



MTV
arts
Classics Series

Directed by
Joseph Bell

The MIRACLE WORKER

April 22-23, 7:30p.m.

April 24, 3p.m.

Memorial Theatre
Mount Vernon, Ohio

Special FREE daytime performance for schools April 25.

Cast:

Megan Evans Kelly Yerxa-Lauth
Bruce Jacklin Cate Blair-Wilhelm
Frank Scutella Tami Anderson Scott Elliot
AND

Kennedy Aikey as Helen Keller

Performed in special arrangement with Samuel French

Director's Notes



What a delight it has been to be surrounded by the fluid motion of the creative process. From the children and their excitement to this experienced cast, the enthusiastic collection of props and costumes to the construction and detailing of the set, lights and sound, this experience has been a foray of imagination, problem solving and creativity. I cannot say enough how humbled I am to work at this level with individuals who demonstrate commitment, responsibility and accountability. What you will see tonight is a culmination of abilities by many individuals. Creative people who willingly add their spark, their expertise and their flair to develop an experience of suspended reality for you, the audience. The "Arts" and all its complexities, when combined, create a powerful moment of grandeur when time stands still and you are transported away from the "now" to a different time and place.

And so, we do just that today, for you. You will see one of the most challenging theatrical roles for any child. The full characterization of another child, in a physically demanding manner, is a task not easily achieved. In addition, she is equally matched by her "teacher". Both actors maintain a consistent level of complexity and physical ability that indeed challenges their acting skills. This cast! What an outstanding collection of talent. They collectively work in a harmonious manner depicting the human condition of the culture, of the time, and of the place called Ivy Green.

Over the many years that I have directed shows, a phrase that I refer to often is, "Drama is tension. Tension is drama." You all will experience exactly what this means. For you will not only see it, you will indeed feel it!

Mr. Joseph Bell has been associated with various theatrical activities for most of his life. His focus on theater has primarily been associated with directing, set design and construction. He recently retired from Highland Local Schools as their Technical Arts/Graphic Design instructor, but continues as director of the theater program. In addition to the directing of this show and designing and constructing the set, his work has been related to *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *I Never Saw another Butterfly*, *Shrek*. He enjoys the creative process associated with the development of theatrical presentations. As a director, he enjoys watching the spark of excitement grow as young actors get the taste of a full-stage presentation. At the same time he enjoys working with students and youth in the design and construction phase of theater. When he is not working with theater activities, he and his wife develop and produce artistic opportunities through their business, Right Brain Productions. Joe certainly hopes you enjoy this presentation of *The Miracle Worker*!

Setting

A small southern town of Tuscumbia, Alabama, Spring, 1887.
The Keller Homestead...a place called Ivy Green.

The Cast

Doctor.....	Joseph Bell	Mr. Anagnos.....	Scott Elliott
Kate Keller.....	Kelly Yerxa Lauth	Annie Sullivan.....	Megan Evans
Captain Keller.....	Bruce Jacklin	Viney.....	Tamara Anderson
Helen Keller.....	Kennedy Aikey	Blind Girls.....	Joselyn Bates,
Martha.....	Destany Stoneburner	Minda Bates, Ainsley Bonaudi, Emma Buehrer,	
Percy.....	Collin McFarlane	Reann Fisher, Rylee Jarosz, Autumn Laymon,	
Aunt Ev.....	Cate Blair-Wilhelm	Grace Laymon, Ashlynn Scott, Kalyn Zak	
James Keller.....	Frank Scutella	The Dog.....	Dabby



**FIRST-KNOX
NATIONAL BANK**

Member FDIC

...Someone you can trust®
DIVISION OF THE PARK NATIONAL BANK

Brings "Broadway" to Memorial Theatre

©Disney
**Disney
BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST**



**MTV
arts**

Directed by Bruce Jacklin

Music by Alan Menken *Lyrics by* Howard Ashman & Tim Rice *Book by* Linda Woolverton

Originally Directed by
Robert Jess Roth

Originally Produced by
Disney Theatrical Productions

July 8-9, 14-16 - 7:30 PM
July 10 & 17 - 2 PM

TICKETS: \$12-18, available at
MTVarts.com or First-Knox
Main Office & Blackjack Road
740.399.5116

MEET THE CAST!

Saturday, June 25, 9-11 a.m.
First-Knox Main Office

FREE EVENT! Photos with Belle, Gaston, songs,
refreshments, and a free gift for each child.

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com



The Talent Showcase

OF HOPENOW FURNITURE BANK
KNOX COUNTY

Saturday April 30, 7:30

Sunday May 1, 3:00

Memorial Theater

\$10 - Adult \$6 - Kids to eight grade

MTV Arts online: www.mtvarts.com

Paragraphs Book Store, Mount Vernon

Fosters Pharmacy, W. High St., Mount Vernon

Available at the door on performance dates

Sponsored by Ariel Corporation

A Right Brain Production



*Thank you to the
Highland High School
Theatrical Arts Class
for the
design and construction
of the set for
The Miracle Worker.*

Cast Bios



KENNEDY AIKEY (Helen Keller) is an 8th grader from Newark who is excited to return to the MTVarts stage. She had a blast this past summer performing as

Jane in *Mary Poppins* and has made many great friends here. Kennedy has been acting and dancing throughout the state of Ohio for several years now. She is anxious for all of you to meet Helen and see how amazing a human can be regardless of physical limitations!



TAMARA ANDERSON (Viney) is thrilled to be making her stage debut with MTVarts after many years away from her passion for performing. She was raised in

the theater environment so Tamara caught the "acting bug" early. She has had the joy of performing often with the Mount Vernon Players, Kenyon College Drama Club, Kenyon Musical Theater, Kenyon College Chamber Singers, and even did an international tour with "Up With People." More recently, Tamara was on the costumes crew for last summer's production of *Mary Poppins*. Much love and gratitude to Scott, Kiana, Roberto, and Mom for their love and support.



JOSELYN BATES (Blind Girl) is 14 years old and in 9th grade. She has been in many productions ranging from high school to MTVarts. Her favorite role was the

Mayor's youngest daughter Gracie in *The Music Man*. In her spare time she enjoys reading and practicing her flute.



MINDA BATES (Blind Girl) is 11 years old and a home-schooled 6th grader. She has previously been in two other productions, both

musicals. She very much enjoys being part of shows and is glad to be working with MTVarts.



CATE BLAIR-WILHELM (Aunt Ev) is happy, as always, to be working with the fine folks at MTVarts. She extends special thanks to Joe for inviting her to be

a part of this wonderful cast. Cate's diverse stage roles include Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Nurse Ratched in *One Flew... Cuckoo's Nest*, Elizabeth Proctor (and later, Rebecca Nurse) in *The Crucible*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Trudy in *The Search for Signs...* , Mrs. Good in *Still Life with Iris*, Friar Laurence in *Romeo & Juliet*, Eleanor of Aquitaine in *Robin Hood*, and Hecuba in *Trojan Women*, among many others. Among her favorite roles are Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* and Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*.



AINSLEY BONAUDI (Blind Girl) is 9 years old and in 3rd grade. She loves reading, writing, and acting. This is her first MTVarts production. She has

previously acted in school productions such as *The Gingerbread Man*.



EMMA BUEHRER (Blind Girl) is an 8th at St. Vincent de Paul school. She has previously performed in several plays including *The Ugly Duckling*,

where she played Ida, and will be performing in *The Sound of Music* as Maria. Besides acting, Emma enjoys writing and singing. She is very excited to be performing in *The Miracle Worker*.

Cast Bios



SCOTT ELLIOTT (Anagnos) is new to the Mt. Vernon stage, but has been involved in theatre for over 45 years, including undergraduate and graduate work, as well as many years of

acting and directing. Scott came to town in 2013 to pastor at 1st Congregational Church. He and Joe Bell ended up talking, and one thing led to another and now he's back on stage. Scott's enjoyed being a part of such a great cast and crew.



MEGAN EVANS (Annie Sullivan) is thrilled to be playing Annie after directing *The Last Night at Ballyhoo* at the Alcove. Originally from Westerville, Megan has appeared in over 35 pro-

ductions around Central Ohio. She recently appeared as Miss Andrew in the MTVarts production of *Mary Poppins*, and as Cindy Lou in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* for the Alcove Dinner Theater. Megan would like to thank Joe for this opportunity, and Andrew, for everything.



REANN FISHER (Blind Girl) is 7 years old and goes to Danville Elementary school. She is in 2nd grade. She plays softball and loves art. This is her first play!



BRUCE JACKLIN (Capt. Keller) has directed more than 100 productions, including many MTVarts' summer musicals and Alcove Dinner Theatre shows.

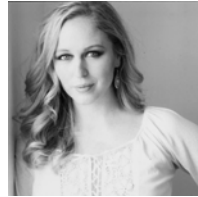
He has taught high school drama, community workshops, and is a certified adjudicator for the Ohio Community Theater Association. He is grateful to his friends and family, and for the loving support of his wife, Mary Lou.

Bruce is the artistic director for both MTVarts and The Alcove Theater productions.



RYLEE JAROSZ (Blind Girl) is a 4th grader at East Elementary. She has been a part of Mount Vernon City Schools Musical Productions over the past few years.

She was the Baby Elephant Bird in *Seussical the Musical*, an Oompa Loompa in *Willy Wonka* and a Royal Child in the *King and I*. She is excited to be in the show. Her first production with MTVarts was *Aladdin Jr*, where she was a townsponser. Rylee is also an avid swimmer and recently competed in the Ohio Junior Olympics.



KELLY YERXA LAUTH (Kate Keller) has appeared in nearly 40 productions throughout the past 20 years. Some of her favorite roles include Belle in *Beauty*

and the *Beast*, Suzy in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*. Kelly has a BA in communications and drama, with minors in music and philosophy. Kelly has received several awards and recognition for her acting and singing, including a Mid Ohio Filmmakers Association award for Best Actress in 2013 for her work in the short film *Recoil*. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, especially her husband Kevin, and daughters Maura and Rona.



AUTUMN LAYMON (Blind Girl) is 8 years old and active in the Ohio Junior Rodeo Association, the Youth Challenge Rodeo Series, and is a 4-H Cloverbud

member of both Towin' & Showin' and Grove 4-H. She is also a member of the Trellis Homeschool Co-Op. She enjoys living on a farm, riding horses and playing soccer.

Production Crew

Director.....Joseph Bell
 Production Manager.....Kate Ernsberger
 Producer.....Janis Stone
 Stage Manager.....Kate Ernsberger
 Tech Director.....Scott Swingle
 Light Operator.....Kevin Adams,
 Brian Bernicken
 Sound Operator.....Scott Swingle

Set Construction.....Joseph Bell
 Scenic Artist/Set Decor.....Bruce Jacklin
 Light Design.....Ian Fraser Ernsberger
 Sound Design.....Joseph Bell,
 Ian Fraser Ernsberger
 Costumes.....Megan Evans
 Seamstresses.....Gloria Yerxa, Chris Aust



MTV arts Senior Series

**Over the River
and through
The Woods**

May 6-7 & 20-21
at The Alcove

THE TURN OF THE SCREW
 COMING TO THE ALCOVE OCT. 8-NOV. 12

Nunsense
 Coming to The Alcove
 February 3-March 4

Cast Bios



GRACE LAYMON (Blind Girl) is 10 years old and active in the Ohio Junior Rodeo Association, the Youth Challenge Rodeo Series, and is a second year 4-H member with Towin' & Showin' and

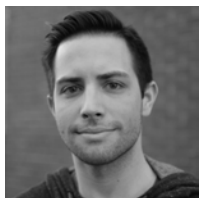
Grove 4-H clubs, and she is also a member of the Trellis Homeschool Co-Op. Grace enjoys taking her market lambs, and pony Sugar to the fair, living on a farm, and going to rodeos.



COLLIN MCFARLANE (Percy) is excited to be in his second production with MTVarts. He was in *The Jungle Book* and was the gingerbread man in the Wiggin Street Kindergarten play. He takes piano lessons with Mrs. Janet Thompson. Collin is a second grader who swims, plays soccer and baseball, and likes to play with his friends and little sister. Collin thanks his parents for introducing an early love of music in his life.

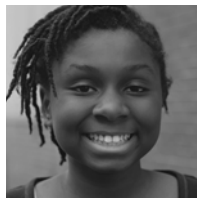


ASHLYNN SCOTT (Blind Girl) is a homeschooling fifth grader. She loves reading, gymnastics, and mastering the pogo stick. This is her fourth MTVarts production.



FRANK SCUTELLA (James) is an English teacher at the Mount Vernon High School, and is originally from St. Marys, Pennsylvania. This is his first show

with MTVarts but he has had roles in *Guys and Dolls*, *Suessical*, *Godspell*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Pirates of Penzance*. He also codirected three high school musicals in Pennsylvania: *Suessical*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *The Addams Family Musical*.



DESTANY STONEBURNER (Martha) is 13 years old and is in 8th grade. She loves to run track and to draw. This is Destany's second production, her first appearance was in *The Velveteen Rabbit* at

Highland High School.



KALYN ZAK (Blind Girl) is a 4th grader at East Elementary. She has previously acted in *The Little Mermaid*, *The King and I*, *Aladdin*, and *Jungle Book*. She has also participated for three years in TaVaci. Kalyn loves to write and spend time with her friends. She is very happy to be part of this production. She sends a big thank you to those who encourage her "dramatic" side.



Watch www.mtvarts.com for registration details

MTVarts *Classics Series*

Successful portrayals of “The Glass Menagerie,”
“Diary of Anne Frank,” “12 Angry Men,” “Of Mice
and Men,” “The Crucible” and “Death of a Salesman”

Exploring classic literature, plays, and themes

Reaching out to area middle and high school
students, enriching education experience with FREE
performances

Elevating the level of quality for performing arts

Enhancing the quality of life in the community

Collaborating with Kenyon, MVNU, and local drama groups

Offering reduced prices for senior adults and students

Continuing to honor our cultural and literature heritage



*MTVarts is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization.
To reserve space for your school, contact producer@mtvarts.com.*

Thank Yous

Many people have contributed to the success of this show. Whether through donating items for our use, helping with publicity, connecting us with the public schools, or providing a key service, each of the following businesses and individuals has contributed in some way.

Michele Bayko

Christine Bell

Kenyon College Department
of Dance, Drama, and Film

Don Garvic, Knox Educational Service Center

The Alcove Dinner Theatre

Joanne Snow

Scott Swingle and
Westie Productions

Laura Tirronen

Donors

Ticket sales alone cannot fund affordable, quality theatre; if you believe in what MTVarts is doing in our community, consider making a cash donation.

Our 2016 Cash Donors:

Mount Vernon Elks Lodge 140

Mark Gasper

Sara Mankins

Amazon Smile

Kroger Community Rewards

MTVarts appreciates the sustained support of:

Barbara Barry

Vickie Sant, Heather Brayshaw,
and Monique Milligan of
First-Knox National Bank

Todd Parsons, Sally Nelson,
Shelly Rojas Annett of
Wilging, Roush & Parsons CPAs LLC

Clinton Bailey of Critchfield,
Critchfield and Johnston, Ltd.

Michael Percy of Griffin Insurance

Mark Ramser of Knox Properties LLC

The Ariel Foundation

Ariel Corportaion

Community Foundation of
Mount Vernon and Knox County

Ohio Arts Council

MTVarts Board:

Susan Moreland, President;
Sadie Hunter, Vice President;
Janis Stone, Treasurer;
Leah Andrews, Secretary;
Bruce Jacklin, Artistic Director;
Carrie Haver; Deanna Hasty;
Joellen Hunter, Emeritus;
and Evan Derr, Emeritus

Strategic Planning Advisory Board:

Jodi Pursel, Ariel Corporation;
Sara Mankins, Edward Jones;
Tonia Osborn, COTC

2016 Operating Board:

Ian Ernsberger, Kate Ernsberger, Megan
Evans, Ruth Frady, Amanda Mayville,
Carrie Swingle, Scott Swingle

Ways to Support MTVarts



TELL A FRIEND.

Let your neighbors and coworkers know you've enjoyed one of our shows. Help us spread the word!



BECOME A PATRON.

Provide a tax deductible donation supporting:

- Classics Series
- Senior Series
- Summer Musicals
- Arts IQ (educational)



SHOP AT KROGER.

Each swipe of your Kroger Plus Card earns rewards for MTVarts! Just establish MTVarts (organization #83432) as your non-profit charity of choice online at Kroger.com. It's no extra cost to you!



SHOP AT AMAZON.COM.

Before making a purchase at Amazon.com, visit mtvarts.com, click on Support, Shop Amazon. Click on the ad in the middle of the page and a portion of your Amazon.com purchase will come back to MTVarts!



SHOP LOCALLY.

Shop at the local businesses featured in our program. It's through their generous support that we are able to bring you quality, affordable entertainment.



VOLUNTEER.

Would you like to help build and paint sets, assist with costumes, lighting and sound? Get involved, have fun, and feel a great sense of achievement.



GET OUR NEWSLETTER.

Receive all the latest information about upcoming shows and workshops through our monthly e-newsletter. Sign up at www.mtvarts.com, or e-mail producer@mtvarts.com.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK.

Keep up-to-date with all of our announcements, photos, and show information: facebook.com/mtvarts.

MTVarts is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

You can always learn more at www.MTVarts.com!

YouthPhilanthropy Initiative

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE
THROUGH GRANTMAKING



Learn more about YPI at
mvkcfoundation.org



Proud to support the MTVarts Classics Series