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Alabama Shakespeare Festival
The State Theatre of Alabama

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***THE MIRACLE WORKER* begins March 3 at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival**

Montgomery, AL –

“When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another.”

--William Gibson, *The Miracle Worker*

In partnership with the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival presents **THE MIRACLE WORKER** on the Festival Stage, **March 3-18**. Tickets for **THE MIRACLE WORKER** range from \$31 to \$60 and are available online at www.asf.net, by phone at **800.841.4273** and at the ASF Box Office located at 1 Festival Drive in the heart of Montgomery’s beautiful Blount Cultural Park. There are specially priced preview performances March 3-4 where all tickets are \$31. Students can access a special discount through the ASF Box Office.

THE MIRACLE WORKER tells the story of Tusculumbia-native Helen Keller, deaf and blind since infancy, who finds her way into the realm of knowledge and understanding with the help of Annie Sullivan, her gifted tutor. In some of the most turbulent and emotion-packed scenes ever presented on the stage, Helen overcomes rage and confusion as she learns to communicate with the world around her.

Director **James Bowen** says “**THE MIRACLE WORKER** is one of the great stories of love fighting to shine light into darkness.” Bowen is a native of Alabama and has appeared as an actor in multiple productions on ASF’s stage, most recently in *A Christmas Carol* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. His recent ASF directing credits include *Ain’t Misbehavin’* and *The Mousetrap*.

Mobile-native **Brooklyn Norstedt** appears as the child Helen Keller, with **Marina Shay** as Annie Sullivan, her tutor. Marina most recently appeared as Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* at Virginia Stage and as Viola in *Shakespeare in Love* at the Cleveland Play House. Other regional credits include Syracuse Stage (SALT Awards Best Actress nomination), The Guthrie, Trinity Repertory Company, Cleveland Public Theatre and Heartwood Regional Theatre.

Timothy Carter (Captain Keller) played Scar in the national tour of *The Lion King* for four years and has previously worked with ASF, Pittsburgh Public Playhouse, Gulfshore Playhouse, Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis and Colorado Shakespeare Festival as well as appearing on television’s “Luke Cage”, “Orange is the New Black” and “The Blacklist”.

Toni DiBuono (Aunt Ev) appeared as Mrs. Brill in ASF’s *Mary Poppins* and Mrs. Dilber/Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*. She has performed on Broadway in *The Boys from Syracuse* and *Wonderful Town* and many Off-

Broadway productions including *Forbidden Broadway*, for which she received a Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award.



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Sean Hudock (James) has appeared at the Cleveland Play House (Cleveland Critics nomination), Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Emigrant Theatre, and LA Theatre Works. His film work includes *Private Romeo* (Outstanding Actor, HBO Outfest) and *The Chaperone* (Masterpiece).

Jeff Award recipient **Ginneh Thomas** (Viney) has been a part of several Southern Writers' Project Festivals at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and has recently performed with Strawdog Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Pride Films and Plays, Broadway Playhouse and Jubilee Theatre.

Louis Butelli (Doctor) was most recently seen at ASF in the Folger Theatre's *Gravedigger's Tale*, and has previously appeared at ASF, Folger Theatre, the Shakespeare Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, LA Shakes, Orlando Shakes, as well on television's "Law & Order," "Law & Order: CI," and "All My Children".

Jenny Strassburg (Mrs. Keller) has been a member of ASF's repertory cast for the past three seasons, appearing in *The Great Gatsby*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Mousetrap*. She has also worked with Virginia Stage, New World Stages, Masterworks Theatre Company and Pioneer Theatre Company.

Local children in the production include **Grant E. Eady** (Montgomery Catholic Middle School) and **Jace White** (Baldwin Magnet School), who are double-cast in the role of Percy. **Angel Brown** (Pike Road Elementary School) and **Sydney Talley** (McKee Middle School) share the role of Martha. **Gracie Arnold** (Wetumpka, AL), **Ella Figiera** (Floyd Middle Magnet School), **Pia Jung** (Baldwin Magnet School), **Claire Poundstone** (Montgomery Academy), **Josie Stough** (St. James School) and **Ava Thomas** (Eastwood Christian) appear as blind girls who attend Annie Sullivan's school.

The design team includes scenic designer **James Wolk**, costume designer **Pamela Scofield**, lighting designer **Travis McHale** and Sound Designer **Brett Rominger**. **Susan Willis** is the dramaturg for the production with **Libby Mickle** as Stage Manager and **Lonnell Lomax** as Production Assistant.

Tickets are available at asf.net or by calling the Box Office at 334.271.5353.

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The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare Theatres in the world. Designated as the State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton Blount's gift of a performing arts complex in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.