

**AUDITIONS**  
FOR

**THE MIRACLE WORKER**

BY  
WILLIAM GIBSON

**NOVEMBER 19, 3PM**

**WHERE: B322 (CHOIR ROOM)**

**CALLBACKS: NOVEMBER 24 & 25**

*The Miracle Worker – Plot Summary*

*The Miracle Worker* is the unforgettable, inspiring story of Helen Keller and the woman who set her free. Blind and mute, nobody knows what Helen's fate might have been had she not come under the tutelage of Annie Sullivan, an Irish girl who had been born blind. The play is principally concerned with the emotional relationship between the lonely teacher and her blind charge. Little Helen, trapped in her secret world, is bitter, violent, spoiled and almost animal like. Only her teacher realizes that there is a mind waiting to be rescued from that dark, tortured silence. Critics have hailed this stirring dramatization of Helen Keller's story as magnificent theatre and it is one of the most successful and warmly admired plays of the modern stage. *The Miracle Worker* was nominated for 5 Tony Awards and won 4, including Best Play.

The *Miracle Worker* opens with a doctor assuring Captain Keller and his wife Kate that their infant daughter, Helen, will recover from a serious fever. Soon after the doctor leaves, however, Kate realizes that Helen is deaf and blind. In the next scene, Helen is a wild, undisciplined child.

Though they try, her parents are unable to help or control her. In desperation they hire a young woman, Annie Sullivan.

From the moment Annie arrives, it is clear that she and Helen will be gripped in a great struggle. But Helen is not the only problem for Annie. Annie must also convince the Kellers, especially the Captain, that she, Annie, needs complete control of Helen if she is to reach the child. Annie is certain that language is the key to gaining access to Helen's mind, and the play tells the inspiring story of her successful efforts.

# **THE MIRACLE WORKER – CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(NOTE: THE AGES GIVEN ARE THE CHARACTER AGES;  
ACTORS TO BE CAST IN THESE ROLES MUST BE ABLE TO PLAY THE AGE.)

**Annie Sullivan (20-30):** Annie is an upstart Irish girl from Boston who takes on the daunting task of reaching Helen. Extremely confident (in front of others) and strong willed, she often confronts the Kellers over the way Helen is treated. This is a physically demanding role requiring some staged fights with the actress playing Helen. A slight Irish accent is required.

**Helen Keller (10+):** A demanding and undisciplined child, we must see the intelligence and frustration of a child that has lived in darkness nearly all her life. She must have a small build. This is a physically demanding role that requires some staged fights with the actress playing Annie Sullivan.

**Captain Arthur Keller (45-55):** A powerful and influential newspaper publisher and ex-Confederate officer. Opinionated and very much a Southern gentleman, he has no time or patience with anyone or anything from the North. He is the master of his domain. A Southern accent is required.

**Kate Keller (25-35):** A Southern gentlewoman and Keller's second wife. She is patient and gentle, but with a backbone to stand up to her husband when her child's future is at stake. A Southern accent is required.

**James Keller (20-30):** Captain Keller's son from a previous marriage. He is described as flippant and sarcastic, afraid of his father, and hurt by all the attention paid to his half-sisters. A Southern accent is required.

**Aunt Ev (40-60):** Aunt Ev is Captain Keller's sister who is a frequent visitor at the Keller home. She is talkative and slightly pushy, but still very conscious of the Southern class system. A Southern accent is required.

**Viney (30-40):** A servant in charge of housework and meals in the Keller household. She is very fond of the Keller daughters, but shows a preference for the baby, Mildred. An African-American actress is preferred for the role. A Southern accent is required.

**Anagnos (35-65):** Annie's counselor at the Perkins Institute, he is stern but compassionate with the students. Anagnos appears only in one scene late in Act I. No accent is required. The actor cast in this role could also double as the Doctor in Act I, Scene 1.

**Doctor (50+):** The epitome of an old country doctor, he is very comforting toward Kate, but matter-of-fact with Captain Keller. The Doctor appears only in the first scene. A Southern accent is required. The actor cast in this role could also double as Anagnos later in Act I.

**Martha (12+):** Viney's daughter, she is playful, curious and bossy with Percy but is terrified by Helen's behavior. An African-American actress is preferred for the role. A Southern accent is required.

**Percy (-12):** Viney's son. Although frightened of Helen, he becomes an important part of her education. An African-American actor is preferred for the role. A Southern accent is required.

**Jimmy Sullivan (10):** TAnnie's younger brother who died of tuberculosis at the asylum in the past. Throughout the show, he is seen in flashbacks as the voice of Annie's conscience when she is experiencing moments of self-doubt. He has a slight Irish accent.

**Perkins Girls (8-17):** Six blind girls at the Perkins Institute with whom Annie has the closest relationship. They are like a group of sisters, excited, lively and loving. The youngest has difficulty accepting Annie's departure. No accent is required.

## Director's Notes

- This play is based on actual events and history will be followed as closely as possible.
- Helen may be played by a middle or high school student.
- If you wish to watch the movie before auditions, watch the version with Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke.
- Scripts will be available in a few weeks for you to look over...keep checking the board for announcements.
- For the role of Helen and Annie: You will be given a few scenes...one with the fight scene which is ALL stage directions. You may be asked to perform at the audition...please be prepared.
- Questions??? Please ask Mrs. Helander if you have any questions!
- BREAK A LEG!