

JANUARY 2014

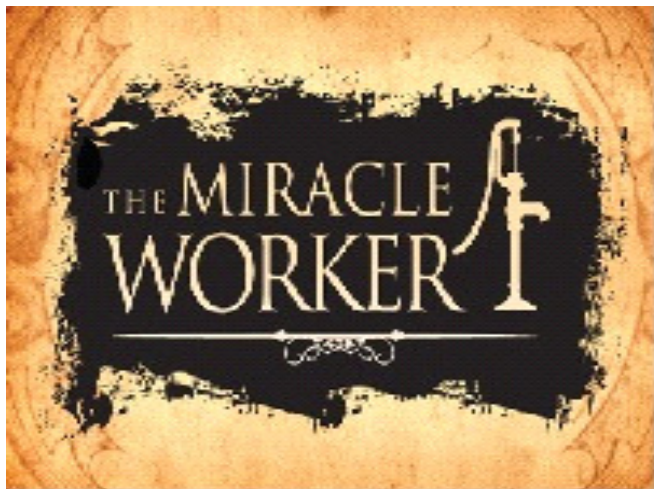
STAGE • WRITE

**The
Williamsburg
Players**
Community theatre
at its best

THE MIRACLE WORKER

JAN. 16 - FEB. 1, 2014

Written by William Gibson



Most people are familiar with the story of *The Miracle Worker*: Helen Keller loses her sight and hearing at 19 months old. She becomes frustrated and spends the next 5 years terrorizing her household. Annie Sullivan, a poor 20-year old with no experience, becomes Helen's teacher and finally shows her how to communicate with the world.

Helen is usually portrayed on stage and in film as almost a teenager. In reality, she was 6 years old when she first met Annie Sullivan. It was very important that Helen was so young, because she would not have been as successful if she had been any older. Our Helen is played by 8-year-old Kaiah Seraydarian, and she has totally embraced this role.

Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller come from two very different worlds. Whereas Helen gets whatever she wants from her family, Annie was abandoned by hers and grew up in poor houses. It is because she lived

such a different life that she can reach Helen. The Kellers are bound to the rules of Southern decorum and the belief that people with disabilities are to be pitied. The most important lesson that Annie (Jennifer Hiemstra) teaches the Kellers, and which we aim to teach the audience, is that pity is a useless and even harmful emotion.

A common misconception about *The Miracle Worker* is that it is just about Annie and Helen, but there are several difficult relationships highlighted in this story. Annie's behavior is shocking to the Southern aristocratic Keller family, and puts a lot of stress on the already fragile relationship between Captain Keller (Jim Dwyer) and his son, James (Trey Heath). Helen's mother, Kate (Dara Sherman) tries to mediate all of the relationships while dealing with her own emotions about the situation.

Although it is a drama, this show has many funny moments throughout, which are usually provided by the rest of the characters who enter the lives of Annie and the Kellers. We have a truly exceptional cast, which includes Caroline Arnette, Grace Duval, Mae O'Neal, Oliver O'Neal, George Opie, Terri Osbourne, Batia Seraydarian, Lauren Sylvia, Nerissa Thompson, Reuben Waites, and Jim Waldron.

Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm with Saturday matinees at 2:00 pm. Tickets, \$18.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children & students, can be purchased at www.williamsburgplayers.org or by calling the box office at (757) 229-0431 and leaving your name and phone number. A box office volunteer will return your call as soon as possible.

Children's Theatre

Ages Grades pre K - 5

AESOP'S FABLES

presented by Bright Star Touring Theatre

All Seats \$7.00
Saturday Feb. 1st
11:00 am

Join our Elizabethan actors as they stumble upon your assembled crowd and decide to put on a showcase of Aesop's greatest hits!



The result is a fast-paced, high-energy production that has left audiences shouting for more! From *The Fox and the Grapes* and *The Tortoise and the Hare* to *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* and *The Lion and the Mouse*, these animal - filled adventures focus on honesty, compassion, hard work and kindness.

The show lasts approximately one hour and is geared toward grades Pre-K through 5th, but parents and grandparents will enjoy it equally as well.

Tickets for *Aesop's Fables* can be purchased online at www.williamsburgplayers.org or by calling the box office (757) 229-0431.

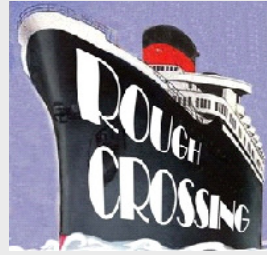


THREE-SHOW SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE!

Our three-show subscription package is now available for only \$45.00! A great savings to see the final three shows of our 2013-2014 season,

Call the box office at (757) 229-0431 or go online to www.williamsburgplayers.org to make your purchase today. Don't miss out on a single production!

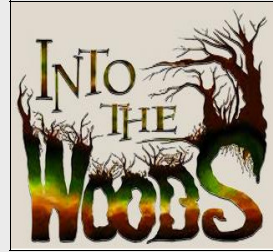
OUR REMAINING 2013 - 2014 SEASON



Mar. 27 - Apr. 12, 2014

Written by Tom Stoppard

Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



June 5 - June 21, 2014

Book by James Lapine
Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

From Broadway With Love

A VALENTINE WEEKEND MUSICAL CONCERT

Featuring the voices of our local Hampton Roads talent, singing a variety of love songs from a selection of Broadway musical productions.

Friday, February 14, 2014 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Adults \$20.00 Children & Students \$10.00

Williamsburg Players 200 Hubbard Lane Williamsburg
(757) 229-0431 www.williamsburgplayers.org

This is a fund raising event for the Williamsburg Players and is not part of the regular season of shows and requires a separate admission ticket.

Adopt a Chair

As you sit in the auditorium, look down at the arms of your seat. If there's a nameplate there, then the purchase of that chair was made by one of our generous donors. If there's no nameplate, that chair still needs someone to adopt it. Please think about purchasing a chair and nameplate with a \$300.00 donation.



AUDITIONS

Would you or someone you know like to audition for one of our productions? As a first time performer or a seasoned actor, all levels of talent are welcome.



January 19th & 20th 7:00 pm

Cast: 5 M & 1 W

Readings will be taken from the script.

If interested in a principal role, prepare a song approx. two minutes in length.

One role requires an on-stage piano player

The show runs March 27th to April 12th, 2014

For questions or additional information, please contact the director, Larry Shaw at lashawjr@hotmail.com



Would you like to be a part of the exciting world of community theatre? We have a place for anyone who would like to be a part of our theatre family.

Production opportunities exist for building sets, painting, hanging lights,

running the light board, working backstage or collecting props. Non-production help, such as working in the box office, selling concessions, ushering and general maintenance, are some of the other wonderful opportunities available! Become part of the WP family of volunteers today!

For information call Carol Moff at (757) 503-4364.

A Message from the President of the Williamsburg Players Hugh Siggins

I want to acknowledge and thank the work that the cast and crew of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* have done to reach out to our community with their performance. During the three-week run of the performance, they presented a 30 minute segment to the 1st, 3rd and 5th grades at Magruder Elementary School, then when that group walked back to class, the 2nd and 4th grade students took their places for another 30 minute performance. I am told the children really applauded their private showings. Congratulations on a job well done. Our regular Saturday morning children's program, *Aesop's Fables*, will be shown on the morning of February 1, 2014, at 11:00 am. We urge you to bring your elementary age children and grandchildren to this event. The previous show, *The Night Before Christmas*, drew an audience of 207, our largest in the two years we have been producing these events!

As we approach the end of the year, when many are considering their gift giving, please keep in mind that the Williamsburg Players is a non profit 501(C)3 organization which means your contributions are tax deductible. We are making improvements in our financial situation, but still need help to finance our mortgage payments. In addition to chairs that are orphaned, we have other items that we will acknowledge you in writing as the contributor.

Season Subscriptions to the final three productions are still available through the Christmas season at a price of \$45.00 per ticket. This is a saving of \$9.00 over buying single show tickets.

Our next show is the drama for this season, *The Miracle Worker*, directed by Becky Krantz, who not coincidentally in real life is a teacher to the deaf and developmentally challenged in our community. Come see the story of how a young teacher, named Annie Sullivan, worked with Helen Keller through a combination of love and discipline that challenged Helen to be the best she could be. We hope you will be part of our audience for the third show of our season.

To all of you, I would like to wish Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and have a wonderful New Year in 2014.