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The Miracle Worker

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Taylor University Theatre
Presents
William Gibson's stirring drama
the
Miracle Worker

Little Theatre

April 29-30, May 1-2
8:15 p.m.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WILLIAM GIBSON was born in New York City, New York in 1914. He attended the College of the City of New York and began his career as a novelist. He received the Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize for a group of his poems entitled POETRY published in 1945. THE COBWEB, a best-selling novel published in 1954 was made into the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film by the same name in 1957, starring Richard Widmark and Charles Boyer. His first success on the Broadway stage came in 1958 with TWO FOR THE SEESAW. The original television version of his greatest hit, THE MIRACLE WORKER, was rewritten by Gibson for the stage and opened on Broadway in the fall of 1959; its substantial success led to the motion picture version of the same name. Gibson wrote the film script and it was produced by United Artists. Anne Bancroft as Miss Sullivan, and Patty Duke as the young Miss Keller, won Academy Awards for their performances. Gibson won the Sylvania Award for THE MIRACLE WORKER.

In 1965, Gibson collaborated on the book of a musical version of Clifford Odets' GOLDEN BOY, which starred Sammy Davis, Jr. A CRY OF PLAYERS (1968), the refurbished version of a play Gibson had written twenty years earlier, portrays the troubled life of young Shakespeare with his older wife, Anne. Even though it was not a critical success, the dramatist demonstrated his ability to create substantial women's roles in the full-bodied figure of Anne Shakespeare.

Turning again to biography in 1969, Gibson formed an effective documentary in theatrical form from the letters of John and Abigail Adams. This biography, AMERICAN PRIMITIVE, was first presented by the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and then at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D. C. Anne Bancroft played Abigail Adams. Gibson also had two religious dramas published in 1975: THE BODY AND THE WHEEL and THE BUTTERFINGERS ANGEL, MARY & JOSEPH, HEROD THE NUT, & THE SLAUGHTER OF 12 HIT CAROLS IN A PEAR TREE.

Gibson possesses both literary and dramatic gifts as a novelist, poet, film writer, and playwright. His major plays received recognition for their sensitivity and substance of subject. Having achieved particular success in dramatizing actual figures, Gibson has assured himself a place among American dramatists as an effective writer of biography-drama.

THE MIRACLE WORKER

Directed by Dr. Jessie Rousselow
Designed by Dr. Ollie Hubbard

CAST
(In Order of their Appearance)

A Doctor ........................................ Paul Branks
Kate ............................................ Linda Britton
Keller ........................................... Dave Shipley
Helen ............................................ Kathy Sheppard
Martha .......................................... Sandy Payne
Percy ............................................ Mark Burkholder
Aunt Ev ....................................... Joanne Bryant
James ............................................ Kurt Bullock
Anagnos ....................................... Doug Oliver
Annie Sullivan ................................ Ellen Eckert
Viney ........................................... Debbie Messamore
Blind Girls ................................. Janie Cummer, Mindy Date, Dorothy Hurlburt,
Pamela Miller, Maureen Waldron, Joy Yonally
A Servant ..................................... Lynne Elmer

Offstage Voices

Time:  The 1880's
Place: In and around the Keller homestead in Tuscumbia,
Alabama; also, briefly, the Perkins Institution for the Blind,
in Boston.

There will be a ten-minute intermission between
Act II and Act III

THIS EVENING'S MUSIC

Mid-19th-Century Piano Music by the following composers:

George William Warren ........................................ C. Jerome Hopkins
George F. Bristow ........................................... Anthony Philip Heinrich
Charles Grobe ................................................ Louis Moreau Gottschalk
William Mason ................................................. William Henry Fry
Richard Hoffman ............................................... Homer N. Barlett

A Communication & Theatre Arts Department Production

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our special thanks to Edwin Welch and Dean Pinkerton for providing the pump and its accessories.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant to the Director ............................... Julia Shepherd

Technical Director ................................. Ollie Hubbard

Set Committee ................................. Kurt Bullock
John Coughenour
Dale Dobias
Tim Himmelwright
Brad Kahle
Jim Ogborn
Cliff Thomas

Lighting Technicians ................................. Vicki Cruse
Joe Jeter
Doug Marlow
Georgia Reasner

Lighting Crew ................................. Tim Able
Amanda Cull
Mike Hunter
Reggie Metzger
Ken Meyer
Brian Westrate

Electrical/Audio Engineer .............................. Rich Bailey

Audio Technician ................................. Mike Kendall

Make-up ................................. MIKE BURCHFIELD
Laura Binder
Mark Burkholder
Teresa Cress
Pam Kareus
Brenda Long
Jennie Peterson

Properties ................................. LYNN CAMERON
Mindy Date
Pam Kareus
Jenny Klosterman
Marcee Murray
Sue Schuneman

Costumes ................................. Laura Binder
Marcee Murray
Cindy Venman

House ................................. EDIE RADER
Laura Binder
Peggy Blanchard
Sue Chow
Terri Chow
Debby Cox
Teresa Cress
Phil Friesen
Barbara Hauter
Cindy Johnson
Susan Shank
Joy Wilson

Program Cover Design .............................. Julie Rabine