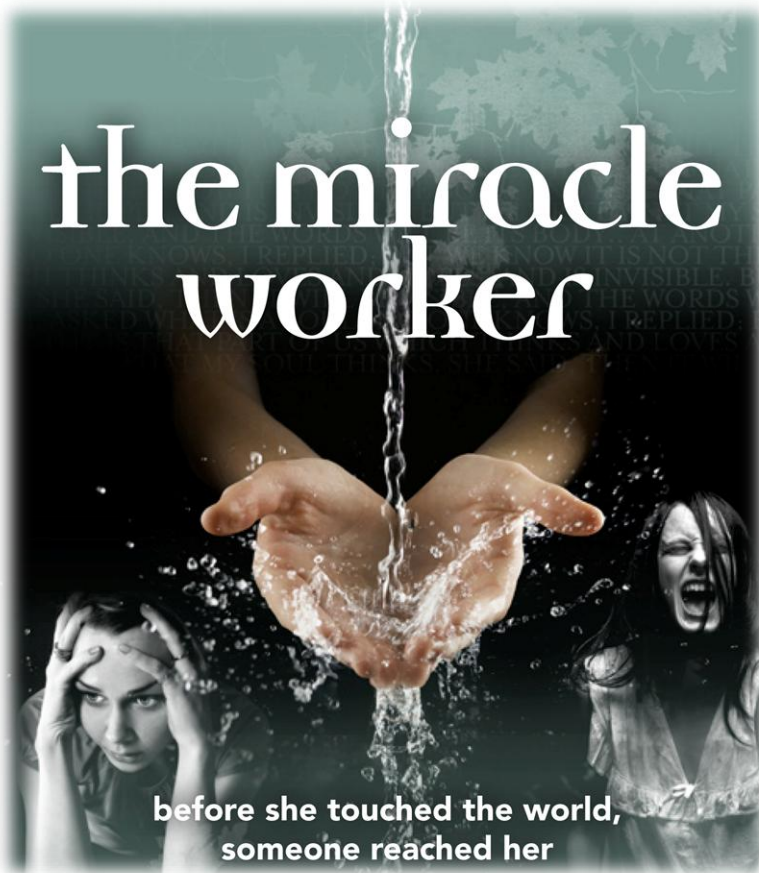


# the miracle worker



before she touched the world,  
someone reached her

**OCT. 10 – 31, 2009**

By William Gibson | Directed by Meg Roe

Co-sponsored by:

A PLAYHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

 **Leith Wheeler**  
INVESTMENT COUNSEL LTD.

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Communications

## PLAY GUIDE

### PART 2: LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

#### 4<sup>th</sup> SIGNIFICANT SCRIPT SEGMENT (Lessons Supplement)

Prepared by Dr. Warren McKinnon, UBC Continuing Studies, PTAB\* Member

**DOWNLOAD ACCOMPANYING LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES**

**AND OTHER PARTS (GLOSSARY, QUOTES, LINKS) AT [VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM](http://VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM)**

Created to provide you with explorations and insights into *The Miracle Worker* beyond the actual performance, this Play Guide includes information on its creators and characters, notable quotables and more:

**You can download suggested practical lessons and activities linked to *The Miracle Worker* at [vancouverplayhouse.com](http://vancouverplayhouse.com)!** As a teacher, you can adapt these to your classroom activities before or after your performance. As a parent, you can draw on some activities to enhance your child's theatre experience. And, as a patron at large, these activities might stimulate your own exploration or offer a new insight into the production.

**\*Playhouse Teachers Advisory Board**

## **THE MIRACLE WORKER – 4<sup>TH</sup> SCRIPT SEGMENT – ACT 3 (P. 83, 84)**

In this segment, Annie re-examines the relationship between obedience and understanding. At one point, she believes that “obedience is the gateway through which knowledge enters the mind of the child.” Now she concludes that “obedience without understanding is a...blindness.” She believes that Helen can learn the “yes” of language if she faithfully persists as a teacher and Captain Keller agrees to not give in to the lie of Helen having “her way in everything.”

**Keller** – Miss...Annie. *(He has an envelope in his fingers.)* I’ve been waiting to give you this.

**Annie** – What?

**Keller** – Your month’s salary. *(He puts it in her hand.)* With many more to come, I trust. It doesn’t express what we feel, it doesn’t pay our debt. For what you’ve done.

**Annie** – What have I done?

**Keller** – Taken a wild thing, and given us back a child.

**Annie** – *(Presently.)* I taught her one thing, no. Don’t do this, don’t do that....

**Keller** – It’s more than all of us could, in all the years we ...

**Annie** – I wanted to teach her what language is. I wanted to teach her yes.

**Keller** – You will have time.

**Annie** – I don’t know how. I know without it to do nothing but obey is...no gift, obedience without understanding is a...blindness, too. Is that all I’ve wished on her?

**Keller** – *(Gently.)* No, no...

**Annie** – Maybe. I don’t know what else to do. Simply go on, keep doing what I’ve done, and have....faith that inside she’s.....That inside it’s waiting. Like water, underground. All I can do is keep on.

**Keller** – It’s enough. For us.

**Annie** – You can help, Captain Keller.

**Keller** – How?

**Annie** – Even learning no has been at a cost. Of much trouble and pain. Don’t undo it.

**Keller** – Why should we wish to....

**Annie** – (*Abruptly.*) The world isn't an easy place for anyone. I don't want her just to obey but to let her have her way in everything is a lie, to *her*, I can't...(*Her eyes fill, it takes her by surprise, and she laughs through it.*) And I don't even love her, she's not my child! Well. You've got to stand between that lie and her.

**Keller** – We'll try.

**Annie** – Because *I* will. As long as you let me stay, that's one promise I'll keep.

**Keller** – Agreed. We've learned something too, I hope. (*A pause.*) Won't you come now, to supper?

**Annie** – Yes. (*She wags the envelope, ruefully.*) Why doesn't God pay His debts each month?