

For Immediate Release

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EISEMANN CENTER'S FAMILY THEATRE SERIES OPENS 2009-10 SEASON
WITH "CHARLOTTE'S WEB" SUN., OCT. 4, 2009 at 2:30 PM

RICHARDSON, TX – *Eisemann Center Presents' Family Theatre Series* is a Sunday matinee series for children and families of all ages sponsored by **Friends of the Richardson Library**. The **Family Theatre Series** brings professional touring children's productions to the Eisemann Center and all performances will take place in the Hill Performance Hall.

The series kicks off with Theatreworks USA's production of *Charlotte's Web* on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 2:30 pm. The play is based on E.B. White's loving story of the friendship between a pig named Wilbur and a little gray spider named Charlotte. Wilbur has a problem: how to avoid winding up as pork chops! Charlotte, a fine writer and true friend, hits on a plan to fool Farmer Zuckerman — she will create a "miracle." Spinning the words "Some Pig" in her web, Charlotte weaves a solution which not only makes Wilbur a prize pig, but ensures his place on the farm forever. This treasured tale, featuring mad-cap and endearing farm animals, explores bravery, selfless love, and the true meaning of friendship.

Charlotte's Web is a play by Joseph Robinette based on the Newbery Medal-winning book by E.B. White (*Stuart Little*, *Trumpet of the Swan*). The production is directed by Rob Barron (current Theatreworks USA productions of *Romeo & Juliet*, *Ferdinand the Bull*, *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, among others) and the incidental music score is by Jeffrey Lunden (Winner of the Lortel Award, Rodgers Award, and Jonathan Larson Award, and composer of Theatreworks USA productions of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Little Prince*, *The Great Railroad Race*). The scenic design is by James D. Sandefur, and the costumes are by Anne-Marie Wright. This 60-minute play is recommended for audiences age 5 and up.

Theatreworks USA has a distinguished history of not only providing young audiences with their first taste of the performing arts, but also giving young actors, writers, directors, and designers an early opportunity to work in this field. A list of Theatreworks USA alumni reads like a veritable "who's who" of theatre: four-time Tony-winning director Jerry Zaks, Robert Jess Roth (*Beauty and the Beast*), Michael Mayer (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*); writers Marta Kauffman and David Crane (TV's *Friends*), Lynn Ahrens and Steven Flaherty (*Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*), Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*), Larry O'Keefe (*Bat Boy*), Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx (*Avenue Q*); and Tony-winning actors John Lloyd Young, Roger Bart, Chuck Cooper, and John Glover. Esteemed performers F. Murray Abraham, Henry Winkler, and Judy Kuhn also got their start with Theatreworks, and other actors have gone on to originate lead roles in such Broadway shows as *Avenue Q*, *Hairspray*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Rent*, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, and many others.

Tickets range from \$10-\$20 and are available online at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling **the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972-744-4650**. The Ticket Office is open from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday – Saturday and one hour before performances. Group discounts for 10 or more are available by calling **972-744-4657**.

The Charles W. Eisemann Center is located at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. **The Eisemann Center** is accessible from Highway 75 North taking the Galatyn Parkway/Renner Road exit going north and the Galatyn Parkway/Campbell Road exit going south, or from the DART light rail station at Galatyn Park. **Family Theatre Series** season sponsors include title sponsor **Friends of the Richardson Library**, **Target** and media sponsors *The Dallas Morning News*, *North Texas Kids* and *WFAA-TV*.

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