

*The Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation
presents*

*the 61st Annual Production of
William Gibson's*

THE MIRACLE WORKER

STARRING

JAIDYN QUILLEN LILLIE MEYER
JONATHAN MOORE ANNA BOND KELLEY
JOHN OATES SHANNON MILLIMAN ROCHELLE BELLE
TYLER HUDSON KYLA ROBINSON KALIA ROBINSON

EVIE FRITH GABRIELLA HARRELL NORMA JUNE HASLACKER PAULA MESTAS
ELLYN MOORE MADDIE MOORE CLEMENTINE SMITH WILLIAM YUILLE
WAKEFIELD SELF NEIL SELF

SCENIC DESIGN BY
DAVID K. RUEBHAUSEN

COSTUMES BY
BETH HENDERSON
VICTORIA MCCOY

LANDSCAPES BY
SHOALS MASTER GARDENERS
(LISA MAPLES, PROJECT CHAIR)

CREW

HANA MAPLES LILY STREETMAN WILLIAM FREEMAN
TRAVIS SCOTT PAULA MESTAS FORREST PACE

HELEN COACH

CECILIA GOOCH

TECHNICAL DIRECTION BY
ANDREW MAPLES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
LAURA CONNOLLY

DIRECTED BY

CAROLINE SELF

*"The Miracle Worker" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of
Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com*



Jaidyn
Quillen



Lillie
Meyer



Jonathan
Moore



Anna
Bond Kelly



Shannon
Milliman



John
Oates



Rochelle
Belle



Tyler
Hudson



Kyla
Robinson



Kalia
Robinson



Wakefield
Self



Oliver



Neil
Self



Evie
Frith



Gabriella
Harrell



Norma June
Haslacker



Paula
Mestas



Ellyn
Moore



Maddie
Moore



Clementine
Smith



William
Yuille



Caroline
Self



Laura
Connolly



Cecilia
Gooch

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

| | |
|---|--|
| A Doctor..... | TYLER HUDSON |
| Kate Keller..... | ANNA BOND KELLEY |
| Capt. Arthur Keller..... | JONATHAN MOORE |
| Helen Keller..... | LILLIE MEYER |
| Martha | KALIA ROBINSON |
| Percy..... | KYLA ROBINSON |
| Aunt Ev..... | SHANNON MILLIMAN |
| James Keller..... | JOHN OATES |
| Anagnos..... | TYLER HUDSON |
| Annie Sullivan..... | JAIDYN QUILLEN |
| Viney..... | ROCHELLE BELLE |
| Blind Children at Perkins School..... | EVIE FRITH GABRIELLA HARRELL NORMA JUNE HASLACKER PAULA MESTAS ELLYN MOORE MADDIE MOORE CLEMENTINE SMITH WILLIAM YUILLE |
| Jimmie Sullivan..... | WAKEFIELD SELF |
| Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe..... | NEIL SELF |
| Belle (the dog)..... | OLIVER |
| Visual Storytellers (6/24-6/25 Only)..... | RHONDA NESMITH SANDRA SCHMIDT |

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT 1

Time: 1882; 1886; 1887

The Keller homestead, Tuscumbia, Alabama; the Perkins Institution for the Blind, Boston, Massachusetts; the Tuscumbia Depot

ACT 2

Time: March 1887

The Keller homestead; the garden house

ACT 3

Time: April 5, 1887

The garden house; the homestead

THERE WILL BE TWO 10-MINUTE INTERMISSIONS

THE CREATIVE TEAM AND CREW

Director.....CAROLINE SELF
Assistant Director..... LAURA CONNOLLY
Technical Director..... ANDREW MAPLES
Scenic Designer.....DR. DAVID K. RUEBHAUSEN
Helen Coach.....CECILIA GOOCH
Costume Construction.....BETH HENDERSON, VICTORIA MCCOY
Stage Crew.....WILLIAM FREEMAN
PAULA MESTAS
FORREST PACE
Tech Crew.....HANA MAPLES
TRAVIS SCOTT
LILY STREETMAN
Tech Consultant.....JACOB MAPLES
Set Construction.....GENE MCDUGAL
Landscapes by.....LISA MAPLES, CYNTHIA KERSHAW, PAULA KELLY,
LINDA BREWER & KAYE HILLS (THE SHOALS MASTER GARDENERS)
Master Gardeners Project Chair.....LISA MAPLES
Web Design.....MILNER CROSSLEY MEDIA SOLUTIONS/ J CROSSLEY MOORE

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*"The most important day I remember in all my life is the one on which my teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan, came to me. I am filled with wonder when I consider the immeasurable contrasts between the two lives which it connects. It was the third of March, 1887, three months before I was seven years old."
- Helen Keller, "The Story of My Life"*

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themiracleworker.info

THE CAST AND CREW

JAIDYN QUILLEN (*Annie Sullivan*) is 19 years old and attends Wallace State Community College studying Forensic Psychology. She will transfer to the University of North Alabama this fall and will be a part of the Marching Pride of North Alabama as a Lionette. She has been involved with theatre since 2013 and *The Miracle Worker* since 2014. Her credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Dorothy Meets Alice*, and *Opal*. Jaidyn was part of *The Miracle Worker's* Stage Crew in 2015 and was part of the Tech Crew for the past two seasons. She is super thankful for your support and hopes you enjoy the show!

LILLIE MEYER (*Helen Keller*) is 11 years old and attends Florence City Schools. She has taken dance since age 3. She has thrived in competitive dance for the past 4 years. This is Lillie's first year to participate in *The Miracle Worker* and she is honored to have been selected to tell Helen's story. She always has loved studying the life of Helen Keller. Lillie would like to thank the cast and crew for welcoming her into the theatre community and for all of their guidance and love. A special thank you to Caroline Self and Laura Connolly for trusting her to represent the courage of Helen Keller.

JONATHAN MOORE (*Captain Arthur Keller*) returns to *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green for his tenth season and is thrilled to play the role of Captain in this year's production. Past credits include: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Radium Girls*. Musical theatre credits include: *Bright Star*, *The Christmas Shoes*, *Camel Lot*, *The Loaned Manger*, and *Opal*. Jonathan serves as Worship Pastor at First Baptist Church of Colbert Heights in Tuscumbia, AL. He holds a B.S in music from the University of North Alabama. Jonathan would like to dedicate this season's performance to his wife, Gina, his son, Grey, and twin daughters, Madelyn & Ellyn. "Love you to the moon and back!" Soli Deo gloria! Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: jcrossley Moore

ANNA BOND KELLEY (*Kate Keller*) is 21 years old and is a full time student at Athens State University where she is studying Elementary Education. Anna has been involved with theatre since 2015, and she has appeared in high school and community theatre productions such as: *Annie*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Smoke on the Mountain*, *Radium Girls*, and *Oklahoma!* She is so excited and honored to be part of this production and cannot wait for you all to see it! She is thankful for the support from her husband, family, friends, and all who come to see this wonderful show. Enjoy!

JOHN OATES (*James Keller*) is a Medical Laboratory Technician at Shoals Primary Care in Sheffield, Alabama. This is his first season performing in *The Miracle Worker*. John has always enjoyed acting. During college, he was able to secure lead roles in *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *Agamemnon*, for which he secured an award for Best Supporting Actor through Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Virginia. He would like to thank his wife, Shayla, for always supporting him and loving him unconditionally. He would also like to thank the rest of his family: his parents, Katie and Kenny; siblings, James and Shannon; aunt, Debra Pearsall; and his children, Immanuel, Thomas, Gabriel and a fourth precious blessing on the way. He would also like to give thanks to Scott Cole, his theatre professor at Bridgewater College, for instilling in him a love for theatre. "Thank you *Miracle Worker* family for welcoming me with open arms. I hope to make everyone proud. May God alone receive the glory."

SHANNON MILLIMAN (*Aunt Ev*) is savoring her first experience at Ivy Green. She is a recent transplant from Portland, Oregon with Remote Shoals. Recent credit includes *Not So Supernova* (an original, autobiographical one woman play about the jagged edges of motherhood/marriage, performed coast to coast). Published poet, essayist and joy seeker - she has much to write about with five talented kids and the most supportive husband on earth. She's been a lead dancer in a Wieden & Kennedy music video and flash mob dancer for Michael Jackson's Thriller. She loves writing memoir and life stories, has a TED talk inspiring conversation between generations, is a founding creator for summer launching creative journal with local flare, theStudio, <https://thestudiojournal.net>. She holds a BA in English from Brigham Young University, is a Certified Professional in Talent Development and would love to connect!

ROCHELLE BELLE (*Viney*) hails from Los Angeles, California. Rochelle has been in many commercials, infomercials and TV projects. She is also a former TV news reporter and one of her favorite interviews was with the great Blues Legend, B.B. King. She is proud to make her debut in The Shoals and return to her first love of theatre. She gives a huge thank you to Caroline for the opportunity! For a glimpse of Rochelle's work, you can visit her website: www.rochellebelle.com.

TYLER HUDSON (*A Doctor/Mr. Anagnos*) has been performing since he was a child. Recent credits include leading roles in *Seussical*, *Shrek*, *A*

THE CAST AND CREW

Christmas Story, Radium Girls, Dial M for Murder, and *Next To Normal*. He has been a supporting actor in a host of theatrical productions as well as serving as actor and producer for several independent films. He served as music director for *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* and *The Little Mermaid*, and has performed as a professional vocalist in over 1000 concerts both nationally and internationally. Tyler is excited to take the stage as Doctor and Mr. Anagnos for the third consecutive year. Tyler would like to thank the directors for allowing him this incredible opportunity.

KYLA ROBINSON (*Percy*) is 15 years old and attends Florence City Schools. This is her first time playing Percy in *The Miracle Worker*. She has performed in one play before called *The Case of Humanity vs Pontius Pilate* as a court reporter. She is so excited to play Percy in *The Miracle Worker* and she is grateful to Ms. Caroline and Ms. Laura for allowing her to play this role. Kyla would also like to thank Debra Staggs for getting her on stage. She is also thankful that her parents are allowing her to continue acting and is hoping to continue acting in the future.

KALIA ROBINSON (*Martha*) is 11 years old and goes to Florence City School, Hibbett Intermediate School. This is Kalia's first play. She is really excited to be in *The Miracle Worker* for 2022. Kalia enjoys the performing arts, having participated in dance, and currently plays the clarinet. She wants to thank Ms. Caroline Self and Ms. Laura Connolly for this wonderful opportunity. She is very honored to perform in *The Miracle Worker* with her sister Kyla (Percy).

OLIVER (*Belle*) was born in Los Angeles, CA and is excited to make his first theatre appearance in The Shoals. Oliver has been a part of print, video and TV projects. He is most proud of his commercial on Amazon for dog snacks. He is looking forward to continuing his acting career, especially if rehearsals contain treats on set.

EVIE FRITH (*Blind Child*) has loved music and dancing since a very young age. Past credits include *Charlotte's Web*, and she also participates in her school's drama club program and attends dance lessons. Evie has loved theatre for a long time, and is excited to be part of this amazing production.

GABRIELLA HARRELL (*Blind Child*) is 11 years old and attends Cherokee Elementary School. This will be her debut production and she is excited to have this as her starting point. Her hobbies include singing, dancing (6 years), and reciting her favorite musicals. She has been to several different dance

competitions from Birmingham to Nashville and is in the Colbert County PACE program, which helps kids reach their creative and academic potential. She is very excited to work with those on the set of *The Miracle Worker* this year.

NORMA JUNE HASLACKER (*Blind Child*) is 8 years old and lives in Muscle Shoals. This is her first time to appear in *The Miracle Worker*. She loves all things dramatic. She has performed in Time out for Theater's production of *Charlotte's Web*, as the lamb, and as a monkey in a production for Fantasy Playhouse in Huntsville. This is her first public portrayal of a human being. She enjoys writing and producing her own plays with her three siblings, making jewelry, and drawing. She is very excited to be a part of recreating the important and inspirational story of Helen Keller this year.

PAULA MESTAS (*Blind Child/Stage Crew*) is a Freshman at Colbert Heights High School. This is Paula's first community performance and is so thankful to be given this opportunity. Paula has been in several school productions including *Noises Off, Bright Star, Annie, All the Bases,* and *A Christmas Chaos*. Paula also wants to say a special thank you to her mother, Katie, for pushing her to step out of her comfort zone and her theater director, Adam Herring, for giving her the opportunity to explore theatre and not giving up on her.

ELLYN MOORE (*Blind Child*) is thrilled to be making her first theatrical appearance and is proud to be playing the role of a blind child at Perkins in this year's production of *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green. Ellyn and her twin sister, Maddie, have practically grown up at Ivy Green watching their dad play various roles each summer in past productions. Ellyn is 10 years old and just completed fourth grade at New Bethel Elementary School in Tuscumbia. She is the daughter of Gina and Jonathan Moore and enjoys swimming, volleyball, playing outside, and... baking when time allows.

MADDIE MOORE (*Blind Child*) is thrilled to be making her theatrical debut in this year's production of *The Miracle Worker* as a blind child at Perkins. Maddie is 10 years old and just completed the fourth grade at New Bethel Elementary School in Tuscumbia. She is the daughter of Gina and Jonathan (Captain) Moore. She enjoys swimming, volleyball, gymnastics, and playing on her iPad when the sun isn't shining.

CLEMENTINE SMITH (*Blind Child*) is 9 years old and attends Florence City Schools. She has a love of theatre and musicals, previously having appeared

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in *Charlotte's Web* (2020 as a gosling, and 2022 as a baby spider), and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Little Gert). "Helen Keller is a great and honorable person and someone to look up to. I'm so excited to get to be in *The Miracle Worker*."

WILLIAM YUILLE (*Blind Child*) is a third grader at McBride Elementary School. He lives in Muscle Shoals with his parents, Lewis and Angela, and his pets Gus, Gracie, Jackson, and Maisie. He loves playing outside, drawing, swimming, spending time with friends and jumping on his trampoline. William loves performing and being on stage. He started leading song and prayer at church when he was two years old. William has had the opportunity to perform with Muscle Shoals High School Performing Arts in the following productions: *Mary Poppins*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, and *Newsies*. He has performed at the Shoals Theater in The Stanley Awards and *All For One*. He recently held the role of Grimsby in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* for Muscle Shoals Middle School. This is his first time to appear in *The Miracle Worker*. William said he wanted to be a part of history.

WAKEFIELD SELF (*Jimmie Sullivan*) has appeared as Jimmie Sullivan since 2020. He is the son of Wesley and Shea Self and lives in Killen and Hermosa Beach, California. He will be a sixth grader this fall. Wakefield loves playing basketball and enjoys fishing, swimming, boating, golf and playing with his younger brother, Doran.

NEIL SELF (*Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe*) is the head women's golf coach at the University of North Alabama. He last appeared on stage in the 1988 production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

WILLIAM FREEMAN (*Stage Crew*) is a native of Florence, AL who has been active in community theatre for over 30 years, acting in numerous shows, even directing on occasion. In the real world he is a professional puppeteer and voice actor where you can currently watch him on the nationwide PBS show, "Steve Trash Science", working the puppets and providing the voices. He has been a board member with the Zodiac Players of Shoals Theatre Inc. since 2011, and has been a volunteer with the Official Alabama Renaissance Faire for over 30 years. William also volunteers through his local church, Magnolia, working with their Benevolence, Children's, and Teen ministries You can watch his spiritual oriented puppet shows on their Magnolia Kids Youtube channel and on their FB page. He is very excited to be a part of this production and promises to do the best he can to help make sure you can see and hear everything.

HANA MAPLES (*Tech Crew*) first ran a light board at age 5 and has been involved with tech ever since. This is her second season of *The Miracle Worker*. She has performed in several shows and has run lights and sound for many productions at both at the Ritz Theatre and the Shoals Theatre. She attended the University of North Alabama for Art Education. She has one daughter, Sophie, who has also been on stage before. Hana enjoys the theatre and the wonderful experiences it has brought her.

FORREST PACE (*Stage Crew*) is the son of Terry and Anita Pace. He is a recent graduate of Colbert Heights High School. He has been involved in theatre as an actor and in stage crew over the past twelve years. He has been involved at Ivy Green, the Ritz Theatre, the Zodiac, and the Shoals Theatre.

TRAVIS SHORT (*Tech Crew*) is an audio engineer who came to The Shoals area in 2020. He works for First United Methodist Church of Florence providing tech work for their Sunday services and concerts. Travis has helped produce local comedy shows in the area, as well as podcasts and other online media.

LILY STREETMAN (*Tech Crew*) is returning to *The Miracle Worker* for her second season. She is a veteran when it comes to running lights and enjoys being able to do shows such as *The Miracle Worker*. She hopes you enjoy the show.



Jaidyn Quillen and Lillie Meyer in the 61st Annual Production
(Photo Credit: Mary Carton)

THE CREATIVE TEAM

CAROLINE SELF (*Director*) is returning for her third year as director, but *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green has been an important part of her life since childhood. She has appeared as a Blind Child (1985), Helen Keller (1987-89), Annie Sullivan (2001-04), and Kate Keller (2018-19). Caroline also directed *The Miracle Worker* at Harvard-Radcliffe College, the alma mater she shares with Helen Keller, and she first directed the play at both the Long Beach Playhouse and the Sierra Madre Playhouse in California. Caroline is a television producer and editor. Her executive producer credits include: "The Real Housewives of New Jersey", "Blood Sweat & Heels", "Marry Me Now", and "Manzo'd with Children". Other credits include: "Project Runway", "Big Brother", and "Hell's Kitchen". She is currently producing a new Netflix series that will premiere later this year. Caroline is a member of the Writers Guild of America, Producers Guild of America, and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

LAURA CONNOLLY (*Assistant Director*) is grateful to return for her 23rd season with *The Miracle Worker*. In 1976 she played a blind child and has since played the roles of Aunt Ev and a crone. She has also worked backstage, in the box office, and as Stage Manager. She currently works as a Hostess at Ivy Green and as the Costume and Props co-chair for the Zodiac Players. Laura has worked on over 150 local theatre productions. She earned her degree in Theatre at University of North Alabama. She was president of the Zodiac Players and has co-directed 26 shows with Andrew Maples. Laura wants to thank her mom Arah Ringnell for taking her to see plays as a child, her husband Chris Connolly, and her 2 daughters Christie and Jamie for their support, understanding, and patience.

ANDREW MAPLES (*Technical Director*) graduated from UNA in 1992 with a degree in Theatre. He has been involved in Theatre since his first show in 1986. He has worked in every level of theatre and in every possible role. He is excited to be part of the 61st Annual production of *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green.

DR. DAVID K. RUEBHAUSEN (*Scenic Design*) began his theatrical career in the Kansas City area working as the Student Technical Director for William Jewell College theatre while acting in such productions as *Marat/Sade*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Insect Comedy*. While there, he also performed walk-ons with such touring groups as The Acting Company and the Houston Ballet which afforded him the opportunity to work with such directors as Robert

Brustein (American Rep) and Thomas MacAnna (Abbey Theatre). While completing graduate work in Minneapolis, Dr. Ruebhausen served as Theatre instructor and Managing Director for the University of Minnesota Theatre and Minnesota Centennial Showboat. While in the Twin Cities, he directed and/or designed for productions such as *Children of a Lesser God*, *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, *Ghosts*, *Arms and the Man* and *Beyond Therapy*. He also served as the senior faculty member for UNA Theatre, teaching courses in design, directing, voice, acting, history, dramatic literature and arts management. Dr. Ruebhausen has directed and/or designed for UNA productions of *The Man of La Mancha*, *Dracula*, *Noises Off*, *The Tempest*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Lysistrata*, *Candida*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Once Upon A Mattress*. He has also worked with several Shoals community theatre productions as well as with the theatre departments at Orange Beach High School and the Florence Academy of Fine Arts (FAFA). For FAFA, he has designed sets for *Our Town*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Take My Seat*, and *The Music Man*.

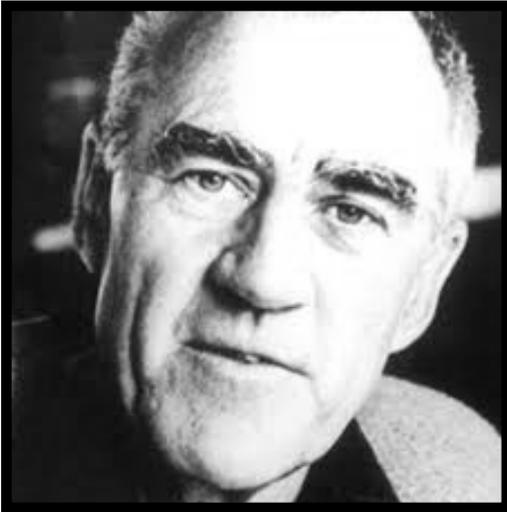
CECILIA GOOCH (*Helen Coach*) is 13 years old and attends Florence City Schools. This is Cecilia's fourth year to be part of *The Miracle Worker* family. She performed as Helen Keller for the past two seasons and played a Blind Child before that. She loves being on stage and has performed in Florence High School's *The Music Man*, Shoals Theatre's *Pocahontas* and *The Many Disguises of Robin Hood* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the Ritz. She has also worked as an extra for *The Super Science Showcase - Tom and Huck*. She's incredibly thankful to her family and friends as well as *The Miracle Worker* cast and crew for all of their support as she experiences the joys of theatre!



(Photo Credit: Mary Carton)

THE PLAYWRIGHT

WILLIAM GIBSON (*Playwright*) Born in the Bronx of New York City on November 13, 1914, William "Bill" Gibson was the son of George and Dore Gibson. Gibson spent his childhood in New York City and later attended college there. When he graduated from City College, he moved to Kansas, where he met the lady who would become his wife, Margaret Brenman. They were married on September 6, 1940. They had two sons, Thomas and David.



Some of his early plays were produced in Topeka, Kansas, but his critical and popular success came when *Two For the Seesaw* opened on Broadway in 1958. Just a year later, *The Miracle Worker* opened on Broadway starring Patty Duke and Anne Bancroft. A few years later, he adapted the play for the screen where Patty Duke and Anne Bancroft reprised their roles as "Helen" and "Annie."

Other credits include: *A Cry of Players*, *Golda's Balcony*, *The Butterfingers Angel*, *Monday After the Miracle*, *Goodly Creatures*, and *Handy Dandy*. Book credits include: "The Seesaw Log", "A Mass for the Dead", "Shakespeare's Game", and a book of poetry called, "Winter Crook". In 2004, *Golda's Balcony* brought Gibson back to the New York Stage. William Gibson died at his home in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on November 25, 2008. He was 94 years old.

Gibson visited Ivy Green several times before his death, and provided counsel and support to our production here. He always said that the production at the Birthplace needed to be "the best production of this play anywhere in the world." That is the bar we strive to meet each year.

THE STORY OF THE MIRACLE WORKER

On February 7, 1957, CBS aired a teleplay of William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* on its series Playhouse 90. The teleplay, directed by Arthur Penn, was a hit, but the story of *The Miracle Worker* was just beginning. The next morning, Gibson met Anne Bancroft, who Gibson called "Annie", for the first time, and on October 19, 1959, Annie Bancroft opened on Broadway as Annie Sullivan, "the miracle worker".

The original Broadway production of Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*, directed by Arthur Penn, also starred Patty Duke as Helen Keller, Patricia Neal as Kate Keller, and Torin Thatcher as Captain Arthur Keller. It ran on Broadway for 719 performances and won 4 Tony Awards including Best Play, Best Actress for Bancroft, and Best Director for Penn.

In 1962, Gibson, Penn, Bancroft, Duke, and producer Fred Coe teamed up again for the film adaptation of *The Miracle Worker*. Both Bancroft and Duke won Oscars for their portrayals of Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller. Duke later played Annie Sullivan in a 1979 television movie of *The Miracle Worker* that starred Melissa Gilbert as Helen.



61 YEARS OF MIRACLES AT IVY GREEN

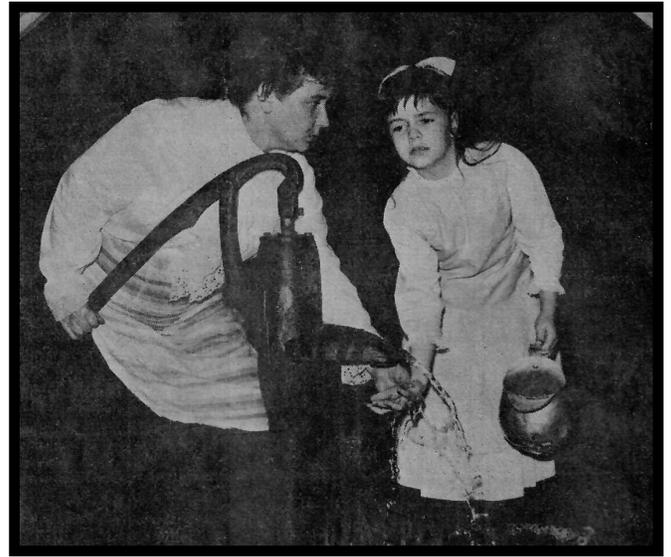
In 2022, we celebrate the 61st Annual Production of William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* outdoors at Ivy Green, the Birthplace of Helen Keller. Every year since 1962, this moving story of the triumph of the human spirit has been told on the grounds where Annie Sullivan taught Helen Keller the meaning of language. Today, the production brings people from all over the world and is the Official Outdoor Drama for the State of Alabama.

Not long after the Broadway run, Patty Duke visited Tuscumbia to experience Ivy Green. While in Tuscumbia, she was interviewed by Lyn Wagon, who, along with Ward Wagon, ran the Starmaker Community Playhouse in Tuscumbia. The idea for producing *The Miracle Worker* on the grounds of Ivy Green was born.



Patty Duke at Ivy Green in the early 1960s

The Miracle Worker opened at Ivy Green on June 29, 1962 to a capacity crowd. It was a hit, and a yearly tradition began. A month later, the Academy Award winning film of *The Miracle Worker*, produced by Fred Coe, directed by Arthur Penn, and starring Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke, was released.



Ann Cash and Teresa Conley in the 1962 production of *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green

Ten years after the first performance on the grounds, a tragic fire struck Ivy Green on April 8, 1972, and many of the props for *The Miracle Worker* that were stored in the attic of the Keller Shrine were destroyed. In only a few months, a new stage would need to be built on the other side of the lawn, a new lighting system would be needed, and the seating would need to be changed. *The Miracle Worker* faced closure, but after much deliberation, the decision was made. "The show must go on."



Patty Duke with Patty Chambers Hughes, who portrayed Annie in the 1980 production of *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green

61 YEARS OF MIRACLES AT IVY GREEN

In the 1970s, the play was performed behind the house, using the real pump for the "miracle" scene. Seating was much more limited than it is today. With Helen Keller's 100th birthday approaching on June 27, 1980, the decision was made to build an amphitheatre in time for the 1980 production so thousands more people could experience "the miracle" every summer. That amphitheatre was built on the site where the play is produced today. Patty Duke, who won an Emmy for her portrayal of Annie Sullivan in 1979, was in attendance for *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green during that 1980 season.



Patty Duke at Ivy Green in 2006

Duke returned to Ivy Green a few times before her death in 2016. On one of her later visits, Patty Duke remarked that "finally, my spirit has come home."



The set built in 2003



Rehearsing the 2020 Production

The set that was built in 1980 remained standing until 2003 when the set was rebuilt and the lighting/sound equipment modernized. The current set was built in 2015 with major improvements made for the 2020 production.

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic shut down Ivy Green to tours for the first time since it opened as a museum in 1954. Without revenue from tours and with gathering restrictions in place, *The Miracle Worker* once again faced cancellation, but again, the decision was made that "the show must go on". You are watching a play that has been performed on these grounds every summer since 1962. Now, more than ever, we are committed to keeping the miracle alive for generations to come.



Jaidyn Quillen and Lillie Meyer