



First-, second- and third-graders practice their lines for "Charlotte's Web" during a dress rehearsal at the Artbarn Community Theater. The final production of "Charlotte's Web" on Dec. 2 and 3 was sold out, and more than 200 people attended the show.

Artbarn Community Theater growing

By Emily Sweeney
TAB STAFF WRITER

The Artbarn Community Theater, just over a year old, is already outgrowing its space.

Last weekend, Artbarn hosted a production of "Charlotte's Web" that attracted more than 200 attendees. Tickets for the show sold out, but the Artbarn crew managed to get everyone in to see the 30 tykes perform.

"The kids did a wonderful job. It was special," said Cathy Jacobs, Artbarn's artistic director.

Jacobs is interested in moving the growing program, now located at 50 Sewall Ave. in Coolidge Corner, to a bigger space in Brookline. She said she's looking in Coolidge Corner and Brookline Village, and that the vacant Eliot Recreation Center may be a possibility.

"We'd love to find a barn in Brookline, ideally," Jacobs said.

Meanwhile, Artbarn's communi-

ty theater programs are in full swing. Upcoming shows include "Darin Yankees" on Dec 16 and 17, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on Feb. 3 and 4, and "The Crucible" on March 10 and 11. For show times visit www.artbarn.org on the Internet (the Web site is still under construction, said Jacobs) or call (617) 975-0050.

Kids make the scenery, design the costumes, act, sing and dance for all the productions. Artbarn even has a program called "Sprouts," geared at pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children, which provides an introduction to the performing arts that combines storybook theater, improvisation and music activities.

Artbarn offers a February vacation camp from Feb. 20 to 23 that is open for first- through sixth-graders. The camp will give kids an opportunity to write, direct and produce an original

show that will be performed to the public on Feb. 23. Tuition for the camp is \$250, and the deadline for registration is Jan. 5.

Jacobs said the goal of Artbarn is to build a performing arts community in which children can learn and grow, as well as making it accessible for all Brookline kids.

Artbarn also offers a popular open mike night for teens at the Brookline Booksmith, giving aspiring poets, dancers, musicians and comedians a chance to show off their stuff.

The next open mike night is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9. Sign-up is at 7 p.m. and the performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$3, and call Denise Oberdan at (617) 566-1585 to reserve a spot early.

Jacobs said she is considering starting another open mike night for seventh- and eighth-graders. Those interested should contact the Artbarn, said Jacobs.