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For Immediate Release

Experience a “Radiant” Holiday Season with *Charlotte’s Web!*

BETHESDA, MD (October 20, 2017) Imagination Stage’s 2017-2018 Season continues to be “terrific” with *Charlotte’s Web* taking the stage this holiday season under the direction of **Kathryn Chase Bryer**. Based on the beloved classic by **E.B. White**, this adaptation by **Joseph Robinette** takes the tale to new heights with live music and aerial silks. Audiences will be enchanted by the familiar faces of Wilbur, Charlotte, and Fern in this dynamic theatrical setting.

***Charlotte’s Web*, best for ages 5+, runs November 18, 2017-January 7, 2018 in Imagination Stage’s Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Theatre.** Tickets start at \$10, and can be purchased online at www.imaginationstage.org, at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660. Group rates are available. **To RSVP to Opening Night November 18 at 7:00 p.m., please email press@imaginationstage.org.**

Charlotte’s Web follows Fern, a soft-hearted farm girl, who forms an unlikely bond with Wilbur, a charismatic pig. At the Zuckerman Farm, Wilbur meets a silly goose, a moody sheep, a selfish rat, and Charlotte, a clever spider. In an effort to save her friend, Charlotte weaves flattering messages about him into her web that cause a sensation in the small town.

“I am so excited to bring *Charlotte’s Web* to the stage for this holiday season! This classic tale will be retold with an ensemble of six actor/musicians who will play multiple characters. In addition, we will have a baby grand piano on stage and live pianist underscoring the play accompanied by actors on a variety of acoustic instruments such as guitar and violin,” says Director Kathryn Chase Bryer. “Though this production is not a musical per se, it is a play with music using classical and Folk Americana music to underscore much of the show. We also have actress and silks artist Shanara Gabrielle playing Charlotte the spider, and when she spins those magical words, she will be doing so center stage, high in the air on silks! The story we all know and love will be enjoyed by young and old in a fresh new way!

ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Charlotte’s Web brings to the stage a star-studded cast full of new and returning faces! **Tim German** plays Wilbur. **Shanara Gabrielle** is bringing her aerial silk talents to play Charlotte and other characters. She also serves as the Movement Director for the show. Past theatre highlights include Guthrie Theater, Actor’s Theatre of Louisville, and Great Lakes Theater. **Moira Todd** makes her Imagination Stage debut at Fern. She recently returned from a national tour of *Hamlet*, *The Giver*, and *The Grapes of Wrath* with Olney Theatre Center’s National Players.

Matthew Schleigh returns to Imagination Stage to play Homer, Goose, and a bevy of other characters. Last season, he played Beast in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and the Red Queen in *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure* at Imagination Stage. **Jonathan Feuer** also returns to Imagination Stage to play Arable and Templeton. Last season, he played Mira in *The Freshest Snow Whyte*. **Javier del Pilar** is making his Imagination Stage Lerner Theatre debut as Avery, Sheep, and others. He previously toured in the DC-area in *Óyeme, the beautiful*. **Deborah Jacobson** will provide live music during the show. She also serves as Music Director.

Kathryn Chase Bryer, Associate Artistic Director at Imagination Stage, will direct the show. Currently, she is on the Helen Hayes Governance Board. She has directed over forty shows for Imagination Stage in the last twenty years, her most recent being *The Smartest Girl in the World*, *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *When She Had Wings*, and *The BFG*. Last season, she also directed *Peter and the Starcatcher* at Constellation Theatre Co. and *The Late Wedding* at The Hub Theatre.

The remainder of the creative team for the Imagination Stage production of *Charlotte's Web* includes Scenic Designer **Andrew Cohen**, Lighting Designer **Sarah Tundermann**, Sound Designer **Joseph Payne**, and Costume Designer **Robert Croghan**.

SHOW SCHEDULE

- Weekday performances at 10:45 a.m.
- Public performances on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Select Saturday performances at 11:00 a.m.
- Tickets: \$10+; best for ages 6+

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Open-Captioning:** December 17 at 1:30 p.m.
Please call 301-280-1660 for more information.
- **Sensory-Friendly:** December 17 at 11:00 a.m.
Please call 301-280-1660 for more information.
- **ASL-interpreted:** January 7 at 4:00 p.m.
Please call 301-280-1660 for more information and to ensure proper seat location.

LOCATION

- 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814
- Parking: Metered parking in the adjacent public parking garage; parking is FREE on weekends
- Metro: Red Line/Bethesda Station

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ABOUT IMAGINATION STAGE

Founded in 1979, Imagination Stage is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to inspire creativity through theatre and arts education programs that nurture, challenge, and empower

young people of all abilities. It offers year-round professional theatre for young audiences and classes in creative drama/acting, musical theatre, dance, and filmmaking for ages 1-18.

www.imaginationstage.org

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