadly, my confidence was ruined when I majored in theatre arts. My courage was reclaimed when I took the advanced actors workshop at SCR with Karen Hensel. The first and last time I performed here was in the ensemble of *Life is a Dream* in 2007; I was also the song captain and understudied the role of Rosaura. Since then, I've been working mostly in the theatre, especially doing Shakespeare. I'm very happy to be back at SCR. I love basketball, Romy Schneider, "I Love Lucy" and



traveling. During the run of this show, I will be celebrating my first wedding anniversary! I love my family. ELYSIUM, Ballyboo.

Zilah Mendoza



Charlotte

I have a great time acting and am so excited to be at SCR doing *Charlotte's Web* for you! I've acted in plays all over the country, portraying people from all over the world. I also have a great time touring with a company called MAPP (Mentor Artists Playwrights Project) whose focus is arts enrichment for youth and developing programs in their communities. I have worked in places like Idaho (Lapwai and Coeur d'Alene), Alaska and

Canada with MAPP! The arts allow me to meet people from different cultures; we share our stories and learn new things from each other. Oh, yeah, and I have done lots of parts on TV, in shows like "The King of Queens," "Modern Family" and "One on One," to name a few. I hope that you like this show.

Nicholas Mongiardo-Cooper

Avery/Homer/Gander/ Uncle the Pig

I'm so excited to be working at South Coast Repertory again! You might have seen me in *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* or looking for cherries as Skuggle the Squirrel in *The Night Fairy*, or when I got to play Spiller in *The Borrowers* and Clem the Coyote in *Lucky Duck*. I played TWO ROLES (Meanie Jim and Grandpa Miller) in *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*. Gosh, that was fun! I've also performed for some other young audiences just like you—like when I played the lead role in *Ferdinand the Bull* at the Lewis Family Playhouse. Before moving to California, I acted a lot in New York City, where I was born. I got to do plays by Shakespeare, like *Julius Caesar*, and a ton of new plays and musicals. I went to New York University for college and the High School of Performing Arts before that. I'm so lucky to have had so many terrific teachers, plus my mom and dad, and everyone here at SCR!



Fun Fact: Geese eat seeds, nuts, grass, plants and berries. They love blueberries.



Artist Bios

Author E. B. White, who wrote such beloved children's classics as *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little* and *The Trumpet of the Swan*, was born in Mount Vernon, New York. He graduated from Cornell University in 1921 and, five or six years later, joined the staff of *The New Yorker* magazine. White authored more than 17 books of prose and poetry and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1973. In addition to writing children's books, White also wrote books for adults, poems and essays, and drew sketches for *The New Yorker* magazine. Some of his other books include *One Man's Meat*, *The Second Tree from the Corner*, *Letters of E. B. White*, *The Essays of E. B. White*, and *Poems and Sketches of E. B. White*. Surprisingly for such a famous writer, he always said that he found writing difficult and bad for his disposition, but he kept at it. White has won countless awards, including the 1971 National Medal for Literature and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, which commended him for making "a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children." He died on Oct. 1, 1985.

Adapter Joseph Robinette is a Tony Award nominee for the libretto of the acclaimed *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. He is the author or co-author of 55 published plays and musicals. His works have been produced at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, Pittsburgh Playhouse, The 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle, the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, the BBC and in all 50 states and 17 foreign countries. Twelve of his works have been translated into foreign languages and another five have been anthologized. Robinette collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and he wrote the musical version with Charles Strouse (*Annie and Bye, Bye, Birdie*). His other dramatizations include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Anne of Green Gables* and *Stuart Little*. He is the recipient of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education's Charlotte B. Chorpennin Cup, the 2004 Distinguished Play Award for *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and the Children's Theatre Foundation of America medallion for his "body of dramatic works for family audiences in the United States and beyond."

Director Laurie Woolery is also a playwright and teacher. She loves a good story. As a girl, her imagination would take her on all kinds of adventures which

got her in trouble at school. She was raised in Orange County and saw her very first professional play at South Coast Repertory. In fact, she took her very first acting class in the SCR Conservatory, where she learned to be an artist. Woolery has directed and written many plays for the conservatory including *The Hundred Dresses*, *Bliss* and *Scouting Reality*. She graduated from UCLA and now works at the Public Theater in New York City creating theatre with communities. She sees lots of “Templetons” on the subway, but is not scared of them thanks to reading *Charlotte’s Web*. She still daydreams and her secret wish is to one day write a series of children’s books. She is the aunt to Cooper and Dean and loves to spend as much time with them as possible.

Set Designer Nephelie Andonyadis has loved the theatre since she was a young girl in Washington, D.C., where she spent her summers in a one-car garage that her neighbor had converted into one of the smallest community theatres ever! Since then, she has studied architecture and stage design in New York and Connecticut, and she moved to California 13 years ago. She loves to make things up and finds that being a designer is always a fresh and surprising job. Her designs for SCR’s Theatre for Young Audiences shows include *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)* and *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. In Los Angeles, she designed costumes for *Lily Plants a Garden* and the set for *3/7/11: A Lincoln Heights Tale*. Andonyadis is a member of Cornerstone Theater Company and a professor of theatre arts at the University of Redlands.

Co-Set Designer Trevor Norton was born into a summer theatre company at Occidental College in his home town of Eagle Rock (Los Angeles). He started working in theatre when, at only 11 years old, his first lighting mentor let him do the fog effects for *Brigadoon*. Playing (working) with dry ice was just too much fun and he was hooked. He has had many wonderful mentors who have helped him through the years—people who treated him like an adult long before he was one. After training to become a pilot in college, he returned to theatre where, after receiving his undergraduate degree from Occidental College and his graduate degree from UC San Diego, he has worked professionally for more than 25 years. Now he teaches design and stage management at the University of Redlands.

Fun Fact: Rats’ tails help them to balance, communicate and regulate their body temperature.



Costume designer Soojin Lee is from the beautiful and colorful country of South Korea. She has enjoyed art since she was a little girl and remembers spending most of her childhood drawing and being inspired to design anything and everything! Following her natural passion, she decided to pursue fine arts and has traveled abroad to study and learn from different cultures. She attended Wimbledon School of the Arts in England and CalArts in the United States and focused her studies in costume design. As a professional costume designer, Lee has worked on many Shakespearean plays, modern plays, musicals films and dances. Now, she is here to help you imagine Charlotte and her friends.

Lighting Designer Jeremy Pivnick is happy to be back with his friends at South Coast Repertory. While he has never had a pet pig, he does have a pet dog named Oliver who helps him with his designs for shows all over the world. Pivnick doesn't really like spiders that much but Charlotte would be a really good friend to have and he would be happy to hang out with her at the County Fair. Thanks to everyone who made this show such fun to work on!

Sound Designer Corinne Carrillo is an Orange County-based sound designer and is very excited to be sound designing the play version of one of her favorite childhood books. She first studied theatre at Cypress College and, thanks to Fred DePontee, she was thrust into the world of sound design. She went on to get her BA at Cal State Fullerton and her MFA at UC Irvine. She has designed *Treasure Island*, *The Giver*, *Pinkalicious*, *Little Women* and the world premiere musical *Looking for Home* for Laguna Playhouse’s Youth Conservatory Theater Program. At SCR, she designed *The Purple Lights of Joppa Illinois*, *The Long Road Today/El Largo Camino de Hoy* and she will be designing *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* in the winter. She is very excited for her nieces and nephews to see this show!

Stage Manager Aurora De Lucia* got her first experience with theatre for young audiences during her senior year in high school when, after three years of hoping, wishing—and a little begging—she was finally cast in the children’s show as Emma (the emote!) in *The Fabulous Fable Factory*. She still loves to emote like crazy. She fell to the floor when she won a car on “The Price is Right.” She smiled with a crinkle in her nose while finishing her first ultramarathon. And she cried a few tears of joy when she got her Equity card over 5 years ago. She wants to thank Bronwynn Hopton for not only casting her in *The Fabulous Fable Factory* many years ago, but also for being a fabulous friend and mentor to this day. You can see her adventures—and facial expressions—at www.AurorasBlog.com



Fun Fact: Pigs constantly communicate with each other. They have a range of different oinks, grunts and squeals which have distinct meanings.

Farm Family Fun

When is a goose not really a goose? When it's a gander or a gosling! Animal mothers, fathers and babies all have different names. Fill in the blanks below with the correct name of each male (left), female (center) and baby (right) farm animal.

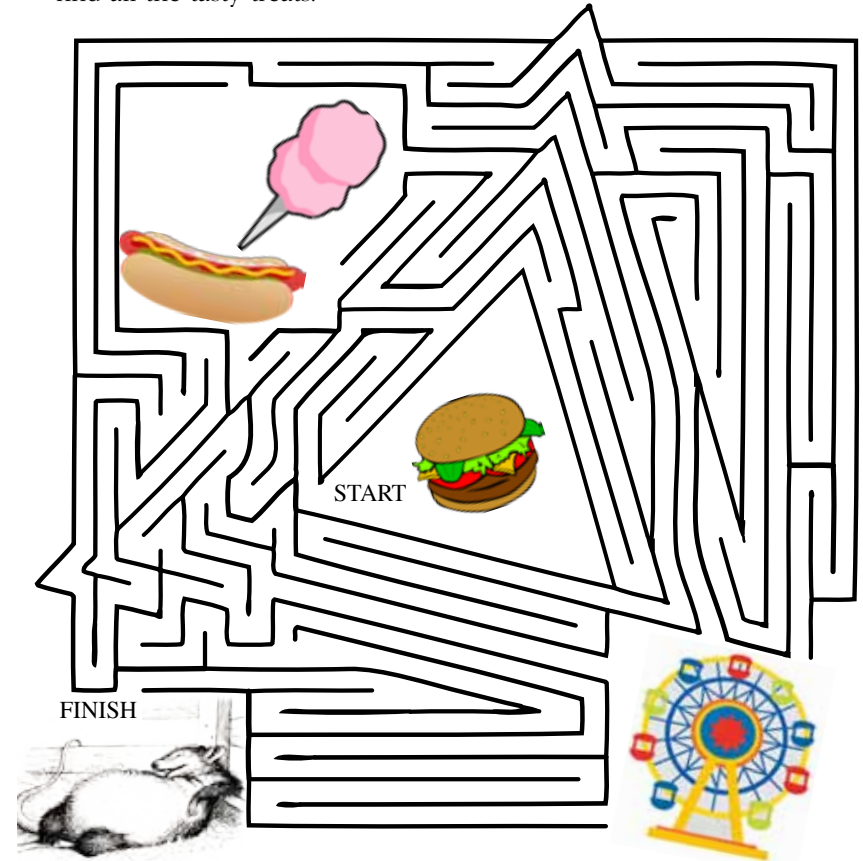
Bull	Sow	Hen	Chick	Stallion	Ram
Drake	Duck	Lamb	Rooster	Mare	Boar
Ewe	Cow	Duckling	Foal	Piglet	Calf

MALE	FEMALE	BABY
		
		
		
		
		

Answer Key: First Row: Ram, Ewe, Lamb; Second Row: Rooster, Hen, Chick; Third Row: Boar, Sow, Piglet; Fourth Row: Bull, Cow, Calf; Fifth Row: Stallion, Mare, Colt

Templeton's Trip to the Fair

Can you help Templeton weave his way through the county fair to find all the tasty treats?



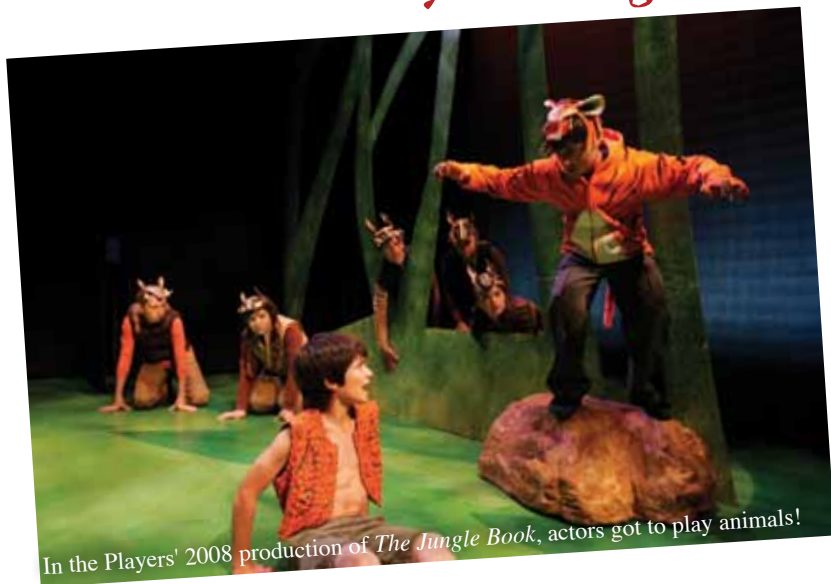
Fun Facts from the OC Fair

The Orange County Fair happens every year in Costa Mesa. The month-long celebration includes games, rides, food and exhibitions of artwork and livestock.

Here are some fun stats from last year's OC Fair:

- More than **1.3 MILLION** people attended the fair.
- **19** piglets were born at the fair in 2014.
- More than **40,000** pounds of vegetable oil were used this year for all those deep fried foods they love to sell and we love to eat!

How to Play a Pig



In the Players' 2008 production of *The Jungle Book*, actors got to play animals!

In *Charlotte's Web*, many of the actors play farm animals, kids and adults. As an actor, you're often asked to observe different types of behavior or use your imagination and pretend to be many different things—from a pirate or a farmer to a piglet or even a spider.

When you're trying to portray something or someone so far away from yourself, there are many things you can think about to help you get into character. How can someone in the audience recognize your character?

Is there a special costume you could wear that will show them? How does a hat change your appearance? What about an eye patch or a pig snout? Is there a certain way this character moves? Does he move slowly or fast? Does she make gestures that are large or very small and contained? Does he crawl on the ground or leap in the air?

Is there a special sound you can make? Is your character's voice high-pitched or low and deep?

You can learn a lot more about acting, including how to act like a pig, in SCR's Theatre Conservatory! Check out the website at scr.org/education or call (714) 708-5577.

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The cast of *A Christmas Carol*. Photos by Henry DiRocco/Jim Cox.

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OZ 2.5
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