

THE MIRACLE WORKER By William Gibson

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Sam Barlow High School Theatre Department

PRESENTS

THE MIRACLE WORKER

_{by} William Gibson

with

Laura Rizzo Samuel Guadarrama Rachel Fetters

Bailee Curtis Emily Axtell Heidi Thies Ben Kalinkin Lindsey May

Assistant Director Linda Zirk Costume Designer Emily Horton Stage Combat John Armour

Directed by Jeff Schroeder

SETTING: 1880's. In and around the Keller homestead in Tuscumbia, Alabama; also briefly, the Perkins Institution for the Blind, in Boston.

There are three acts, and there will be two ten minute intermissions between acts.



The Miracle Worker is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. 45 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

ABOUT THE MIRACLE WORKER

In Tuscumbia, Alabama, an illness renders infant Helen Keller blind, deaf and consequently mute (deaf-mute).

Pitied and badly spoiled by her parents, Helen grows into a wild, raging creature by the age of six. Desperate, the Kellers hire Annie Sullivan to serve as a governess and teacher for their young daughter.

After several ferce behavioral battles with Helen, Annie convinces her parents she needs two weeks alone with Helen if she is to achieve any progress in her education. In that time she teaches Helen discipline and, through the use of finger signing, language. Helen's sudden, remarkable grasp of word comprehension cements teacher and pupil in a deep, long-lasting, loving relationship which profoundly affects their lives and the lives of all those with whom they become acquainted.



Helen Keller with Annie Sullivan vacationing at Cape Cod in July 1888. COURTESY OF NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BOSTON, MASS

PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Founded in 1829, the Perkins School for the Blind was the first school for the blind established in the United States.

No school in the United States has educated more children who are dearblind than Perkins. Sullivan's child-centered methods are the centerpiece of the educational philosophy of the Perkins Dearblind Program.

Samuel Gridley Howe became the director of the thencalled New England Asylum for the Blind in July 1832, receiving a few blind children in a private home. Howe was a physician, abolitionist and advocate of education for the blind.

Howe was the life and soul of the school. Through him the institution became one of the intellectual centers of American philanthropy. Howe brought to the school Laura Bridgman, a young deaf-blind girl, who later became a teacher at the school and friend and mentor to Annie Sullivan.

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Letter from Arthur Keller to Michael Anagnos. COURTESY OF PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, WATERTOWN, MASS.

CAST

Cast Members

Helen Keller	Laura Rizzo
Annie Sullivan	Heidi Thies
Kate Keller	Bailee Curtis
Captain Keller	Samuel Guadarrama
James Keller	Ben Kalinkin
Aunt Ev	Emily Axtell
Viney	Rachel Fetters
Anagnos	Lindsey May
Percy	Sage Dupuis
Martha	Savanna Newman
The Doctor	Seth Reynolds
Blind Girls	Lexi Cheney Jaclyn Jimison Hannah Knoll Shyloh Peckham Emily Schneider Savannah Serviss Avery White
Belle (The Family Dog)	Bauer Schroeder
Production / Creative	
Director	Jeff Schroeder
Assistant Director	Linda Zirk
Costume & Wig Design	Emily Horton
Stage Combat Coach	John Armour
ASL Coach	Sarah Caine
Set, Lighting and Sound Design	Jeff Schroeder
Set Construction	John Schroeder
Sound Supervisor	Ryan Zirk
Sign Language Interpreters	Candace Takahashi Mallory Schell
Poster Design	Stacie Butler
Photography	Brooke Hryciw

CREW

Crew Members

Stage Manager Samantha Arnold
Assistant Stage Manager Katherine Hardenberg
Sound Engineer Meghan Gibson
Lighting Engineer Amber Witka
Sound Effects Engineer Taylor Schantzen
Stage Crew Lexi Cheney Jaclyn Jimison Hannah Knoll Shyloh Peckham Emily Schneider Mark Secoolish Savannah Serviss Avery White



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Laura Rizzo

as Helen Keller

Laura is a senior at Barlow and is absolutely thrilled to be taking this stage one last time. This is Laura's fifth show, following her roles as Sandy in Grease, Josette in David and Lisa, Narrator in Joseph and Purity in Anything Goes. This year, Laura has participated in the NATS Musical Theatre Student Auditions, District Solo, and Regional Theatre Competitions. She advanced to the State level in Salem for both her Musical Theatre Solo and Solo Acting Pieces and she will also be competing in the State Solo Competition for her work in classical voice. Laura holds a 3.7 GPA and serves on both NHS and Theatre Councils. Laura will be continuing her education at the University of Utah as one of only twenty BFA Musical Theatre Majors. She would like to thank John Armor for his wisdom and encouragement and Mr. Schroeder for all the opportunities and his belief in her. Above all, Laura thanks her mom for her endless support and love.



Heidi Thies

Heidi Thies is thrilled to be playing the miracle worker herself, Miss Annie Sullivan. This is her 5th Barlow production and one of her favorites. Another one of her favorite (and dream) roles was Rizzo in Grease this past November. Heidi is one of the troupe's proud presidents and would like to thank all of troupe #1145 for loving her and teaching her how to be the best she can be. She would also like to thank her wonderful director, Jeff Schroeder for taking a chance on a scared little red-headed girl with a sparkle in her eye, 3 years ago.



Bailee Curtis

This is Bailee's 7th and final production at Barlow, (and her 3rd time playing a "Kate"). Some of her previous roles include Katie in Bang Bang You're Dead, Kate in David and Lisa, and Patty in Grease; she also had the honor to compete and showcase with her troupe at the National Thespian Festival last summer. Bailee is also on the Speech and Debate team and recently competed at the state competition with her humorous interpretation and dramatic duo. She would like to thank the Schroeder's for being such amazing teachers, and her boyfriend Kayden, who is always there to love and support her.

as Annie Sullivan

as Kate Keller



Samuel Guadarrama

Sammy Guadarrama is very excited to take on his first leading role, as Captain Keller. He's been in the Barlow productions of Bang Bang, You're Dead, Grease, and David & Lisa. He states, "I've never imagined myself being here, it's kind of surreal and (therapeutic)." He recently went for his first time, to compete at the state competition in Duo musical. He is very proud to be where he is and can't wait for what's next. He loves his family and thanks his mom for supporting him through his journey as a thespian. Hi, mom!



Ben Kalinkin

as James Keller

as Aunt Ev

as Captain Keller

Ben Kalinkin is very thrilled to be playing another trouble maker, "James Keller", in this spring's show, Miracle Worker. This will be Benjamin Victorvich Kalinkin's 5th production. He has been in the previous productions of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat as Dan, David and Lisa as Carlos, Bang Bang You're Dead as ensemble and Grease as Kenickie. Benjamin would like to thank Mr.Schroeder for this great opportunity and his mother Inna for rides and encouraging him to do what he loves. #voteforchantostayatstate



Emily Axtell

This is Emily's third and final production with Sam Barlow Theatre, as she is a senior this year. Her junior year she was Asher's Wife in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and earlier this year she played Jan in Grease. Emily's plans for college is to go to University of Oregon to study journalism and media studies. She would like to thank Jeff Schroeder for all his hard work and dedication to the program, as well as her family and friends for supporting her these last four years.



Rachel Fetters

Rachel Fetters is so excited to be finishing her high school theatre career with the Miracle Worker. Rachel has been in theatre since her freshmen year. She first worked Tech on Anything Goes and MCM 1940, then was Judah's wife in Joseph, Emily in David and Lisa, a Pink Lady in Grease and the assistant stage manager for Lost in Yonkers. Rachel is also a co president of the theatre department with Heidi Thies. Rachel has maintained a 3.8 GPA throughout high school and will graduate as a scholar of distinction. In the fall Rachel will attend Willamette University, studying Political Science and Theatre. Rachel would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her and attending her shows. She would also like to thank her wonderful boyfriend, Tristan, for always being there for her. Finally she would like to thank the Schroeder's and everyone they've brought in over the years that have helped shape the program to what it is today.



Lindsey May

Lindsey is so excited to be a part of the cast of the Miracle Worker. She has participated in many productions both in the community, and here at Barlow. She was most recently seen in Grease last fall as the Radio Voice and a Pink Lady. Lindsey enjoys performing, and hopes to continue with theatre in college this fall. She would like to thank her family for always giving her support in all of her adventurous and crazy experiences. She would also like to thank Jeff Schroeder, and her fellow cast members for making her feel so welcome this year in theatre. She will never forget these experiences.



Sage Dupuis

Sage Dupuis is very excited to be apart of the Miracle Worker! She's done tech for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat and Grease and was also‬ ensemble for Bang Bang You're Dead.



Savanna Newman

Savanna Newman is excited to play a named role. She's been in the ensemble of Grease and Bang Bang, You're Dead. She co-directed a one act called The Inspector Answers that participated in this year's one act festival and at State Conference. She's so happy to be a part this story. Helen Keller is an inspiring person and a part of her childhood. This show is amazing and she hopes you enjoy it.

as Viney

as Anagnos

as Percy

as Martha





Seth Reynolds

as The Doctor

Seth Reynolds feels extremely lucky to be am part of such an amazing production. Seth was in the musical, Grease and played the role of Sonny. It was his first musical and it changed his life forever. Seth would like to thank his theatre director, music teacher, and mom, for pushing him into the theatrical world.

Lexi Cheney

Lexi Cheney (Blind Girl) is a sophomore at Barlow High School and is in awe of being a part of this incredible theatre department. Lexi has been in Black Swan's Midsummer Nightâ€[™]s Dream (Fairy Sprite) and was also in the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Benjaminâ€[™]s Wife) and Grease (Nerd). Lexi would like to thank her family and friends for helping her and giving their support to the arts. Lastly she would love to thank all the people who made it possible to create this production.



Jaclyn Jimison

Jaclyn Jamison (Blind Girl) is so excited to be in Sam Barlow's production of the Miracle Worker. She has also appeared in Sam Barlow's production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Gad's wife) and Grease (Nerd). Jaclyn would like to thank the cast and the directors for a wonderful experience and she can't wait to be involved with future productions. She would also like to thank her family for all of their support.



Hannah Knoll

Hannah (Blind Girl) is a Sophomore and this is the 4th show she's been involved in, backstage and onstage, at Sam Barlow High School. Hannah is very thankful to be surrounded by such a great cast and would like to thank Jeff and Linda for helping her be successful in the show.





Shyloh Peckham

Shyloh Peckham (Blind Girl) is thrilled to be back on stage in the Miracle Worker. She has previously appeared as an ensemble member in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and as a Nerd in Grease. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her and her director Jeff Schroeder for working so hard to make this production great.

Emily Schneider

Emily Schneider (Blind Girl) is very excited to be in this year's production on The Miracle Worker. Emily has been on crew for the past musicals, Secretary in David and Lisa, the "Those Magic Changes" soloist in Grease and is very excited to be in her fourth production here at Barlow. She was also in the one act this year as Reginald Fitzbuttress led by two student directors. She hopes you all enjoy the show!



Savannah Serviss

Savannah Serviss (Blind Girl) is a Sophomore at Barlow, and is happy to be a part of her fifth show here. She's ecstatic about her future here in the theatre and choir departments. She'd like to thank her very supportive family and friends along with the Schroeder's for their much appreciated guidance and support.



Avery White

Avery White (Blind Girl) is a sophomore at SBHS and this is her 4th production. She has been in the music Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat as ensemble, she played Driver and Girl in David and Lisa, and was recently a Pink Lady in this year's musical Grease! She was also a part of the Regional and State Acting Competitions. Avery would like to thank her dad and mom for driving her around everywhere and also her sister, Evan, for being so supportive of her. She would also like to thank her friends and theatre family for making her feel good and being so kind. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with Mr. Schroeder and is so excited for everyone to see the wonderful and beautiful production that The Miracle Worker is.







Bauer Schroeder as Belle (The Family Dog)

Bauer is a 3 year old Golden and is excited to be in his first show! He knows it will be Bark-tastic! He has it Ruff back home with a family of 8 but figures he will take all of these life and theatre experiences and Lap them all up. He would like to thank Charlie, his poodle friend, brother and chew toy, apologizes to the cast for his giant wagging tail and hopes that you enjoy Miracle Worker!

Emily Horton

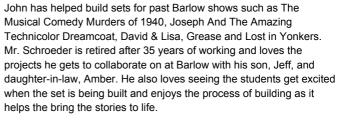
Costume & Wig Design

Centennial graduate, Emily Horton, is in her third production while previously costuming Grease and Lost in Yonkers at Barlow. Other credits include Artist Repertory Theatre; Oregon Children's Theatre; Third Rail Rep and the Portland Playhouse.

John Schroeder

Set Construction

Assistant Director





Linda Zirk

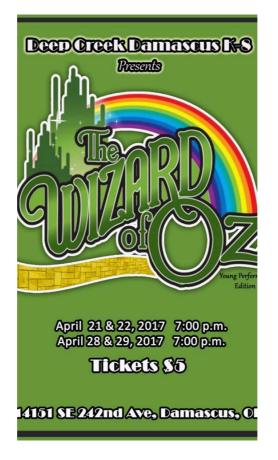
Linda Zirk is incredibly happy to be a part of a superb team working on her fifth production at Barlow. Having taught Middle School and pastored preschoolers for many years, she is enjoying the energy and talent found in this outstanding cast and crew. She knows that kids of all ages love good singing, dancing and drama!



Jeff Schroeder

Director

Mr. Schroeder is in his third year as Theatre Director at Barlow. Before teaching, Schroeder professionally produced, directed or performed in over thirty theatrical productions. He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music and Theatre from Portland State University. Past Barlow productions include Anything Goes; Musical Comedy Murders of 1940; Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; David & Lisa; Grease and Lost in Yonkers. Schroeder also directed Bang, Bang You're Dead, which received 1st Place at the Oregon Chapter Select One-Act Festival and was selected to perform this past summer at the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska. Mr. Schroeder has loved working with this wonderful cast and enjoys teaching and encouraging students in their gifts and always striving for excellence. Jeff is especially grateful to his family for their support during this production and sees it as a huge blessing to work along his best friend and wife, Amber.



CREW WHO'S WHO



Samantha Arnold

This is the 3rd production that Samantha Arnold has been a part of at Sam Barlow. She started being in productions in 5th grade and has always loved being part of tech theatre. She doesn't just stay backstage anymore and has performed at acting competitions and in a small group musical. Sam would like to thank Jenny Karn for all of her training and her family for helping her be a part of theater.



Katherine Hardenberg

Assistant Stage Manager

Sound Engineer

Stage Manager

Katherine Hardenbergh (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to work with the brilliant crew of The Miracle Worker. She has previously appeared as an ensemble member in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and a Nerd in Grease. She thanks everyone who helped and participated in the theatre department at Barlow and for their dedication and support.



Meghan Gibson

Meghan Gibson (Sound Designer) is elated to run sound for The Miracle Worker! This will be her 5th production running tech with Barlow, but 8th overall. Some of her favorite productions have included designing lights for Aladdin Jr, and running sound for Grease. Meghan would like to thank Mr. Schroder for all the knowledge he has passed on to her, and the constant love and support she receives from her family!



Amber Witka

Amber Witka (lighting) is excited to be a part of this show. This is her second show at Barlow; she previously appeared in Joseph last year. Amber is glad that Mr. Schroeder considered her for Miracle Worker. Amber would like to thank her mom for bringing her to and from rehearsals and her friends in theatre for making this experience great!

Lighting Engineer

CREW WHO'S WHO



Taylor Schantzen

Taylor Schantzen (Sound Effects) is happy to be involved with her 4th production at Barlow. Taylor has been crew for Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Kid Wrangler), David and Lisa (Projection), and Grease (Lighting). Taylor would like to thank her sisters that introduced her to theatre. She would also like to thank her director Mr. Schroeder for allowing her to continue in theatre by being involved in the productions.



Mark Secoolish

Stage Crew

Sound Effects Engineer

Mark Secoolish (Stage Crew) is excited to be working on this production of Miracle Worker. He worked on Barlow's production of Grease and helped with some of the set building for Miracle Worker. While still new to the theatre, Mark feels confident about his work and is looking forward to future productions.



Be sure not to miss HONK JR. presented by Orient Musical Experience June 9 @ 7pm June 10 @ 2pm & 7pm Barlow Auditorium

THE LATERYEARS HELEN KELLER

With communication skills forged and with Annie at her side, Helen attended Radcliffe College, graduating cum laude in 1904, the first deafblind person to receive a college degree.

Helen became a major celebrity. She met a number of influential and famous people including Mark Twain, Henry Ford, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and U.S. presidents like John F. Kennedy. Helen soon became an important figurehead to raise funds for related causes, especially the American Foundation for the Blind, with which she joined forces in 1924.

Helen began speaking out not only for the rights of the handicapped, but for others that she saw as oppressed. She supported the rights of laborers as well as equal rights for women and African Americans. She gave personal encouragement to blind and impoverished African Americans, was a founding member of the American Civil Liberties Union, and participated in rallies and marches. She was a vocal supporter of women's right to vote and their right to birth control.

In addition to her autobiography, *The Story of My Life*, Helen published some dozen other books. She was also the author of numerous essays, articles, and speeches. She toured widely, delivering her speeches in favor of various groups and causes.

In all these endeavors, Annie was her constant companion, interpreting the visual and auditory world for Helen through finger signs and explaining Helen's signed words to the world. In later years, many of Annie's duties were taken by assistant Polly Thomson, who assumed the role entirely after Annie's death in 1936. With Polly at her side, Helen continued to be an active speaker on social issues, traveling all over the world to carry her message and meet influential people until shortly before her death on June 1, 1968. After her passing, her work on behalf of the blind was continued through the various institutions that she helped to found and fund, including Helen Keller International and the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults.

The American Foundation for the Blind was founded in 1921 and for decades guided by Helen Keller—an inspiring, courageous woman who fervently believed that blind people, with just a little help, can lead independent lives and give much more to society than they will ever take. Today, there are many more people, from newborns to the growing elder population, in need of a helping hand than Helen Keller ever imagined.



The following is a quote taken from Helen's writings:

"Phantom had a mug in her hand and while she held it under the spout Annie pumped water into it, and...kept spelling w-a-t-e-r into the other hand. Phantom understood the meaning of the word, and her mind began to flutter tiny wings of flame." Teacher: Anne Sullvan Macy

A tribute by the foster-child of her mind, Helen Keller, p. 40



Helen Keller as a young girl reading. COURTESY OF PERKINS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, WATERTOWN, MASS.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Principal Bruce Schmidt

Assistant Principal Tim Collins

Assistant Principal

Kelly Hart

Assistant Principal Cheeri Schacht

Activities Director Dan Dalzell

Fine and Performing Arts & Languages Department Chair Paul Nickolas

SPECIAL THANKS

Lamar Alex, Ryan Zirk, Stefanie Craft, Liz Rizzo, Peggy Norton, Laura Barr, Rebecca Reynolds, Dana May, Jennifer Serviss, Wendy Hull, Patty Cheney, Tara Dupuis, Amber Schroeder, Andrew Schroeder, Camden Schroeder & Bella Schroeder.

Timeless Designs in Troutdale for all of the wonderful antique props and furniture.

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Thank you to Amber Schroeder for proofreading the program!

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DIRECTORS NOTES

"A phantom, living in a world that was no world." This is how Helen Keller describes herself, as she remembers her childhood before Annie Sullivan arrived. Annie was Helen's teacher, but so much more than that. She was a playmate, a friend, a nurturer and eventually a lifelong companion. Through my exploration in the life of these incredible individuals, I realized that even though Gibson's play is called "The Miracle Worker" this is Helen's story as much as it is Annie's. It took the two of them to make the Miracle. What I love the most about this play is that when no one could see the potential inside Helen, when everyone else had given up on her, Annie Sullivan saw something. Having been blind for most of her life, she understood Helen better than anyone. Annie Sullivan was radical, determined, strong and passionate. Everytime I watch the scene where Annie teaches Helen to eat with a spoon, I am inspired. Such tenacity and dedication. As a teacher, my heart is that like Annie, I would see the gifts in every student and help bring them out.

In my research, I came upon the writings that Helen Keller wrote in her later years and was deeply moved by her words and perspective on the world that she lives in. I was so inspired that I decided to incorporate some of her autobiography in the sound design of the show. Helen was a leader and a true humanitarian. In 1924, at the age of 44, Helen Keller joined the American Federation for the Blind (AFB), the country's leading advocate for the blind or visually impaired. For the next 44 years, she was an ambassador for AFB. She toured the United States developing support for programs that helped the blind and deaf, encouraging government aid for educational programs designed for the disabled.

There was a time not many years ago when people with disabilities were marginalized by society. As the play develops, we learn the difficulties the Keller family had with their daughter Helen for the first six years of her life due to the illness which left her blind and deaf. At the time, little was known concerning the ability of such children to be educated, although some progress was being made in both the Eastern United States and Europe. A poignant moment in the play occurs when Helen's older brother James suggests his sister be placed in an institution. During this time period, many such disabled individuals, regardless of the cause of their disability, were institutionalized and their overall care was dismal and efforts at education fell short. Annie Sullivan makes a reference to the condition of the alms house she was sent to, telling Helen's mother Kate how dreadful the conditions were. Aside from the wonderful story of the relationship between Annie and Helen, The Miracle Worker underscores how people with disabilities, if given the opportunity, can be educated and contributing members of society. Through perseverance and determination, many develop skills that enable them to live productive lives within their societies.

DIRECTORS NOTES

As a director, this has been one of the most difficult theatrical journeys I have ever embarked on. When I chose this piece, I believed it was an important story that must be told. The time period, potential for costumes and flexibility it gave me in creating a unique and artistic set design was inspiring. I knew it was like nothing we have attempted in the past. What I didn't realize is how hard it would be to stage the show. The countless pages of the playwright's detailed stage directions, coupled by the audience's connection to the award winning film, made the rehearsals very tedious. For Laura, Heidi, our stage combat coach, John, and I, it took a total of eight hours of rehearsal time just to choreograph the dinner table altercations between Annie and Helen in Act 2. Nevertheless, through blood, sweat, tears and lots of laughter, we all conquered this challenging script by facing it head on. I am incredibly proud of how hard this cast and crew have worked to bring a beautiful performance to all of you. I know I will cherish all of the memories we have created.

It is with a heavy heart that in a few short weeks I have to release our remarkably talented senior class from the Barlow Theatre program. I am so proud of what we have accomplished this year and I am excited for the future. Students — don't ever forget this play. Make it's message your lifesong. As Annie says in Act 3, "The chick has to come out of the shell sometime..." Seniors, this is your time to break through and show the world all of your treasures. Let Annie and Helen always remind you that you can do anything through hard work and perseverance.

We hope you enjoy our rendition of one of the greatest American stories of all time, The Miracle Worker.

- Jeff Schroeder



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