

MIRACLE WORKER AUDITIONS, January 23 & 24 – WHAT TO EXPECT AT A FINE ARTS GUILD OF THE ROCKIES OPEN AUDITION

The Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies announces auditions for *The Miracle Worker*. Auditions will be held January 23 and 24th 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the community room in US Bank. The production will be directed by Deborah Baldwin.

Deborah states, “I was asked to speak about auditions and what an interested person should expect when one auditions. I can’t speak for all directors, but generally it’s best to read the script of what you are auditioning or see the movie or peruse the novel of the story if you can. Obviously, it just helps one auditioning to be familiar with the plot. However, it isn’t a mark against you if you haven’t. The first thing one does is fill out an information sheet which asks for personal information such as telephone numbers and email addresses. We take the information from this to make a contact list for the production once it’s cast.

It’s best to know the rehearsal calendar for the show and if at all possible clear one’s calendar of conflicts prior to auditioning. That gives the one auditioning more of an opportunity to be cast. However, if the one auditioning only has a few conflicts, let the director make the final decision as to whether he or she can cast you. Lots of times, rehearsals can be arranged around a busy but vital actor’s schedule.

Next, the director or stage manager will call up several folks to read together. It could be that the director just needs to hear those auditioning read against others, or is looking at them for particular roles. If those auditioning don’t believe they are good readers, that shouldn’t worry them. Usually I have cold readings, which means the person auditioning reads from the script without having too much time to look at the scene. I prefer this method because it levels the playing field for everyone. That way, no one can prepare the scene on their own and have a head start on their portrayal. It’s more important that one reads expressively. If a person auditioning is only interested in one or two roles in the show and is not willing to participate otherwise, again it shouldn’t count against them in the casting. Personally, I’d rather know an actor’s preferences right up front so I don’t waste anyone’s time reading a part they aren’t willing to play.

If the story involves a family of characters, a director may put up several people of different ages to see if they are believable as a family. Do they look like each other? It’s that sort of thing.

A director might have two or three evenings of auditions and again, if at all possible, it’s best to attend every audition. An interesting fact is that in the professional world, it is suggested that the actor wear the same clothes each night for the auditions. Directors are very visual and it helps us remember you better.

Lastly, the cast list! It’s tough to remember, but those auditioning should never take it personally if they aren’t cast in the part that they wanted to portray. There are many factors

involved in a director's decision: conflicts, whether the director finds the essence of the character within you, thinks he can direct you, if other actors look believable against you, etc. And, if you just want to be involved on the show in any capacity, tell the director or stage manager that! We love extra help!"

The Miracle Worker, considered a classic American play, tells the story of Annie Sullivan and her student, blind and mute Helen Keller. The play dramatizes the volatile relationship between the lonely teacher and her charge. Trapped in a secret, silent world, unable to communicate, Helen is violent, spoiled, and almost sub-human and treated by her family as such. Only Annie realizes that there is a mind and spirit waiting to be rescued from the dark, tortured silence. Sometimes bittersweet, sometimes comical *The Miracle Worker* is a production many actors dream to have listed on their performing resume.

There are roles available for seven men and seven women, ages sixteen to seventy. In addition, there are several roles for children. Rehearsals will begin in mid-February and run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. three days a week until mid-March when the rehearsals will lengthen and meet more often. No rehearsals are planned the week of the school system's spring break. The production will be performed March 30, 31 and April 1 and April 6, 7, and 8. Three matinee performances are planned for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 3, 4, and 5. These are free performances for the student populations of the Elementary, Middle, and High School of the Park School District, reaching all the students in each grade level.

The Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies is committed to building on its tradition of excellence by providing experience in the performing and visual arts through participation, education, and outreach. Members of the Fine Arts Guild enjoy free admission to all of its yearly productions in the performing arts such as theater, musicals, and concerts. Volunteers are needed to assist in set building, ticket-taking, publicity, and more. For more information on how to become more involved in this non-profit arts organization with a 53-year local tradition, please visit www.fineartsguild.org.