

The Summit Playhouse Association

The following program is from our 2005-2006 season.

For information on our current production,
and on other shows we have presented,
please visit our web site at

<http://SummitPlayhouse.org>

The Summit Playhouse Association
Established 1918
10 New England Ave
Summit, NJ 07974
908-273-2192

The historic

Founded 1918

Summit Playhouse

Qualified by The New Jersey Cultural Trust

Presents

The Miracle Worker

*The story of Helen Keller
and Annie Sullivan*

Fall 2005



Helen Keller

Helen learned thirty words that same day she remembered water. By ten she read French, German, Greek and Latin in Braille. At twenty she entered Radcliff College and later wrote *The Story of My Life*, which was translated into 50 languages. She gave speeches, raised money for many organizations, one of which is now called Helen Keller Worldwide. She visited 39 countries, won dozens of awards, such as the Presidential Metal of Freedom, the highest honor an American civilian can achieve. She died in her sleep in 1968. Thank you, Annie Sullivan, the miracle worker.

The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Eighty Third Production

The Miracle Worker

By **William Gibson**

Set Design

Sarah Schlesinger

Lighting

Bob Murray

Stage Managers

John Luckstone
& Linn Smith

Assistant Director

Pam Heller

Producer

Joann Lopresti Scanlon

Costumes

Kirsten Solberg

Properties

Tina Casey
& PT Kizzia

Director

Kate Schlesinger

November 4, 5, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 at 8:00pm
Sunday Matinees, November 6 & 13 at 2:00pm

The Playhouse Association
10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org

Costumes by arrangement with Scaramouche Costumes, LLC
Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

Cast

(In order of appearance)

The Doctor Michael Schlesinger
Kate Keller Thea Clark
Captain Keller Drew Dix
Helen Keller Paulina Casey
Martha Indira Larson
James Keller Peter Curley
Aunt Ev Liz Dawson
Annie Sullivan Megan Guinan
Anagnos Bill Roome
Beatrice Audrey Atencio
Alice Brooke Dobossy
Sarah Natalie Dix
Viney Sharell Crabb
Recorded Voices Bud Dawson, Liz Dawson,
Sondra Luckstone, Kate Schlesinger,
Michael Schlesinger and Eli Weisenfeld

The Setting

In and around the Keller homestead in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in the early 1880's. Also, briefly, the Perkins Institution for the Blind, in Boston.

There will be a 15 minute intermission, during which juice will be served in the lounge downstairs.

The Thursday benefit performance
is for the Summit Community School.

**The Access Matinee for this production has been
underwritten by the Summit Lions Club**

Production Staff

Director	Kate Schlesinger
Producer.....	Joann Lopresti Scanlon
Assistant Director	Pam Heller
Assistant Producer	Jo Ray
Fight Choreography	Cliff Jewell, Kean University
Stage Managers	John Luckstone & Linn Smith
Set Design.....	Sarah Schlesinger
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....	John Becker, Frank Hawrusik, Ed Johnson, Mike Middleton and Roy Pancirov
Set Painting	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....	Bud Dawson, Cathy & Frank Hawrusik, Betty Kaus, Malcom Kitson, Mary Lou Mayfield, Jo Ray, and Kathy & Mike Tatlow
Set Décor	Jo Ray
Assisted by.....	Rose Pancirov
Costumes.....	Kirsten Solberg
Assisted by.....	Brenna Larson & Jennifer Warren
Properties	Tina Casey & PT Kizzia
Assisted by.....	Patty Dobossy, Amy Larson, Mary Lou Mayfield, Theresa Turner and Geraldine Zoccoli
Lighting	Bob Murray
Assisted by.....	Paul Casey, David Hoffman, Tamara Nedjar and Bill Roome
Sound	Bill Roome
Assisted by.....	Tamara Nedjar
Make-up	Sue Smith
Assisted by.....	Alice Kosowski
Photography	Anita Choubey
Signing.....	Carol A. Goodman, Kean University
Audio-Description	Rachael Evans, Kean University
Poster & Playbill.....	Bill Roome
Publicity	John Bauer & Joann Scanlon
Tickets	Stephanie Fisk
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

Acknowledgments

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 The Westfield Community Players

Who's Who

Audrey Atencio (Beatrice) is an eight grader at Oak Knoll School in Summit. She has been involved in school Drama Club and summer camp productions. This is her first appearance at the Playhouse.

Paulina Casey (Helen Keller) is very happy to be playing the part of Helen Keller. This is the fourth play that she has appeared in, and her second appearance at the Playhouse. In July, she played Becky, the cheerleader, in our Kaleidoscope production of *Dear Edwina Jr.* She is very excited about *The Miracle Worker* because she is working with adults and gets to wear real costumes. She has been acting since she was little and enjoys playing basketball, writing and spending time with her friends. Paulina would like to thank her friends and family for all their support. She would also like to thank all her directors as well.

Thea Clark (Kate Keller) studied the Stanislavski acting technique in San Francisco, CA with a disciple of Sonia Moore. Regional credits include acting at Magic Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Madison Repertory Theatre, Wisconsin and Idaho Shakespeare Festivals and at North Carolina Shakespeare Festival (where she met her husband Drew Dix). Some favorite roles have been: Leah (*Dybbuk*), Leah (*Immigrant*), Phoebe (*As You Like It*), Helena (*Midsummer Night's Dream*), Octavia (*Antony and Cleopatra*), The Wife (*The Jewish Wife*), Beauty (*Beauty and the Beast*), and Minnie (*Matchmaker*). Thea was last seen locally as Ellie (*Psychopathia Sexualis*) and Catherine (*Proof*) with The Strollers. She has also co-founded Avenue Theatre which promotes new plays with monthly readings in Maplewood. Thea is performing for the first time at the Playhouse and is delighted to be here with her husband and daughter Natalie.

Sharell Crabb (Viney) grew up in Maplewood. In grade school, she played the bully in *Bully of the Neighborhood*, an orphan in *Annie*, and a scarecrow in *The Wiz*. In high school, her class won Best Ensemble at the Buck's County Competition, for *12 Angry People*. She has also participated in Monolog Night at her school, and was picked to perform with My Monolog with the Dix's Monolog Night at the Maplewood Arts Center. In her spare time she competes in gymnastics, cheerleads for basketball, and dances all year around.

Peter Curley (James Keller) is pleased to be making his first appearance at the Summit Playhouse. He has previously performed at several community theater productions in North Jersey, including Theater Under the Stars (West Orange)—*Polish Joke*, Studio Players (Upper Montclair)—*Wait Until Dark*, *Goldilocks on Trial*, and *Jack and the Magic Beans*, 12 Miles West (Bloomfield)—*Aladdin*, Elizabeth Playhouse—*Look Homeward Angel*, *Great God Brown*, and *Grave Concerns*, Chatham Playhouse—Jersey Voices 2005, Revolving Door Studios (Morristown)—*Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Office Plays*, JCC/Metrowest (West Orange)—*It's Always Something*, and Stony Hill Players (Summit)—*London Suite*. He would like to thank Kate Schlesinger, and a wonderful cast and crew.

Liz Dawson (Aunt Ev) has appeared in nineteen shows at the Playhouse. She is so happy to be doing *The Miracle Worker* and also to be working with Kate again. Besides NJ theaters, she has performed in Florida, Ohio and New York and is a retired member of Actor's Equity. A few of her favorite roles here were: *Quartermaine's Terms*, *Pack of*

Lies, Play On, To Grandmother's House We Go, and Twigs. Liz says, *The Miracle Worker* proves what courage, love and 'not giving up' can do. Helen Keller once asked, 'What is a soul?' 'No one knows', Annie replied, 'but we know it is not the body, and it is that part of us which thinks and loves and hopes ... and is invisible. The 'miracle' unfolds.

Brooke Debossy (Alice) is an eleven year old in the sixth grade. She started acting at the age of nine, in *Annie, Jr.* at Hillside Intermediate School, playing the role of Annie. Since then she has been pursuing her acting career. Other shows she has been in include *Oliver* and *Dear Edwina Jr.* She would like to thank everyone for their support. Brooke enjoys reading, outdoors, sports, and she is an animal lover. She hopes someday to perform on Broadway.

Drew Dix (Captain Keller) After studying the Stanislavski acting technique at Indiana University (Bloomington) and with the Sonia Moore Studio in NY, Drew founded the repertory company Theater In Action, developing a repertory company and building two theatres in lower Manhattan from 1981-1991. Following TIA, regional highlights include a two year stint at the NC Shakespeare Festival (where he met wife Thea Clark), and the role of Lenin in an early HDTV production (*Steps*, directed by Zbig Rybchinski). His stage roles include Tartuffe (*Tartuffe*), Gaev (*The Cherry Orchard*), Dr. Dorn (*The Seagull*), Johan (*Scenes From A Marriage*), Creon (*Antigone*), Juno (G.B. Shaw's *Overruled*), and Poprischin in Gogol's *Diary of a Madman* (one man show). In Maplewood, Drew appeared as Howard in The Strollers' production of *Psychopathia Sexualis* last March. Drew and his wife co-founded the Avenue Theatre in Maplewood, which presents monthly staged readings of original work (avenuetheatre@gmail.com). *The Miracle Worker* is Drew's first production with the Playhouse.

Natalie Dix (Sarah) has achieved several firsts with *The Miracle Worker*: her first time performing in community theater, and her first time performing with her mom and dad (Thea and Drew). She has taken acting classes for a couple of years and has participated in school plays. This year Natalie was cast in a speaking role in the movie *Fur* starring Nicole Kidman and Robert Downy Jr., about the life of Diane Arbus. It was a very exciting experience and lead to her getting representation with the Carson/Adler agency in NYC. Natalie also loves to read, write and play soccer. She is in the third grade.

Megan Guinan (Annie Sullivan) is currently a senior at Chatham High School. She played Alexandra in *The Little Foxes* at Westfield Community Players. Recently she won a 2005 NJACT Perry Award for the role of Lady Caroline Dester in *Enchanted April* at Chatham Community Players. She's also won the 2005 NJ Governor's Award for Dramatic Monologue and second place for Dramatic Pairs and Comedic Pairs. Megan would like to take this time to say hi to her parents whom she hasn't seen in the last few months.

Indira Larson (Martha) is a third grader at Brayton School in Summit. She enjoys yoga, gymnastics and playing the piano. This is her first theatrical performance. She thanks her mother for driving her to rehearsal.

Bill Roome (Anagnos) was last seen on-stage (without the beard) in last season's production of *Inspecting Carol*. His other on-stage appearances include *The*

Who's Who (continued)

Crucible, *It's Only A Play*, *Beau Jest*, *Play On*, and *Man Of La Mancha*. Off-stage, he is the Playhouse's Technical Director and Webmaster, and has worked on lighting and/or sound for many of our recent productions.

Michael Schlesinger (The Doctor) made his first appearance on our stage in last season's production of *Inspecting Carol*. He has directed, acted, and stage-managed. His interest in theater began at the age of eight, when he played Captain Cook, the lead penguin in *Mr. Popper's Penguins* at the Cleveland Playhouse Children's Theater. He studied acting in Cleveland for ten years, and appeared in a dozen productions including *The Desperate Hours* and *Take Her She's Mine*, with James Cromwell. In college, he worked with John Lithgow and Tommy Lee Jones. More recently (although quite long ago), he appeared in *Streamers*, at the old Craig Theater, and *Twelfth Night* with Edward Hermann, Elizabeth McGovern and Laila Robbins at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, where he has been a Trustee for over twenty years.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Kate Schlesinger (Director) has an MA in Theatre Education from New York University. She has directed eleven other plays at The Playhouse: *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Heiress*, *The Waverly Gallery*, *Inspecting Carol*, and *Dinner With Friends*, among others. Kate has also directed numerous plays at Twelve Miles West in Montclair, two one acts in Jersey Voices at Chatham Players, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at The Alliance Theatre in Bloomfield and two plays at The Bickford in Morristown: *On Golden Pond* and *Our Town*, for which she was nominated Best Director in New Jersey at The Star Ledger. But the Summit Playhouse is "home" and, as always, she is deeply grateful to both cast and crew and appreciates them more than words can say!

Joann Lopresti Scanlon (Producer) has directed at such theatres as The Bickford Theatre, and the Chatham and Westfield Community Players. Some favorite shows for Summit are: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *The Boys Next Door*, and last season's *A Delicate Balance*. "As this is my first time producing, I am in awe of all the producers who have worked on shows with me. I had no idea... And a very special thank you to Michael for his loving support."

Pam Heller (Assistant Director) is pleased to be assisting Kate in this meaningful play. She is grateful to be working with such a wonderfully talented and dedicated cast and crew. Pam has performed on the Summit Playhouse stage in *Marvin's Room*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, and last year's production of *Inspecting Carol*. She has directed *Beau Jest*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and several Kaleidoscope Theater for Youth shows. Pam has been active in New Jersey theater circles for many years. *The Miracle Worker* has a very special place in her heart. After seeing the Broadway production with Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke, it was then that Pam decided to pursue the field of Speech Pathology. She is presently practicing in Chatham, NJ.

John Luckstone (Co-Stage Manager) is happy to be working backstage with Linn Smith again, after serving in many roles at the Playhouse over the years, including President, producer, stage manager and actor.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) learned set construction when two of his children were in the cast and crew at Union HS. He continues to volunteer with UHSPAC, assisting with the set construction and teaching the students the techniques. Jim also works as a technician for various shows and concerts at Wilkins Theatre at Kean U. He was impressed with last year's performance of *Fiorello!* and asked if the Playhouse needed more help. *The Miracle Worker* is the first set where he was in charge of the construction. He wishes to thank all of the crew for their excellent work and assistance.

Bob Murray (Lighting Designer) is a veteran lighting designer, stage manager, technical director, stage technician (I.A.T.S.E.), and master carpenter. His professional credits include The Newark Symphony Hall Summer Festival, George Street Theater, and Paper Mill Playhouse. He has also been affiliated with the Bickford Theater. He has been the lighting designer for Alliance Repertory Theater for seven years, and was the technical director for the off-broadway musical *Stoop On Orchard St.* Most recently, he designed lighting for Westfield Theatre's productions of *Spitfire Grill* and *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, and has worked at the Count Basie Theatre. Many thanks to Bill Roome, Joann Scanlon, David Hoffman, Paul Casey, and Kate Schlesinger.

Jo Ray (Assistant Producer and Set Decorator) has many years of experience in regional theater, both backstage and on stage. She has studied acting, directing, dance and choreography at the Paper Mill Playhouse, NJ School of Ballet and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Among her acting credits are Nurse Ratchet in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Maggie in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Bunny in *The Desk Set*, Olivia in *Night Must Fall*, Sabrina & Maude in *Sabrina Fair* and many others. She was seen most recently at the Summit Playhouse as Francesca in *Enchanted April* and at Westfield Community Theater as Emma in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Among her directing credits are *Absence of a Cello* and *Plaza Suite*. She has choreographed and performed in musicals including *The Pajama Game*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Anything Goes*, *Music Man*, and *Hansel & Gretel*. She finds decorating without spending her own money is great fun.

Linn Smith (Co-Stage Manager) has served as President, Vice President, and Producer over the past 35+ years and has stage managed at least one play a year for most of those years. Although definitely a "backstage" person, Linn made his onstage debut as Borden in *Plaza Suite* with his wife, Susan, and father-in-law, Jack Pyle. Although seen on stage as a waiter and a priest, he much prefers to stay in his familiar spot by the "hangman's noose."

Sue Smith (Make-up) has grown up at the Playhouse. Her parents met on our stage in 1934. She has appeared on stage numerous times, both as a teenager and as an adult. She has directed several plays, including our first full-scale musical, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. In addition, she has been President, Secretary, and has served on almost every Playhouse committee.

Kirsten Solberg (Costume Designer) is doing her first show with the Playhouse and is very happy to have been a part of this wonderful production. Kirsten's credits include *Chess* in London, work with the City Ballet of LA, the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, and the Catherine Gallard Dance Company. Thanks to Lyn and Katherine for all your help.

Playhouse Board of Governors, 2005—2006

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Next Production

THE LION IN WINTER

By James Goldman

Directed by Joann Lopresti Scanlon

February 24—March 11, 2006

Auditions: **December 4 & 5, 7:00pm**

For more information, please see
www.SummitPlayhouse.org/auditions.html

A powerful husband and wife control vast treasures and three sons who want them. But only one can win: her favorite or his? The year is 1153, the husband—King Henry II Plantagenet of England, the mother—Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, imprisoned by her husband while he dallies with many others. It is Christmas and the sons come home to plead their case for the throne. They jockey for position, deviously shifting alliances having learned these skills from the best, their mom and dad. When all is said and done we know them better, like them less, and cannot guess who will finally end up on top. Goldman's writing is witty, clever, biting and truthfully based on history.

Playhouse Contributors

Angels (\$1000 and above)

Anonymous	Bill Roome
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