

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Camera-ready photos of Sheryl Faye available upon request

### **Local actress proves digital age no substitute for live historic women performances**

Film, TV, and stage pro connects with kids as Clara Barton and Helen Keller

**SALEM, MA** – Salem resident and professional actress Sheryl Faye's [unique program](#) about historic women is developing a loyal following among a surprising audience. Elementary schools throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts repeatedly engage her as Clara Barton and Helen Keller for live, one-woman, low-tech performances, an increasingly rare presentation format in today's digital multimedia age. The live performances are not only entertaining and educational, they also help audiences truly understand the profound positive impact these women have made in history, as well as their ties to New England. This year, she is setting her sights on performing across Western Massachusetts and New England at large.

Faye's numerous TV credits include a principal role in a recurring episode of PBS' "Fetch." She has treaded the floorboards of many a local and regional theatre and appeared with several acting companies, most recently Stagecoach Improv with which she works closely performing and writing sketch comedy and teaching for top businesses such as TD Bank, IBM, NYU, Phillips and more. The [multifaceted actress](#) also has various film credits to her name, as well as voice over (including several Sony Play Station video game characters) and trade show presenter engagements.

Amidst all of this work, Faye finds immense fulfillment in seeing young students' faces light up as they connect with her when she portrays Barton and Keller with just a few props, an audio recording and a slideshow. She has provided this program for 10 years, and believes that these performances serve not only as history lessons, but as inspirational moments for impressionable youth. "I think it's so important to remind kids that anything is possible in life, to make the most of your life as these women did, and most importantly to be kind to one another," she notes.

As Barton and Keller, Faye underscores their unwavering commitments to their causes in an era when women were pigeonholed into narrow categories. Whether referring to being an altruistic and outspoken entrepreneur in a man's world, or to becoming an active member of society despite being deaf, blind and mute in a time when such conditions relegated one to an asylum, she reminds the audiences that, "it's okay to be different and this world would be a boring place if we were all the same. Let's embrace each others' differences and learn from one another."

At a recent performance at the Center School in Chelmsford, a large group of first graders—an age group not known for staying focused—sat mesmerized as Faye reenacted the highlights of Keller's life from childhood to adulthood in 30 minutes. They gasped and laughed as she demonstrated the trials and tribulations the famous deaf, blind and mute woman encountered during the nineteenth century. During the Q&A session that followed, many of the students asked insightful questions about Keller's experiences and Faye's process for learning how to portray her, and nodded in agreement with her closing invitation to engage with and be accepting of people with different abilities.

Mary McMorrow Eastwood, M.Ed., Principal of South Elementary School where Faye also performed, noted, "Our visit from Helen Keller was amazing! Sheryl truly took on the persona of Helen, and she tailored the performance to the grade level of the children. This performance was so convincing that many of the children thought that they were truly meeting Helen, herself. What a way to teach tolerance and American history at the same time!"

Faye also brings these performances to adults and children at community and senior centers, historical societies, camps, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and other groups throughout Massachusetts. Her goal for 2013 is to increase engagements throughout the Commonwealth and into the rest of New England.

For more information about Sheryl Faye, including her résumé and sample list of where she has appeared in historic women performances, please visit [sherylfaye.com](http://sherylfaye.com). You can find photos, additional testimonials and more at [facebook.com/SherylFayePresents](https://www.facebook.com/SherylFayePresents).

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