

Tualatin's Hayley Rousselle Stars in *The Miracle Worker*

SUBMITTED BY: GINGER MOSHOFSKY

Your last chance to see Beaverton Civic Theatre's award winning production of William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* is coming June 9, when the cast and crew team up with the Lions Club for a benefit performance. *The Miracle Worker* chronicles the early life of Helen Keller who, in 1925, asked the Lions Clubs for a promise to help fight preventable blindness and deafness. For over 86 years they have done just that through their "Keep the Promise" campaign. This performance of *The Miracle Worker* will benefit Oregon and Northern California patients undergoing sight and hearing saving surgeries and treatments.

The star of the show is Tualatin's Hayley Rousselle, who plays Helen Keller. Rousselle earned the best actress award for Beaverton Civic's 2012 season for her portrayal of Helen Keller. She also won the best actress award at the American Association of Community Theatre state One Act Competition and at the regional competition in Richland, Washington. The production won awards for Outstanding Light Design, Outstanding Fight Choreography and Best Physical Performance by a Duo which Rousselle shared with Amanda Clark who plays Annie Sullivan. Director Doreen Lundberg won an Outstanding Direction award.

Rousselle was thrilled to play Helen Keller who she has admired since seeing the movie *The Miracle Worker* when she was eight years old. To prepare for the part she spent hours wearing earplugs and a blindfold and spent a day at the Washington State School for the Blind which she found extremely inspirational.

Rousselle has been acting since she was four years old and earned her first professional role with Northwest Children's Theater at age seven. She went on to play many roles including the

role of "Annie" in the musical "Annie Warbucks" with Tin Pan Alley Musical Theatre Company for which she won the 2009 Portland Area Musical Theater Award for Outstanding Young Performer.

In 2007 Hayley and her mother Lisia appeared on the short-lived VH1 reality show *I Know My Kid's a Star*. The two of them spent a month in California living and competing with 10 other child-parent duos. Although they didn't win, they learned a lot and according to Lisia, "had the time of their lives".

As a high school sophomore Hayley is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and Wilsonville High's award winning a capella choir Soul'd Out. She is also busy with Symphonic Choir, Drama Club and the Student Watershed Research Project.

Hayley has been dancing with Tualatin's June Taylor for 13 years. "Hayley absolutely adores Miss June. Not only is she a terrific dance teacher, she has been a terrific role model and exceptionally supportive influence," said Lisia. "Hayley has lived in Tualatin her entire life and no matter where life leads her she will always call Tualatin home."

The 60-minute benefit performance of *The Miracle Worker* begins at 5:00 p.m., June 9 at the Beaverton Christian Church, 13600 S.W. Allen Boulevard, Beaverton. After the performance audience members can enjoy refreshments and meet the cast. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at http://bit.ly/Miracle_Worker.



Ginger Moshofsky is a freelance writer, vice president of Mask and Mirror Community Theatre and works in Alumni Relations at Pacific University.



Jerry Rousselle



Eliza Bone



Colleen Cahill



Eliza Bone