

No Food in the Auditorium, Except on Stage  
Article during *The Miracle Worker*  
September 20, 2011

When a script calls for a scene at the dinner table, the director has a decision to make: real food, fake food or imaginary? Cole Grootian, director of Master Arts' production of *The Miracle Worker* decided on real food. Between the two meals on stage, the Master Arts kitchen smells of Ham, bacon, mashed potatoes, eggs, tea, muffins, rolls and "tea cakes."

The job of cooking falls to a couple of actresses, Lydia Bouwkamp, Victoria Boward, and Meeka Postman. These three girls play blind girls in the play. Each "cook" has her own responsibility. Lydia cooks the ham and bacon, Victoria whips up the mashed potatoes and Meeka prepares the eggs. OH! I can't forget Brandon Schultz, who plays Percy, who sometimes helps scramble the eggs. "The job is enjoyable," says Meeka, "except I had to bring my own pans. Master Arts doesn't own a decent pan. The first time we tried to scramble eggs, it was a disaster. The pans were so old, everything stuck."

The office staff refused to comment, but an inside source said, "The pans are props, what did you expect?" ;-)

The faithful volunteers soon had to learn some stage magic.

"During rehearsals," Victoria says, "we had to throw out a lot of potatoes until we realized we only had to make two servings to make it look good on stage."

Meeka, "I learned stage magic about tea." She started with HOT tea. "You're going to make hot tea, you make it hot." The director reminded her that cold tea looks the same on stage, and is safer for the actors.

Lydia says the bread, roles and muffins we purchased. But where do you get "tea" cakes? "We use sliced up pound cake," said Meeka.

Choosing real food for a show is not an easy choice. It helps the scene look more realistic. But even directors forget about how much work it becomes. If you choose to use real food, make sure you have some willing, and very capable volunteers. Thank you Meeka, Victoria, Lydia and of course, Brandon.

Don't miss this unforgettable story.

***The Miracle Worker***, by William Gibson, September 15 – October 8, 2011. Thurs Fri & Sat evenings at 7:30 PM and Sat matinees at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$15 for adults with a \$2 discount for senior citizens & students. All seats reserved. Call (616) 455-1001 for reservations or check our web site for more information:

<http://www.masterarts.org/showFall.htm>