

Mission Viejo's The Miracle Worker takes the C A K E  
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Mission Viejo's The Miracle Worker tells the story of Helen Keller, a deaf, blind, and mute girl, who comes to be mentored by Annie Sullivan. The relationship between the two proves to be strong, as what was thought to be impossible is accomplished on stage.

Annie Sullivan (Aria Morrill) embodies a young yet strong woman who is set on her goal of teaching Helen (Izzy MacLennan) to understand language. Morrill's characterization is fluid as she sustains a well thought out accent shows great understanding of Sullivan's character. Morrill and MacLennan's relationship on stage is well developed, as the two use the entire stage in scenes such as when Sullivan teaches Keller to eat in a proper manner. Although she has virtually no dialogue throughout the two hour play, MacLennan does a great job of using her body to show emotion, even when she is not the scene's main focus.

The couple of Kate Keller (Ella Adams) and Captain Keller (Jack Maxwell) persistent accents and body language towards each other and their children portray their concern and despair well, as they take risks for their family. The two had great pacing and set great tone for the show, as Adams displays motherly love and Maxwell shows the struggle of such hard decisions.

Although the production covers difficult themes, James Keller (Liam O'Rourke) and Aunt Ev (Elena Shumaker) both display light hearted humor which relieves tension throughout the show.

Stage Manager Liad Howell-Karabelnik and her stage management team, Lily Rezvani and Isabel Updegraff, run a very smooth and clean production. With 102 cues, consisting of 60 lighting cues and 42 sound cues, each element is well timed and executed, especially during Annie Sullivan's final series of flashbacks.

Hair and Makeup (Maya Garcia and Bella Grasso) do a great job with the cast's 14 characters, from the wigs to minimalistic makeup to aging the productions older characters, the team does a great job of executing the show's many looks. One thing that stands out is the use of beards for some of the male characters. The choice of using material to construct the beards rather than drawing them on or using fake pre-made beards really stands out and reads well even from far away.

The Miracle Worker at Mission Viejo High School is a display of talent and hope.