

Interview with Jezelle Frank (Helen)
from *The Miracle Worker*
August 31, 2011

Her first thought when she was offered the part of Helen Keller, “This is Awesome.” Jezelle Frank is playing Helen Keller in Master Arts’ production of *The Miracle Worker*, Sept 15th – Oct 8th. (Tickets are on sale now.)

I sat down with Jezelle and her father to ask her some questions about being Helen.

She was a little nervous, mostly because she wasn’t exactly sure who I was. This is Jezelle’s first main stage show with Master Arts and her first major role in theater.

Walt: How are you and Helen alike?

Jezelle: We are both curious.

Walt: How are you different?

Jezelle: I don’t throw tantrums.

I asked Jezelle, is it hard work or just fun being Helen. She answered like most good actresses, “Both!”

Walt: Playing a blind character isn’t easy, what do you do to get into character?

Jezelle: I try to get this far-away look in my eyes.

Jezelle was pleasant to talk to, I can’t wait to see her on stage. She is a smart young girl with great insight.

Walt: What will we learn watching *The Miracle Worker*?

Jezelle: God can do miraculous things.

Just when I thought I had got enough for the interview, Dad spoke up.

Dad: She has really gotten into the part. She gets her friends to come over and instead of playing house, they play Helen Keller. With Jezelle, of course, playing the part of Helen.

It was then that I found out, that Jezelle, after receiving the role, went out and read *The Story of My Life*, the autobiography of Helen Keller. She puts most of us actors to shame. How few times have I researched my role like that?

Dad: This has been an everyday event for her. She is having fun.

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>