

March 22, 2010

Rogers Little Theater, 116 S. Second St., Rogers, AR 72756

Contact: Rick Pierson at [dramaman001@yahoo.com](mailto:dramaman001@yahoo.com) or 479/381-9896.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RLT TO PRESENT 'MIRACLE WORKER'**

**Performances Two Weekends: April 9-11, 15-18**

ROGERS, Ark. — The classic story of Annie Sullivan and her student, Helen Keller who is blind and mute, will be played out on stage in “The Miracle Worker” at The Rogers Little Theater starting April 9.

“The Miracle Worker,” a play by Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke, draws on the talents of 17 cast members under the direction of Rick Pierson. The shows are scheduled for seven public performances, April 9-11, 15-18 at the Victory Theater, 116 S. Second St. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and 2 p.m. Sundays.

The play by Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke, dramatizes the volatile relationship between the lonely teacher and her charge. Helen, trapped in her secret world, is violent, spoiled, almost sub-human and treated by her family as such.

Only Annie realizes that there is a mind and spirit waiting to be rescued from the dark, tortured silence. Following scenes of intense physical and emotional dynamism, Annie’s success with Helen finally comes with the utterance of a single word: “Water”!

“This is a story of overcoming huge obstacles -- a story of triumph involving a little girl and her 20-year-old teacher,” Pierson said. “As we are going through the trials of a recession it is good to be reminded that there are those who have overcome much more than we are.”

The Miracle Worker is derived from Helen Keller’s autobiography, “The Story of My Life,” and the dramas within the story describe the relationship between Keller and Annie whose influence brought about activism and international celebrity for her student.

“If a blind, deaf girl can go on to graduate with honors from a university, and become a widely published author, and is recognized around the world for her fight to help the disabled, why are we feeling sorry for ourselves?” Pierson said.

Pierson’s production team includes assistant director Carol Ballou. Cast members are Kasey Lancaster, Hope Holmes, Tiffany Wilson, Jim Olmstead, Kevin Lancaster, Maria Maraca, Kaye Cotton, Kaleb Lane, Sarah Feast, Sean Mays, John Ford, Carl Ballou, Jax Ball, Sydney Grower, Courtney Mulcahy, Laura Southerland, and Anna Beth Wilkerson.

Dinner theater tickets are available for \$42 a ticket. For dinner theater, the house opens an hour and a half before show time. Balcony seating tickets are \$17 for adults or \$9.50 for students. For tickets, go to [www.rogerslittletheater.org](http://www.rogerslittletheater.org), or contact the RLT box office at 479/631-8988. The RLT Box Office is at 116 S. Second St.

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