



# ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Winter 2017

Volume 10, Issue 1

# Spotlight

Find us on the web:  
<http://rcctheatre.org>



**Four  
Shows:  
February  
16-19**

*Note special 7:00 pm start  
time for **Miracle Worker***

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## Did You Know?

- **The *Miracle Worker* premiered on Broadway in 1959**
- **Playwright William Gibson adapted the story from Helen Keller's 1902 autobiography**
- **Anne Bancroft won a Tony for the role of Anne Sullivan, and an Academy award for the 1962 film portrayal**
- **Patty Duke as Helen Keller won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in the film version**

## Our Teens Shine in a Classic

by Julie Riddle, Director

We know the story. A blind, deaf child with an untamable spirit struggles against her dark, silent world. A courageous teacher, determined and stout of heart, fights past every obstacle to give her pupil the gift of language. A pitcher...a water pump...a moment of connection...a miracle. The story of *The Miracle Worker* is not new. But the truths that lie within the story will never grow old. The first production of Roger City Community Theatre's 2017 season is William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker*. It features a cast and crew entirely made up of high school-aged youth, including students from RCHS and homeschoolers from the surrounding area.

The cast has been hard at work since auditions in late November, meeting for afternoon rehearsals in a classroom at the high school. School administration and staff have been very gracious and supportive of the endeavor, offering encouragement along the way and expressing appreciation for students who are finding "new ways to be awesome." And awesome they are. The students in this production come from a range of theater backgrounds, from novices to old pros. One thing they have in common: they are full of contagious enthusiasm. They come bounding into rehearsals ready to

dive into the work of portraying inhabitants of the 1880's world of *The Miracle Worker*.

One of the fun aspects of historical fiction is the ability to learn about the lives of its characters outside what is presented on the page or the stage. *The Miracle Worker* presents snapshots of a very real family who lived in pre-turn-of-the-century Alabama. Captain Keller, a retired Civil War officer and newspaper editor, and his young second wife Kate, are exhausted from raising their daughter Helen, who has been blind and deaf since she was eighteen months old. They are emotionally distant from Helen's older half-brother, James, who is still hurting from the death of his mother and alienated from the sister he sees as "half human, half mentally defective."

Helen, despite the love and attentions of her parents, does indeed more closely resemble a wild animal than a little girl. Her lack of a language with which to communicate with the world has kept her in a mental darkness far more devastating than mere lack of sight. Into Helen's dark world steps Annie Sullivan, the recent graduate from the Perkins Institute for the Blind. Annie fiercely holds to the conviction that inside the tousled head of her young pupil there is a keen intelligence

just waiting to be reached. With obstinate passion Annie battles both the difficulties of her situation and the ghosts of her past to give the gift that will change Helen's life forever - the gift of language. With *The Miracle Worker*, Gibson brings us not only a masterfully written tale but also a look into the truths of human existence. His characters ache to be reconnected with one another. They know the darkness of separation, the pain of not having the words to express their deepest needs. It is not Helen alone who is in need of a miracle. And by the end of the show, it is not Helen alone who receives one. Each of the characters is impacted by the miraculous forces that touch all our lives: the unfathomable power of love; the inexplicable strength of forgiveness.

That's part of the magic of the theater. As the audience sits in the dark, they melt into the story on the stage, seeing bits and pieces of their own lives intertwined with those before them. We go to the theater to connect to the world; to learn about who we are, and to catch a glimpse of ourselves in our fellow man. We watch a play...we reconnect...and we find the language of our hearts. It is miraculous indeed.



## Board Member Corner: Angels Among Us

by Karl W. Heidemann



As you can see from the article below, the 2017 Season of Plays at RCCT will provide a wide variety of theatrical treats for our audiences. Your support as ticket buyers, program advertisers, and Angel donors are what makes theatre in Presque Isle County possible.

our six-pack tickets for \$50.00, which allow six separate admissions to any of the 2017 shows. That's a savings of \$22.00!

cash contributions for nothing more than recognition in our programs and the good feeling that they are helping the community.

Since this is the beginning of the theatre year, many of you will want to take advantage of the savings offered by our special ticket options.

As most theatre goers know, ticket sales are only a part of what is needed to balance a theatre's budget. Advertising dollars are very important, and we appreciate all the local businesses and individuals who support us by advertising in our 2017 Program Book.

We know, from our experience, that theatre changes lives. We see it in our developing young actors, our experienced veteran actors, and the thousands of people who are culturally enriched by being an integral part of the theatrical experience as audience members. If live theatre is important to you, please consider becoming an RCCT Angel. A form is available on page 3 of this newsletter for making a tax-deductible Angel donation.

Season Tickets are available at the door or thru the mail at just \$35.00 for one admission to all four 2017 shows. That's a savings of \$13.00 off the regular price of \$12.00 per show.

One of the most important ways that people far and wide have done to support live theatre in Presque Isle County has been by making donations to RCCT as our Angels. Angels are the people who believe in what we do so much that they are eager and willing to make

Thanks for your continued support!

Also, we are still offering

## Welcome to the Rogers City Community Theatre's 2017 Season

by Donna Klein

What a season we have for you this year! Three of our four plays include the youth of our community and that is something we celebrate. We start out the season on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> with the high school production of *The Miracle Worker*. Rogers City High School students under the direction of Julie Riddle present the story of Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan. The show runs through Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

28<sup>th</sup> and runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through May 7. Donna Klein is the director.

runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from October 27 to November 5.

The second show is our annual musical. This year we're presenting Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* The story is based on the Charles Dickens' classic tale, *Oliver Twist*. The show features youth age 10 and older. Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* opens on Friday, April

Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual summer youth production is *Godspell, Junior*. It relates parables of Jesus Christ providing messages of kindness, tolerance, and love. The show is directed by Theresa Gibson. *Godspell, Junior* runs from Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 20.

All shows take place at the Rogers City Theater. Sunday performances start at 2 p.m. All other performances start at 7:30 p.m. **(Note special 7:00 p.m. start for *Miracle Worker*).** Season tickets are available through February 19<sup>th</sup> when *The Miracle Worker* closes. Each season ticket costs \$35 and includes one admission to each of the plays at the theater this season.

The final play in our 2017 season is *A County Fair in da U.P., Yah, Sure*. This play is also known as *A Don't Hug Me County Fair*. It is the sequel to *A Christmas Carol in da U.P., Yah Sure* and brings back the cast for some musical toe tappin' and funny bone tickling. The play is directed by Karl Heidemann and

We also have six-pack ticket packages available. The six-pack costs \$50 and includes six adult admissions to any of our plays during the 2017 season. Mix and match as you please. Individual ticket prices for 2017 are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students.

We'll see you at the show!



# Community Characters: Cast of *The Miracle Worker*

**Miracle Worker Cast:** (Order of Appearance)

Daniel Bielas	Doctor Mr. Anagnos Daniel	Sophia Schiepek	Viney Blind Girl Crone
Emmalyn Riddle	Kate Keller	Mallory Ryan	Annie Sullivan
Jacob Bruski	Captain Keller	<b>Crew:</b> (As of newsletter print date. Additional names may appear in show program.)	
Hannah Hentkowski	Martha Blind Girl Crone	Director	Julie Riddle
Miranda Seiter	Percy Blind Girl Crone	Producer	Val Schalk
Abbey Mulka	Helen Keller	Set & Lights	Karl W. Heidemann John Krajenta Isaac Riddle
Bradley Heidemann	James Keller	Costumes	Val Schalk Abby Muller
Ashley Nowicki	Aunt Ev Blind Girl Crone	Sound	Noah Hanson



The well scene with Anne Bancroft (left) and Patty Duke (right) in the original 1959 Broadway version of *The Miracle Worker*.

## Order Your Tickets Today

**Ticket Order Form** Fill out, clip and mail to address below.

Tickets will held for pick up at the box office.

Please hold the number and type of tickets indicated below:

**Number:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Six Pack punch card; mix and match any six admissions for \$50
- \_\_\_\_\_ Season Ticket, one admission each to each of four plays for \$35
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Admission to *The Miracle Worker* @ \$12 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student Admission to *The Miracle Worker* @ \$6 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Angel Contribution (as checked in box at right)

**Amount:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information for program listing or ticket pick-up:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to : Rogers City Community Theater

Mail ticket order form to: 257 N. Third Street,  
Rogers City, MI 49779



**Are you an Angel?**

The Rogers City Community Theatre is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation committed to bringing quality theater to NE Michigan. Donations are an important part of our budget. Please consider enabling our work through your gifts, at any level.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Heavenly Host
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Archangel
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Guardian Angel
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Seraphim
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Cherubim

Angels will be recognized under the appropriate category heading in all 2017 show programs. Thanks for your continuing support!

*We have the lowest ticket price in NE Michigan. Help keep it that way with your donations.*

## Rogers City Community Theatre

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City MI 49779

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### About Our Theatre



#### **ROGERS CITY COMMUNITY THEATRE**

257 North Third Street  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Theatre Office Phone: (989) 734-7368  
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Web: <http://rcctheatre.org>  
Join our group on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor:  
Mary Ann Heidemann



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*See you at the show!*

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The Rogers Theatre was constructed in 1937 as a classic, single screen small town movie palace in the Art Deco style. After a fire in 1947, the theatre was re-built and expanded. Serving as a downtown landmark for decades, the theatre was purchased in 2003 by Karl W. Heidemann. The new owner added a stage, theatrical lighting and utility improvements. In 2004, live productions began alternating with first run movies, in a revitalized auditorium. In the summer of 2009, exterior restoration brought back the black and orange ceramic work of the original façade.

Once the stage was available, an informal group of local theatre fanatics emerged that now constitutes the Rogers City Community Theatre (RCCT). In 2006, a summer youth theater program began as well. Community cast members have ranged from age 6 to 94. New cast and crew volunteers are always welcome! In 2009, the RCCT incorporated as a Michigan non-profit organization and received IRS approval for federal non-profit status. Contributions are appreciated, and are tax deductible as allowed by law.

In 2013, a community-based fundraising drive provided support for installation of new theatre seating, sound system improvements, a digital 3-D projector and a new highly reflective screen, putting our theater at the cutting edge of stage and movie technology. In June 2016, Mary Ann and Karl Heidemann donated the theater building to the Presque Isle District Library for use as a community education and entertainment center, with a long-term lease for the Rogers City Community Theatre, ensuring access to theatre and fun for the next generation.