

*The Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation
presents*

*the 62nd Annual Production of
William Gibson's*

THE MIRACLE WORKER

STARRING

JAIDYN QUILLEN LILLIE MEYER

JONATHAN MOORE ANNA KELLEY

TYLER HUDSON KATIE FLANNAGAN DALRYMPLE

KYLA ROBINSON JOHN OATES

KALIA ROBINSON DESTINY RUTLEDGE

MARY JOHN ALEXANDER EMMA BONDS HANNAH CHAPPELL CATHLEEN GOOCH

LYLA GRACE GREGORY KENSINGTON ANN GRIGSBY NORMA JUNE HASLACKER

OTTO HASLACKER PENELOPE HASLACKER VIVIAN ROSE HUDSON SOPHIE RICHARD NORA SPARKS

SCENIC DESIGN BY
DAVID K. RUEBHAUSEN

COSTUMES BY
BETH HENDERSON
VICTORIA MCCOY
ROSE HILL WORKSHOP

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

CREW
HANA MAPLES LILY STREETMAN WILLIAM FREEMAN
CODY WOODFIN PAULA MESTAS KAYLEE WILLINGHAM

HELEN COACH
CECILIA GOOCH

TECHNICAL DIRECTION BY
ANDREW MAPLES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
LAURA CONNOLLY

DIRECTED BY
CAROLINE SELF

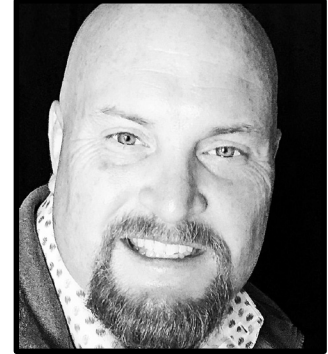
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Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com*



Jaidyn
Quillen



Lillie
Meyer



Jonathan
Moore



Anna
Kelley



Tyler
Hudson



Katie Flannagan
Dalrymple



Kyla
Robinson



John
Oates



Kalia
Robinson



Destiny
Rutledge



Wakefield
Self



Neil
Self



Mary John
Alexander



Emma
Bonds



Hannah
Chappell



Cathleen
Gooch



Lyla Grace
Gregory



Kensington Ann
Grigsby



Norma June
Haslacker



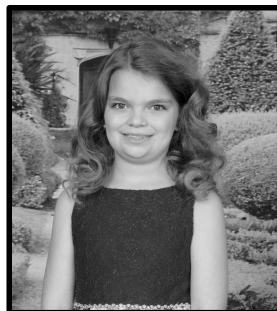
Otto
Haslacker



Penny
Haslacker



Vivian Rose
Hudson



Sophie
Richard



Nora
Sparks



Caroline
Self



Laura
Connolly



Cecilia
Gooch

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

A Doctor.....	JOHN OATES
Kate Keller.....	ANNA KELLEY
Capt. Arthur Keller.....	JONATHAN MOORE
Helen Keller.....	LILLIE MEYER
Martha	DESTINY RUTLEDGE
Percy.....	KALIA ROBINSON
Aunt Ev.....	KATIE FLANNAGAN DALRYMPLE
James Keller.....	TYLER HUDSON
Anagnos.....	JOHN OATES
Annie Sullivan.....	JAIDYN QUILLEN
Viney.....	KYLA ROBINSON
Blind Children at Perkins School.....	MARY JOHN ALEXANDER EMMA BONDS HANNAH CHAPPELL CATHLEEN GOOCH LYLA GRACE GREGORY KENSINGTON ANN GRIGSBY NORMA JUNE HASLACKER OTTO HASLACKER PENELOPE HASLACKER VIVIAN ROSE HUDSON SOPHIE RICHARD NORA SPARKS
Jimmie Sullivan.....	WAKEFIELD SELF
Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe.....	NEIL SELF
Visual Storytellers (6/23-6/24 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
Costumes by.....BETH HENDERSON, VICTORIA MCCOY,
ROSE HILL WORKSHOP
Stage Crew.....WILLIAM FREEMAN
PAULA MESTAS
KAYLEE WILLINGHAM
Tech Crew.....HANA MAPLES
CODY WOODFIN
LILY STREETMAN
Set Construction.....GENE MCDUGAL
Landscapes by.....SHOALS MASTER GARDENERS
PAULA KELLY, MICHAEL WILSON, LISA MAPLES, SALLY MCGUIRE
ROBBIE ROBBINS, HANNAH JOHNSON, SUSAN HUNTLEY, LINDA BREWER
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 20 years old and thrilled to be back on the grounds of Ivy Green! This is her 6th year being involved with *The Miracle Worker*. She has played a Blind Child, been a part of the Stage and Tech Crew, and this is her second year portraying the incredible Anne Sullivan. Other past credits include: *Charlotte's Web*, *Opal*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Dorothy Meets Alice*, and more. She was formerly involved with The Ritz School of Performing Arts. She can also be found in the upcoming film *Sweetwater Road*. Huge thanks to directors Caroline and Laura for having faith and giving me this opportunity once again. Please enjoy the show! Soli Deo Gloria!

LILLIE MEYER (*Helen Keller*) is enrolled in Florence City Schools. She has taken dance classes since age 3 and thrived in competitive dance for the past 5 years. Lillie is excited to return for her second year portraying Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*. She always has been inspired by Helen's story and is grateful for the honor of bringing it to life on stage. Lillie would like to thank the cast and crew for their ongoing 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 11th 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: jcrossleymoore

ANNA KELLEY (*Kate Keller*) is returning to *The Miracle Worker* for her second season and is thrilled to be playing Kate Keller once again in the year's production. Other roles that Anna has taken on throughout her career include Annie in *Annie*, Babette in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Denise in *Smoke on the Mountain*. Anna graduated from NWSCC, is now a student at Athens State University, and works full time at First Metro Bank. She gives glory to God, and thanks her husband and family for their love and support. She thanks you all for coming to watch the show and hopes all enjoy!

TYLER HUDSON (*James Keller*) has been performing since he was a child. Recent credits include leading roles in *Seussical*, *Shrek the Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Radium Girls*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Next To Normal*, and *Rabbit Hole*. 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 currently serves as the front man for the local rock cover band, *Roadside Mattress*. He is excited to take the stage as Jimmie this year, after 3 consecutive years as Doctor/Mr. Anagnos. This year he is especially excited to get to be a part of his niece's stage debut as one of the blind children. Tyler would like to thank the directors for continuing to cast him and afford him this opportunity, and thank his wife and children for allowing him the chance to continue to pursue his passion of performing.

KATIE FLANNAGAN DALRYMPLE (*Aunt Ev*) is thrilled to return to Ivy Green after four seasons away. She previously played Kate Keller for five seasons, and this year she will be taking on the role of Aunt Ev. Katie is a former Theatre educator and is now the Director of Curriculum and Assessment for Colbert County Schools. She has been involved in over 100 productions here locally and in college. She spends her free time with her husband (Michael) and three children (Nora, Oliver, and Theodore). They all love Community Theatre, traveling, and just spending time together. This perform is dedicated to her family who support her unceasingly in all things.

KYLA ROBINSON (*Viney*) is 16 years old and attends Florence City Schools. This is her first time playing Viney in *The Miracle Worker*. She performed in *The Miracle Worker* last year as Percy. She is so excited to play Viney 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.

JOHN OATES (*A Doctor/Mr. Anagnos*) is a Chemist at ICool USA in Hartselle AL. He is entering his second season of *The Miracle Worker*. John has always enjoyed acting and was able to portray his passion throughout 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

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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, and siblings, James and Shannon, aunt Debra Pearsall and his four children Immanuel, Thomas, Gabriel and Naomi. He would also like to give thanks to Scott Cole, his theater professor at Bridgewater College, for instilling in him a love for theater. "I will always be grateful to *The Miracle Worker* family for welcoming me with open arms. I hope to make everyone proud. May God alone receive the glory."

KALIA ROBINSON (*Percy*) is 12 years old and goes to Florence City Schools at Hibbett Intermediate School. This is Kalia's second time performing *The Miracle Worker*. She is really excited to be in *The Miracle Worker* for 2023. 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 play in *The Miracle Worker* along with her sister Kyla (Viney).

DESTINY RUTLEDGE (*Martha*) is thrilled to be a part of *The Miracle Worker*! Destiny is the daughter of Burnis and Renita Rutledge. Destiny is a member of Christworldwide Ministries where she dances and serves under the leadership of Apostle Theron and Pastor Tracy Brown. Destiny enjoys playing basketball and having fun with friends. Destiny would like to dedicate this season's performance to her family brand, True Story, weartruestory.com, her parents and also her siblings Kobe, Sierra and Nevaeh. "Love you all! You're the best!"

MARY JOHN ALEXANDER (*Blind Child*) is in the 4th grade at Kilby Laboratory School in Florence. She attends Allegro Dance studio and enjoys horse back riding. Mary John attends Cross Point Church of Christ. She is the daughter of Ben and Sarah Beth Alexander and sister to Ward.

EMMA BONDS (*Blind Child*) is a fourth grader at Colbert Heights Elementary School. Emma has recently found her love of theatre through her older sisters and was in her first production, *Snow White*, at The Shoals earlier this year. In her free time Emma enjoys dressing up, makeup, drawing, and twirling with her sister, Paula. She would like to thank her family for supporting her in everything she does. She hopes you enjoy this season's production of *The Miracle Worker*.

HANNAH CHAPPELL (*Blind Child*) is honored and excited to perform in *The Miracle Worker* for the first time. Past credits include: the female lead role

in *The Day Grace Walked In*, *The Everything*, and *Not Guilty*, all productions of Pure Faith Ministries of Cullman; the baker (Hildegard) in *The Baker's Dozen: The Thirteenth Cookie*, the narrator in *The Three Codependent Goats Gruff*, the narrator in *Chicken Little*, and the lawyer (Mother Goose) in *The Case of BB Wolf vs. Curly Pig*, all Cullman Homeschool Connection's productions. She is currently finishing her sophomore year at Hope Christian School. She loves the Lord and is eager to see where He continues to take her during this journey.

CATHLEEN GOOCH (*Blind Child*) is 5 years old and attends Early Arts Preschool. Cathleen loves singing, crafts, playing with her friends but most of all her two older sisters. She made her debut in *The Wizard of Oz* this past summer as a Poppy Flower and her love of theatre began. This past fall she was a part of the Gingerbread players production of *Snow White* and she loves participating in the Early Arts music and art shows. For many years Cathleen has watched her sister take the Ivy Green stage to be a part of *The Miracle Worker* and she is so excited to finally be a part of *The Miracle Worker* family and take the stage herself! She wants to thank Ms. Caroline and Ms. Laura for letting her be a part of this year's production and a BIG thank you to her big sister CiCi for all of her help and guidance.

LYLA GRACE GREGORY (*Blind Child*) was born May 31, 2013 at Helen Keller Hospital in Tusculumbia, Alabama. She attends McBride Elementary School, and will be going into the 5th grade this fall. Lyla Grace has a 2-year-old Shih Tzu and her name is Layla. She is the sweetest dog ever. Lyla Grace's hobbies are drawing, acting, and listening to music. This is her second play. The first play she auditioned for was *Stuart Little* and she got the lead role. Lyla Grace is so excited to be part of *The Miracle Worker*.

KENSINGTON ANN GRIGSBY (*Blind Child*) is thrilled to be making her acting debut in this season's production! She has always been a performer and, at the age of 6, looks forward to many more great roles! Kensie enjoys singing, dancing, and every aspect of "the stage"!

NORMA JUNE HASLACKER (*Blind Child*) is a rising 5th grader. This is her second year as a cast member in *The Miracle Worker*. She has been in several productions at the Ritz Theater in the past two years, most recently portraying Stuart Little. She loves acting, singing, gymnastics, and being a teacher to her four younger siblings.

OTTO HASLACKER (*Blind Child*) is a rising 3rd grader. This is his first public performance. He

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loves building things, reptiles, and science. He enjoys watching River Monsters with his dad and sister Penny. He plans to be an archeologist some day.

PENNY HASLACKER (*Blind Child*) is a rising 1st grader. This is her second public performance. She portrayed the hilarious cat in the Gingerbread Players' production of *Snow White* this year. She loves creating art, singing, gymnastics, and playing outside.

VIVIAN ROSE HUDSON (*Blind Child*). This is Vivian's acting debut. Since age 2 1/2, Vivian has sat mesmerized as she watched *The Miracle Worker* performed each summer at Ivy Green. Now 5 1/2, she is honored to be chosen to play a blind child. She is especially excited to be sharing the stage with her uncle Tyler Hudson, who plays James Keller. When Vivian isn't performing, she enjoys arts & crafts, dancing, & singing.

SOPHIE RICHARD (*Blind Child*) will enter the 4th grade and turn ten in August. She has made two stage appearances, but this will be her first time to appear in *The Miracle Worker*.

NORA SPARKS (*Blind Child*) is excited for her theatrical debut in this year's *The Miracle Worker*. Nora is the daughter of Rodney and Cassie Sparks. She lives in Leighton with her parents and soon-to-be five siblings. She is seven years old and homeschools. Nora enjoys exploring nature, playing with her pets, painting, and learning the violin.

WAKEFIELD SELF (*Jimmie Sullivan*) has appeared as Jimmie Sullivan since 2020. He is the son of Wesley and Shea Self and lives in Hermosa Beach, California. He will be a seventh grader this fall. Wakefield loves playing basketball and baseball 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.

PAULA MESTAS (*Stage Crew*) is a sophomore at Colbert Heights High School. Paula has been in several school productions including *Bright Star*, *Nooses Off*, *Radium Girls*, *Once on This Island*, and many more as well as *Stuart Little* at the Ritz Theater. This is her second season at Ivy Green and hopes for many more. In her free time she twirls at Studio X-treme and is on the majorette line at her high school. She would like to thank her parents for always pushing her and all of the amazing directors she has had for giving her incredible opportunities to grow her love of theatre.

KAYLEE WILLINGHAM (*Stage Crew*) this is her first time helping and being part of *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green. Past Credits include: *The Giver*; *Murders in the Heir*; and *The Scarlet Heart*. Musical theatre credits include: *Big Fish*. Kaylee is a current college student at Athens State University studying Secondary Special Education. Kaylee would like to wish luck to all of the cast members and hopes you enjoy the show.

HANA MAPLES (*Tech Crew*) first ran a light board at age 5 and has been involved with tech ever since. This is her third 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. This year, Hana is excited to have her daughter, Sophie, also be involved in *The Miracle Worker* as a Blind Child.

LILY STREETMAN (*Tech Crew*) is returning to *The Miracle Worker* for her third 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.

CODY WOODFIN (*Tech Crew*) has been in theater for years. He has been in *The Little Mermaid*, *Sound of Music*, and many more, but this is his first year working with *The Miracle Worker*. He is running the sound and plans on going to Troy to get his degree in technical theater.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

CAROLINE SELF (*Director*) is returning for her fourth 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 fight 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", and "Manzo'd with Children". Other credits include: "Project Runway", "Big Brother", and "Hell's Kitchen". She is currently Executive Producer of "Buying Beverly Hills" on Netflix.

LAURA CONNOLLY (*Assistant Director*) is grateful to return for her 24th 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 31 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*) has been involved with technical theatre since college when he stumbled in to help on a production. He went on to receive his degree in theatre and radio television and film from UNA. Since college he has been a tech director of many shows in the Shoals area. He enjoys all aspects of theatre. He and Laura Connolly have directed a total of 31 shows involving both young and adult actors.

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*.

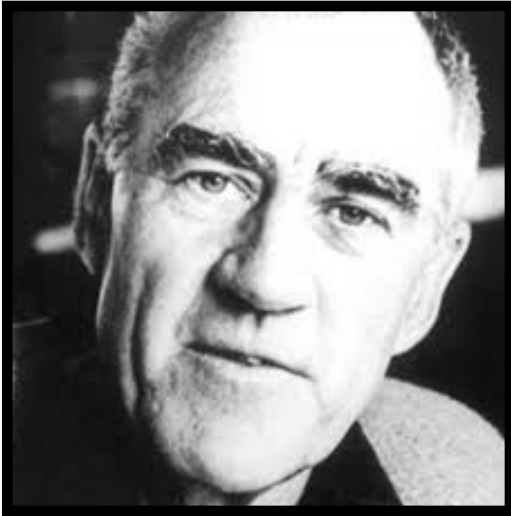
CECILIA GOOCH (*Helen Coach*) This is Cecilia's fifth year to be part of *The Miracle Worker* family. She performed as Helen Keller for two seasons and played a Blind Child before that. She loves being on stage and has performed in Florence City School's *The Music Man* and *The Wiz*, The Gingerbread Players productions of *Pocahontas*, *The Wizard of Oz* 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*. CiCi loves being a part of The Miracle Worker family and she's so excited to see her little sister take the Ivy Green stage for the first time! Thank you to Ms. Caroline and Ms. Laura for all of their love and guidance. She would like to wish the cast and crew a great season of *The Miracle Worker* at Ivy Green, thank you for letting her be a part of your family for another year!!



(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.

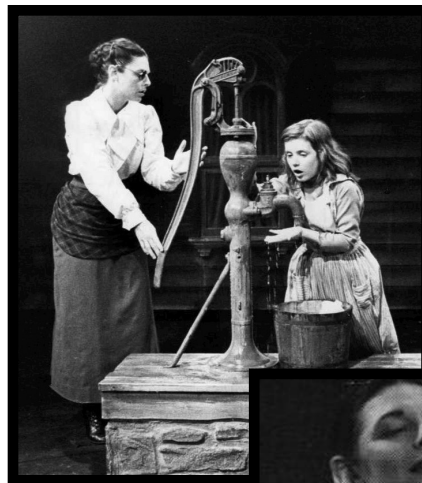
Gibson visited Ivy Green several times before his death, and provided counsel and support to our production here. He always said that the production at the Birthplace needed to be "the best production of this play anywhere in the world." That is the bar we strive to meet each year.

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.



62 YEARS OF MIRACLES AT IVY GREEN

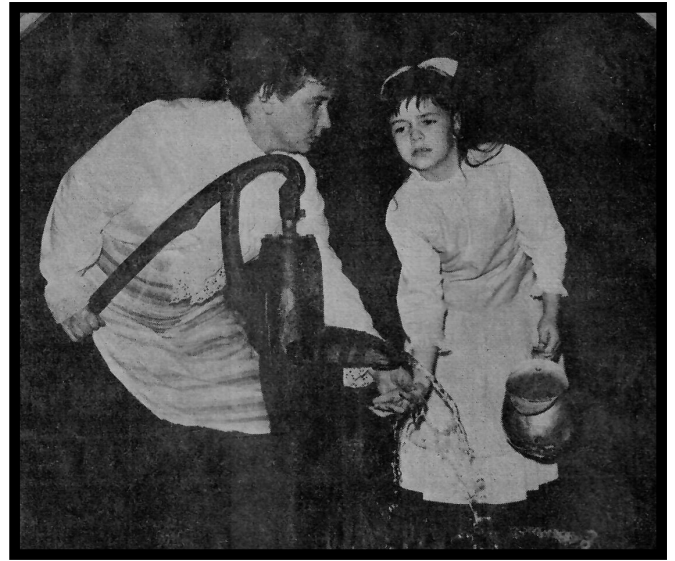
In 2023, we celebrate the 62nd Annual Production of William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* outdoors at Ivy Green, the Birthplace of Helen Keller. Every year since 1962, this moving story of the triumph of the human spirit has been told on the grounds where Annie Sullivan taught Helen Keller the meaning 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 Wagnon, who, along with Ward Wagnon, 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

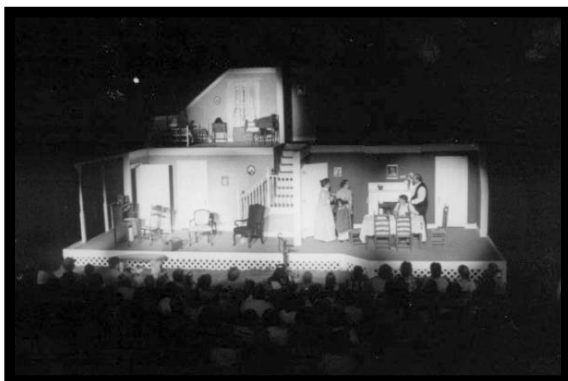
62 YEARS OF MIRACLES AT IVY GREEN

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