

Los Alamitos weaves a hay-larious, heartwarming tale in "Charlotte's Web" written by Ariana Gomez, a junior at Tesoro High School

"Charlotte's Web," by Joseph Robinette, follows the runt piglet (Wilbur) in his endeavor to prove he is some pig. With his friends, the Zuckerman farm animals, he finds that: you can do anything.

Wilbur's best friend is Charlotte the spider (Sophie Littig), whose ballerina-esque grace lends her an air of maturity. With delicate rond de jambes and elegant arcs of her arms, Littig breathes life into Charlotte's skillful weaving of words in the web. Later, illuminated only by an overhead spot, Littig maneuvers her silk in an intricate and flowing dance, symbolizing the threads of Charlotte's life coming together as she passes on.

In juxtaposition to Charlotte is the lively and animated Wilbur (Tanner Linn). Linn runs, leaps, rolls, and springs from the ground with joyful energy as Wilbur celebrates the radiance of life. When Wilbur dashes madly for freedom, Linn commits to a spirited and hectic path on each entrance and exit. This organized chaos, so meticulously mapped out by Assistant Directors Bria and Brooke Singleton, augments the energy and comedy of the chase scene.

No stranger to comedy, Zuckerman's hired hand Lurvy (Jack Hardwick) triggers hearty laughs. Hardwick's raucous, sing-song character voice perfectly suits Lurvy's fun-loving, over-the-top personality. His running mannerisms further develop his character. In Lurvy's panic over the miracle of Charlotte's web words, Hardwick half-stumbles, half-runs offstage, pumping his arms like windmills as he calls for his boss.

Sound designer Fabrizio Cuevas faithfully conveys the impression of a "summer memory play" in his composed score and selection of sound cues. With various character themes and motifs, he heightens the emotional impact of scenes between Charlotte and Wilbur at the County Fair. Stage Manager Jonathan Reyes skillfully calls the show and ensures that the ambiance cues and sounds remain in sync with onstage action.

Emily Fitzgerald, the publicity designer, spearheads an innovative approach to publicity. In the days leading up to the show, she organizes activities like a school-wide "Charlotte's Web" scavenger hunt where the winners receive discounted tickets! Also, the department arranges dress-up days like Wilbur Wednesday and Fern Friday to raise school spirit.

With its colorful and expressive characters, from farm animals to farming families, "Charlotte's Web" paints a beautiful picture of community and friendship. The technical aspects establish an inviting and entrancing atmosphere. A night of fun and laughter, "Charlotte's Web" is udder-ly enjoyable.