

The Miracle Worker

By Carolyn Corsano Wong

Imagine you have not been able to see anything since the time you were 19 months old. Since that time you have not heard your mother's or father's voice or any of your siblings or the sound of a bird singing. You do not know your own voice or have seen your own face. Such was the world of Helen Keller. Deaf and blind due to an illness when she was a toddler, Helen was locked in a silent, dark world. It would take the steadfast determination of her teacher Anne Sullivan to unlock the door to Helen's silent world. Annie's own words on the day she succeeded

were: "My heart is singing for joy this morning! A miracle has happened! The light of understanding has shone upon my little pupil's mind, and behold, all things are changed!" STAGE RIGHT is pleased to present the story of how Annie Sullivan was able to pull Helen Keller out of her dark silent isolation. From Sept. 7 - 23 we present William Gibson's American classic *The Miracle Worker* at the historic Crighton Theatre.

The Miracle Worker marks the start of our 5th season at the Crighton Theatre.

Helen and Annie; trying to find the key to unlock the world to Helen



Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan

Lacy Jones as Annie with the blind school girls played by Hannah Bartlett, Katelyn Pittman and Sierra Escobar

Lena Torluemke as Helen with Katt Gilcrease as Capt. Keller



atre. Our production features a cast and crew of old friends and new. Leading our cast as Anne Sullivan is a newcomer to our group: Layci Jones. Layci hales from Gun Barrel City, Texas and has received a Bachelors in Music Education from Lamar University in Beaumont. Though most of her experience is in musicals, Layci is excited to be performing at the Crighton in this exceptional play. Layci is playing opposite Lauren Santana and Lena Torluemke who are splitting the role of Helen. Both of these talented young ladies are students at the Humphreys School for Musical Theatre and have performed in productions with TUTS. Lauren is new to our group but Lena was an orphan in our production of *Annie*. The parents of Helen Keller are portrayed by STAGE RIGHT favorite Katt Gilcrease as Capt. Keller and newcomer Beverly Watkins as Kate. Katt is a board member, professional actor and teacher in our after school theatre academy - Bravo Company. Beverly is a graduate of Sam Houston State University with a BFA in Theatre and has worked around the country and just down the street where she recently appeared at the Owen Theatre in *Smokey Joe's Café*. Capt. Keller's son James is portrayed by Garrett Wilson - a student in Bravo Company.

We have several families represented in our cast and crew; all have been involved in multiple productions over our last 4 years. Katie Kelly portrays the well-

Continued on page 60

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meaning but comically interfering Aunt Ev. Katie has been seen in *The Carol Burnett Show*, *The Music Man* and in our world premiere production of *Mama Won't Fly*. Katie's husband Peter Kelly was also in *The Music Man* but prefers to work backstage on Katie's productions. In addition to a husband and wife team we also have a mother and daughter team with Monica Munson portraying the humorous Keller maid Viney and her daughter Isabella as Viney's daughter Pearl. Isabella was

last seen as a mouse in *Cinderella* and an orphan in our acclaimed production of *Annie*. We also have a father/daughter team in our production: Phil Clarke and his daughter Lena. Phil portrays the doctor and works backstage in this production. He is a STAGE RIGHT board member and was seen in our production of *No Time for Sergeants* and portrayed FDR in *Annie*. Lena was last seen as a mouse in *Cinderella* and was also an orphan in *Annie*. If your kids are going to be on stage, why shouldn't you be there too!

We hope your family will join us for this remarkable and uplifting true story. Be sure to bring the kids since they'll be learning about Helen Keller at school. When you come we encourage you to donate used eyeglasses. We are working with the

Conroe Noon Lions Club to collect eyeglasses to give sight to those not able to afford glasses.

Performances of *The Miracle Worker* are September 7 – 23 Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm with two Sunday matinees on September 16 and 23 at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at www.stage-right.org or by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469). Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$12 for kids. Discounts are available for groups of 10 persons or more. Discount tickets can be obtained by calling the box office. *The Miracle Worker* is the first of five shows in our Season of Miracles. Season tickets are only \$75 for all five shows and can be purchased by calling the box office or in the lobby of the theatre prior to the show. When you purchase season tickets you are saving over 20% off



Kate and Helen; a mother's love knows no bounds



The girls taking a break from rehearsal; Lena Clarke, Katelyn Pittman, Hannah Bartlett, Sierra Escobar and Isabella Munson



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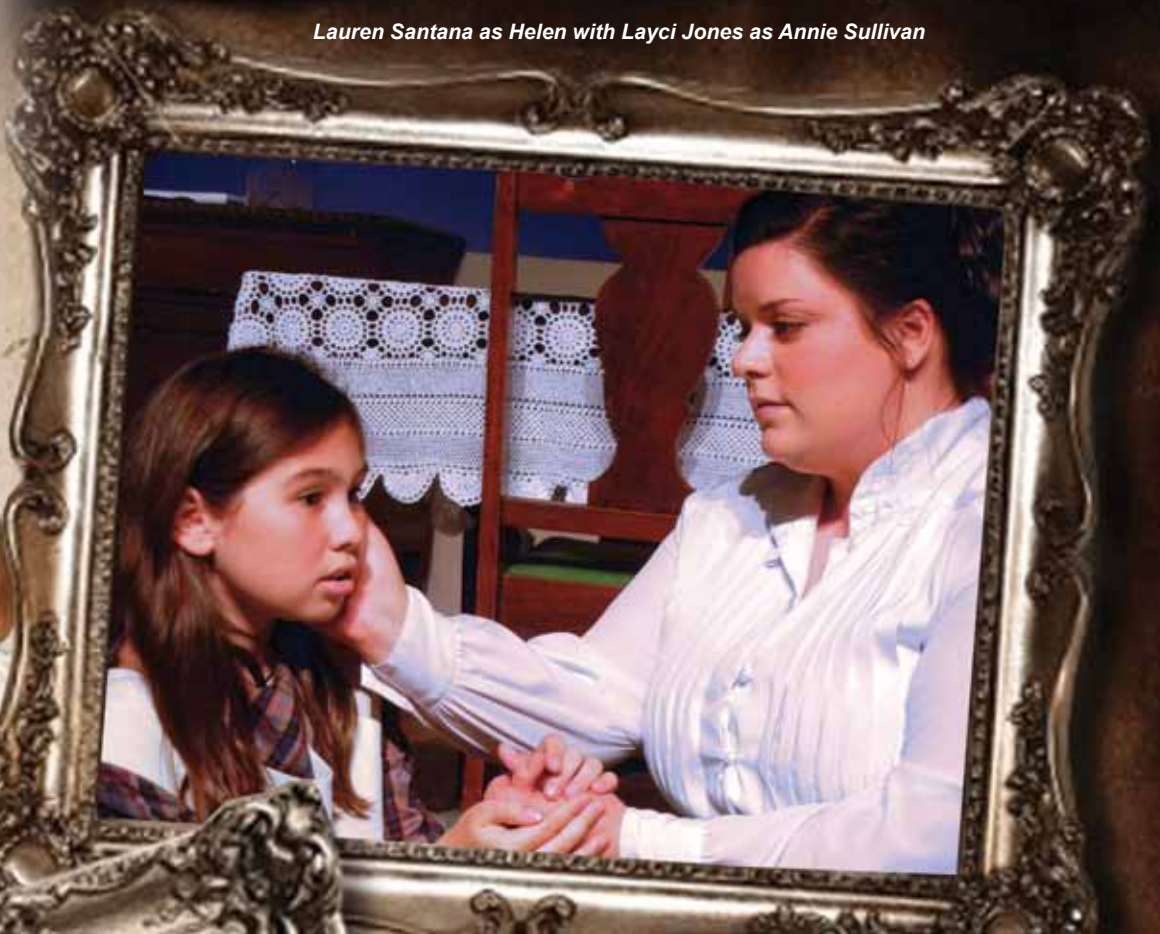
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of the single ticket price. Additionally, you'll be getting one "Friends of a Subscriber" ticket to give away to a friend to join you at a performance of any show in our season. Remaining shows are the hilarious Christmas comedy *My Three Angels*, the daffy delightful *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a deliciously Southern fried comedy *The Red Velvet Cake War* and we end our season over the rainbow with *The Wizard of Oz*.

We hope you'll take a chance and join us this season. In the words of Helen Keller: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." ♦

**Katt Gilcrease as Capt. Keller,
Garrett Wilson as James and
Beverly Watkins as Kate**

Lauren Santana as Helen with Layci Jones as Annie Sullivan



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