



**Signed Performance of The Miracle Worker on May 11
at
St. Jacobs Country Playhouse**

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Drayton Entertainment will present a signed performance of its upcoming production of *The Miracle Worker* on **Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Jacobs Country Playhouse. The production is on stage from **April 24 through May 12.**

Two American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be on stage for the performance. Although they may be visible from all seats, designated seating has been reserved for best viewing of the stage and the ASL interpreters. Seats in the held section will not be available for purchase online. Interested patrons should call the Box Office at **519-747-7788** to buy seats in the designated section.

The inspiring Tony Award©-winning play *The Miracle Worker* is based on the extraordinary true story of Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan. The renowned play chronicles the story of young Helen Keller, who is blind, deaf and consequently unable to speak as a result of an illness contracted in her infancy. She is trapped in a secret, silent world, unable to communicate. Pitied by her parents, Helen is taught no discipline and grows into a wild, angry, tantrum-throwing child in control of the household. Frustrated, lonely, and destructive, Helen is in danger of being sent to an institution. In desperation, her parents seek help from the Perkins Institution, which sends them Annie Sullivan to tutor their volatile daughter. Annie soon realizes there are a mind and spirit waiting to be rescued from the dark.

The production is directed by **Marti Maraden**. She is joined by Set Designer **Allan Wilbee**, Costume Designer **Jenine Kroeplin**, Lighting Designer **Kevin Fraser**, and Fight Director **Joe Bostick**.

A stellar cast has been assembled for the production including **Shannon Currie** as Annie Sullivan, 12-year old **Clara Kushnir** as Helen Keller, **Jackie Mustakas** as Kate Keller, **Rob McClure** as Captain Arthur Keller, **Thomas Duplessie** as James Keller, **Gabrielle Jones** as Aunt Ev, **Marcia Johnson** as Viney, **Gerry Mendicino** as Anagnos, and **Omar Alex Khan** as the Doctor. A small

children's chorus will also be part of this talented acting company including **Brooke Bauer, Hannah Findley, Claire Frayne, Ella Hiemstra, Isabelle Hiltz, Taylor Katumba, Nyla Lowell, Brook Rickert, Abigail Schwartz, Yesol Seo, Kyla Wallbank, and Kianna Warkintin.**

Written by William Gibson, *The Miracle Worker* is based on Keller's best-selling autobiography, *The Story of My Life*. The stage play premiered on Broadway in October of 1959 and won several Tony Awards© including Best Play, Best Direction, and Best Actress. The cast included Anne Bancroft as Annie Sullivan and Patty Duke as Helen Keller, both of whom reprised their roles in the now-iconic 1962 film adaptation; Bancroft and Duke won the Academy Awards© for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress for the film. The play has also been adapted twice for television. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the play, it was revived on Broadway in 2010 starring Alison Pill as Annie Sullivan and Abigail Breslin as Helen Keller.

After her difficult childhood, Keller went on to college with the assistance of Sullivan, graduating cum laude from Radcliffe in 1904, at the age of 24. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. During her lifetime, Helen Keller became a revered advocate, fundraiser, and author, helping to found the American Civil Liberties Union. Her advocacy work significantly influenced the treatment and education of people who are blind and deaf. She received many honours in recognition of her accomplishments and, along with Sullivan, continues to be among the most significant women in history.

The Miracle Worker is proudly sponsored by **Commercial Print Craft**. Media Sponsors are the **Kitchener Post, Waterloo Chronicle, and 107.1 Juice FM** in Stratford. Design Sponsors are **RWAM Insurance Administrators** and **The McIntyre Real Estate Team**. The Youth Theatre Education Sponsor is **TD**. The 2019 Season Media Sponsor is **CTV**.

Regular performance tickets are \$48 for adults, \$29 for youth under 20 years of age. Tickets for select Discount Dates and groups of 20 or more are \$39. HST is applicable to all ticket prices.

The Miracle Worker runs from **April 24 to May 12**. Designated seating tickets for the signed performance on **Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.** are exclusively available through the Box Office at **(519) 747-7788**. Regular tickets for this performance and all other performances may be purchased in person at the theatre, online at www.draytonentertainment.com/miracle-worker or by calling the Box Office at **(519) 747-7788** or toll-free at **1-855-drayton (372-9866)**.

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For more information, please contact:
Amanda Kind, Director of Marketing
Phone: (519) 621-5511 ext. 235
amanda@draytonentertainment.com

To set up an interview, please contact:
Arlene Dowell, Marketing & Development Associate
Phone: (519) 621-5511 ext. 244
arlene@draytonentertainment.com