



The Secret Garden is a musical based on the 1911 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, with lyrics by Marsha Norman and music by Lucy Simon. The story follows a young girl named Mary Lennox, who, after the sudden death of her parents in India, is sent to live with her reclusive uncle, Archibald Craven, in his mansion in Yorkshire, England. The house is filled with mysteries, including a locked, neglected garden and a hidden, sickly boy, Colin Craven, who is Archibald's son.

As Mary explores her new surroundings, she discovers the key to the secret garden and begins to restore it. Along the way, she befriends Dickon, a nature-loving local boy, and together they work to bring life back to the garden. The garden's revival becomes a metaphor for the healing of the characters. Archibald, tormented by the memory of his late wife, Lily, begins to heal, and Colin gains strength and hope, leaving his sickbed for the first time.

The musical weaves themes of love, loss, healing, and the power of nature. Through its lush score, it highlights how nurturing relationships and tending to the natural world can transform not only the garden but the hearts of those who encounter it. As the characters reconnect with each other and their surroundings, they find renewal, hope, and redemption.

Artistic Staff

Director - Jennifer Almeida
Assistant Director - Judy Hamer
Music Director - Chris Morris
Choreographer - Missy Potash
Set Design and builder - Mark Roderick
Costumes - Judy Hamer & Sue Lindholm
Producer - Judy Hamer

Performance Dates: March 13th-30th, 2025
Thursday-Saturday 7pm and Sunday Matinee 2pm

Audition information:

Academy of Performing Arts
120 Main Street, Orleans, MA

November 9th, 3-5 pm
November 10th 10-12 pm
November 16th 3-5 pm for callbacks if needed

If you are unable to attend these dates and wish to audition, please submit an audition video that includes a listed song from the show that is best for the character you are auditioning for and a monologue along with a resume and headshot by 12:00 pm on November 10th to:

Jenalmeida@academyplayhouse.org

Rehearsals will begin the week of January 5th.

Please present all known conflicts on the audition form which may be printed from our website: academyplayhouse.org All actors who are cast in the show are expected to be at all tech/dress rehearsals and all performances.

All cast members and staff over the age of 18 will be required to sign a Code of Conduct agreement, Liability Waiver, and complete a CORI evaluation to participate in productions at The Academy of Performing Arts.

Please contact the director by email if you have any questions at:
jenalmeida@academyplayhouse.org

Children's roles: We encourage children to audition. There will be a small number of younger children ages 8-12 chosen to perform in the ensemble and a small number of teenage/young adults Chosen to perform in the ensemble.

Character descriptions:

*All Roles are open except for Lily and Martha

Ages listed are the approximate ages of the characters on stage, not the ages of the actors.

MARY LENNOX – Female, Playable age 10 (Range: Young Voice, Ab3-D5) A ten-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. Stubborn and always fighting for what she believes in. British Accent .

ARCHIBALD CRAVEN – Male, Playable age 35-45 (Range: Tenor/Baritone, C3-A4) Mary's uncle and lord of Misselthwaite Manor. He has a hunchback. 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. British Accent.

DICKON – Male, Playable age 16-25 (Range: Tenor, D3-G4) Martha's younger brother. Looks after the sick plants and animals within the Misselthwaite grounds—including Mary. He is a young man who is between the world of child imagination and adult reasoning. Befriends Mary and convinces her to take care of the Garden. A Strong Yorkshire Accent is desirable.

DR. NEVILLE CRAVEN – Male, Playable age 35-45 (Range: Baritone, C3-F#4) Archibald's brother. Trapped by the idea that he is responsible for the caretaking of Colin. Though Lily never loved him in return, he remains in love with her, and is unwilling to move on and leave Misselthwaite. British Accent.

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 it sits on. He has worked for the family for many years. He calls himself "an old man." A Strong Yorkshire Accent is desirable.

COLIN CRAVEN – Male, Playable age 10 (Range: Young Voice, A3-E5) Archibald's ten-year-old son. Spent his life in bed due to a heart condition. He is very stubborn and throws temper tantrums to get what he wants. He believes his father hates him for causing Lily's death. British Accent.

MRS. MEDLOCK – Female, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Archibald's housekeeper. As cold as the Misselthwaite Manor. British Accent.

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. British Accent

The 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, Playable age 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. British Accent.

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

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

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

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

MAJOR SHELLEY – Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Officer. British Accent.

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

MAJOR HOLMES – Male, Age Flexible (Range: Ensemble/Part Flexible) Officer. British Accent.

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

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

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

How to Prepare for the Audition:

All adults and children auditioning will be asked to sing selections from the show that best show the character you are auditioning for. Candidates will be given sides to read at the audition.

Songs:

Please prepare songs that best suit the character you are auditioning for. Music has been scanned and uploaded on the website.

Mary: The Girl I mean to be

Colin: The Round shouldered man

Dickon: Wick

Archibald Craven: Where in the World, Race you to the Top of the Morning (from measure 42)

Neville Craven: Quartet, Lily's Eyes

All other roles/Dreamers: The House Upon the Hill