

The Tabard Theatre Company announces auditions for **THE SECRET GARDEN**, an intergenerational musical with book by Marsha Norman and music by Lucy Simon; based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This will be the final production of Tabard's 19th season themed *New Beginnings*.

The Show... Time & Place: India; England; 1900-1910

“Where you tend a rose, a thistle cannot grow.”

This enchanting classic of children's literature is reimagined in the brilliant Tony-winning musical by composer Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *Night Mother*. Orphaned in India, 11 year-old Mary Lennox returns to Yorkshire where she finds no comfort living with her embittered, reclusive uncle Archibald and his invalid son Colin who's been kept locked away. The Yorkshire estate and bleak landscape deepen Mary's isolation. With the help of the kindly servants and local boy Dickon, Mary sets out to uncover the garden's mysteries and in the process, finds the key to lifting the spirits and hopes of those around her. Along the way she discovers many wonders, including a magic garden which beckons the children with haunting melodies and the "Dreamers," spirits from Mary's past who guide her through her new life, dramatizing *The Secret Garden's* compelling tale of forgiveness and renewal.

The Staff... Director: Karen Altree Piemme. Music/vocal director: Paul Zawilski

Available roles: Cast: Intergenerational: 12M; 10F; 1B; 1G (doubling possible). Non-AEA. Stipend available.

LILY - Female, 28-38 (Range: Soprano, Bb3-D6) Mary's aunt and Archibald Craven's beloved wife. Died of a tragic accident within her garden and metaphorically haunts the walls of Misselthwaite Manor.

MARY LENNOX - Female, 11 (Range: Young Voice, Ab3-D5) An 11 year-old girl sent to live with her uncle, Archibald, when her parents die from cholera in India. Quite the curious explorer, and often finding herself in trouble. Headstrong and always fighting for what she believes in.

MRS. MEDLOCK - Female, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Archibald's housekeeper. She runs a tight ship at the Misselthwaite Manor.

DR. NEVILLE CRAVEN - Male, 35-45 (Range: Baritone, C3-F#4) Archibald's brother. He, too, was (and is) in love with Lily, though it was never reciprocated. This fact, and his responsibility to care for Colin makes him unwilling to move on and leave Misselthwaite.

MARTHA - Female, 18-30 (Range: Mezzo-Soprano Belt, G3-D5) A faithful housemaid. Grew up near Yorkshire and has the accent to prove it. Despite her lower class status (and the accompanying lack of access to education), her wisdom is often far beyond her age.

ARCHIBALD CRAVEN - Male, 35-45 (Range: Baritone, C3-A4) Mary's uncle and lord of Misselthwaite Manor. He has a physical deformity that has given him a hunched back. Haunted by the past and afraid of the future, he locks himself away both physically and mentally. Mary painfully reminds him too much of his wife, Lily, who died ten years ago.

BEN WEATHERSTAFF - Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible, E3-D#4) Head gardener. Secretly entrusted to take care of the garden after Lily's death. Knows a great deal about the history of the garden and the grounds on which it sits. He has worked for the family for many years. He calls himself “an old man.”

DICKON - Male, 16-25ish (Range: Tenor, D3-G4) Martha's younger brother. Looks after the sick plants and animals within the Misselthwaite grounds—including Mary. He has an imaginative, magical quality about him. Befriends Mary and convinces her to take care of the Garden.

COLIN CRAVEN - Male, 10 (Range: Young Voice, A3-E5) Archibald's ten year-old son. He has spent his life in bed due to a heart condition, which has made him almost as bitter as his father. He believes his father hates him for causing Lily's death.

MRS. WINTHROP - Female, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Headmistress of a private school. Prides herself on nurturing girls with tempers. Mary seems to be more than she can handle.

Following characters, referred to collectively as **the Dreamers**, are people from Mary's life in India, who haunt her until she finds her new life in the course of the story.

ROSE LENNOX - Female, 28-38 (Range: Soprano, A3-D6) Mary's mother. A “dreamer” from the past who doesn't understand how her sister Lily could truly love Archibald. Very loyal to her husband and refuses to leave India during the cholera outbreak that takes her life.

CAPTAIN ALBERT LENNOX - Male, 30-40 (Range: Tenor, D3-A5) Mary's father. Tries to send Rose out of India during the cholera outbreak.

ALICE - Female, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Rose's friend.

LIEUTENANT WRIGHT - Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Officer in Mary's father's unit.

LIEUTENANT SHAW - Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Fellow officer.

MAJOR SHELLEY - Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Officer.

MRS. SHELLEY - Female, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Major Shelley's wife.

MAJOR HOLMES - Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Officer.

CLAIRE HOLMES - Female, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Major Holmes' wife.

FAKIR - Male, Age Flexible (Range: Tenor, C3-B4) Itinerant Hindu ascetic.

AYAH - Female, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Mary's Indian nanny.

What to prepare: Please prepare 16 bars each of two contrasting songs from Broadway shows. Cold readings from the script will be provided at the audition.

Auditions: By appointment only -- To schedule an appointment, e-mail cathy@tabardtheatre.org, noting your availability to audition (dates/times). Please include headshot and resume. Auditions will be in 10-minute slots. Only young people with training and experience will be considered.

◆ Saturday morning, **June 22, 10am to 1pm**

◆ Sunday evening, **June 23, 6pm to 9pm**

Callbacks – as needed

Prior to the audition, an audition application/packet will be e-mailed that will include the address for the audition. Those auditioning should bring the application to the audition filled out along with headshot, resume and conflict calendar that covers rehearsal and performance period as noted in the packet.

APR-MAY 2020			
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
16 8PM [§]	17 8PM APR	18 3PM*	19 2PM
	24 8PM	25 8PM	26 2PM
30 8PM	1 8PM MAY	2 3PM	3 2PM
	8 8PM	9 8PM	10 2PM

[§] Pay-What-You-Will Preview

* 1:30-2pm Free hands-on presentation for visually impaired patrons. Everyone welcome.

Rehearsals: Currently scheduled to begin mid-February 2020. Rehearsals will be in the greater San Jose area.

Performances: April 16-May 10, 2020, at Tabard Theatre, 29 N. San Pedro Street, Downtown San Jose

Questions... Contact Cathy Cassetta, Tabard artistic director: cathy@tabardtheatre.org