

## **Audition Notice: The Miracle Worker**

By William Gibson

Directed by Meredith Ann Gaines

### **Audition Dates:**

Sunday, July 18, 2021 & Monday, July 19, 2021 @7pm

### **Audition & Performance Location:**

Playhouse 1960 6814 Gant Rd. Houston, TX 77066

### **Audition Requirements:**

1. Be prepared to read from the script. Audition sides will be provided.
2. Those auditioning for Helen and Annie will have a specified action-based/improv audition and should be prepared to move freely.
3. Those young actors who are challenged or unable to read from the script should be prepared to share a story with the Director about a time when they had to share something that they didn't want to share.
4. Please provide a headshot & resume, if available, but not required. An information audition form will be provided.
5. A tentative rehearsal calendar will be available at auditions. Please be prepared to provide a list of rehearsal conflicts. Any conflicts must be discussed and approved with the Director before casting decisions are made.

### **Performance Dates:**

Fridays and Saturdays, Sept 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 2021 @8pm (6:30pm call)

Sunday Sept 19, 2021@3pm (1:30pm call)

### **Rehearsal Dates:**

Cast Read Through Tuesday July 20 @730pm

Sundays - Thursdays beginning Sun July 25th 730-10pm (Sunday start 6pm)

TECH WEEK REHEARSALS @730pm All Week prior to show opening

PICK UP REHEARSALS @730pm Sept 9th & Sept 16th

### **Plot/Synopsis Information:**

In Tuscumbia, Alabama, an illness renders young Helen Keller blind, deaf, and consequently mute. Pitied and badly spoiled by her parents, Helen is taught no discipline and grows into a wild, angry, tantrum-throwing child in control of the household. Desperate, the Kellers hire Annie Sullivan to serve as governess and teacher for their daughter. After several fierce battles with Helen, Annie convinces the Kellers that she needs two weeks alone with Helen in order to achieve any progress in the girl's education. In this time, Annie teaches Helen discipline through persistence and consistency, and language through hand signals, a double breakthrough that changes Helen's life and has a direct effect on the lives of everyone in the family.

### **Information/Questions:**

For any further information or questions, please contact the Director, Meredith Ann Gaines at [meredith.gaines@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meredith.gaines@sbcglobal.net)

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### **Character Breakdown:**

11f, 6m

**Doctor (Male, 40s+)** diagnoses Helen as a young toddler with the illness that causes her onset of blindness and deafness.

**Captain Arthur Keller (Male, 40s-50s)** Helen's father. He is stern, but devoted to his family. He struggles to connect to young Helen, but he is loving nonetheless.

**Kate Keller (Female, 20s-30s)** Helen's mother and Captain Keller's second wife. She is tormented by Helen's perceivably insurmountable disability. She seeks to please Helen in order to avoid the tantrums and to compensate for her extreme misfortune. She is a captain's wife, completely devoted to her husband, but a fiercely devoted mother as well. She is determined to give Helen any chance she can get.

**Helen Keller (Female, 7-9 years old)** is deaf, blind, and mute. She is trapped in her own world, and struggles to find ways to connect with others. She has been blind and deaf since she was stricken with illness at 19 months old. She is involved in intense physical scenes. Must have a strong connection to Annie Sullivan.

**Martha (Female, 8-11 years old)** a close friend of Helen near her home in Alabama who understood Helen's "signs" before her teacher arrived

**Percy (Male, 7-12 years old)** is a friend of Helen near her home in Alabama

**Aunt Ev (Female, 30s -50s)** is Captain Keller's sister and Helen's aunt. She is a talkative, opinionated woman who serves as the catalyst for the Kellers' contact with the Perkins School for the Blind. She is the most proudly, self-consciously "Southern" character: she objects to Annie Sullivan's presence in the house on the grounds that she's an arrogant Yankee.

**James Keller (Male, late teens - 20s)** is Helen's half brother, the son of the Captain. He is described as indolent. He sees Helen as mentally defective and believes it best she be put in an asylum.

**Anagnos (Male, 40s - 50s)** is Annie's counselor at the Perkins Institution for the Blind. A dear and kind man; he is very fond of Annie. He serves as a mentor and friend.

**Annie Sullivan (Female, 20s)** is Helen's teacher. She is a strong and vibrant woman who is determined to connect Helen to the world. Her challenging past is what drives her to push Helen to the brink. There is a crude vitality to her and she is undeterred by the Keller's protection of their daughter Helen. She is involved in intense physical scenes. Must have a strong connection to Helen. Irish accent is a plus but not necessary.

**Viney (Female, 40s - 60s)** is a servant. She is cheerful & very loving towards the Keller children.

**Jimmy (Male, 10-12 years)** is Annie's dead brother. He appears in Annie's memory while she is working with Helen.

**Blind Girls (Female, 7-12 year old)** are students at the Perkins School for the Blind and are very fond of Annie Sullivan. There will be at least 5 young females cast in these roles.