THE SHOW

_Somewhere someone buried the key. The key to life. The key that opens the hidden door to…_

When it premiered on Broadway in 1991, _The Secret Garden_ took New York by storm. Tony Awards, national tours and international productions all followed. Now, for the first time in 25 years, this sensational musical returns to Australia in all its glory.

The famous novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett on which the musical is based is known and loved by many. This heart-warming story comes to life on stage with the same magical qualities, and rewards audiences with its sophisticated take on this literary classic.

Mary Lennox arrives at her uncle’s home to find distant grieving relatives and an uncared-for garden. The story centres around the orphaned Mary as she and a young gardener breathe new life into the secret garden.

Mary blossoms too, and through this she tends to all the hearts around her.

The sumptuous score contains a raft of wonderful songs, including ‘A Bit of Earth’, ‘Show Me the Key’, and the unforgettable ‘Lily’s Eyes’.

PRODUCTION TEAM

**PRODUCERS**
OPERA AUSTRALIA & JOHN FROST

**BOOK AND LYRICS BY**
MARSHA NORMAN

**MUSIC BY**
LUCY SIMON

**BASED ON THE NOVEL BY**
FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

**DIRECTOR**
SUSAN H. SCHULMAN

**CHOREOGRAPHER**
MICHAEL LICHTEFELD

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**
GUY SIMPSON

**RESIDENT DIRECTOR**
PETER ADAMS

PRODUCTION DATES

Dates are subject to change at the Producer’s discretion.

Cast rehearsals commence in Sydney on or about Monday 15 June 2020.

Publicity dates and costume fittings may be required in advance of these dates (exact dates to be advised).

The Premiere season commences at the Sydney Lyric Theatre in August 2020.
AUDITION PREPARATION
Specific requirements for auditions will be provided with confirmation of audition time.
All auditionees must prepare the following material:

- Prepare two (2) songs of your choice consistent with the style and period of the show that best demonstrates vocal range. You should have available at least two contrasting selections, but should not choose material from *The Secret Garden* score.

AUDITION GUIDELINES & DATES
All auditionees will need to be available for the below audition period to be considered for this production.

**SYDNEY:**
Monday 9 December – Wednesday 11 December 2019
CALLBACKS – Thursday 12 December – Saturday 14 December 2019
The Opera Centre, Sydney. 480 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW, 2010

**MELBOURNE:**
Sunday 15 December 2019 – Tuesday 17 December 2019
CALLBACKS – Wednesday 18 December – Thursday 19 December 2019
FINALS - Friday 20 December 2019
The Ministry of Dance, Melbourne. Level 1, 64 Sutton St, North Melbourne, VIC, 3051

PLEASE NOTE:
1. Auditions are strictly by appointment only. Auditions cannot be guaranteed for all applicants submitted.
2. Auditionees should be available for the entire audition period. Any restrictions must be noted in the submission.
3. Auditions will take place in Sydney and Melbourne only.
4. Auditions are at the risk and the sole financial responsibility of the auditionee.
5. Auditionees may be photographed and recorded as part of their participation in the audition process for casting purposes.
6. Auditionees may be asked to be recorded, either inside or outside of the audition room, with such recording to possibly be used for promotional content of the production process including, but not limited to; news stories, programing for broadcast and social media. Such recording will be voluntary and without compensation.

This production recognises the diversity of the Australian performing community and we seek to foster a more realistic and more creative representation of Australia on our stages. To this end we strongly encourage applications from performers of varied experiences, perspectives and circumstances including performers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and performers with disabilities.
SUBMISSIONS
Agency and self-represented artists must create a profile to register for auditions. All audition applications must be made via the official GFO/The Secret Garden audition portal, no exceptions.
https://registration.gordonfrostorganisation.com/

DEADLINES
Submissions close 11:59pm Monday 18 November, 2019
Successful applicants will receive appointment times no later than 7 days prior to auditions.

Please forward any questions regarding applications and auditions to: TSGauditions@opera.org.au

CHILDREN
The children’s roles are shared roles – four x Mary, and four x Colin.
Children must be at least 8 years of age as of 1 February 2020 (DOB must be before 1 February 2012).
Sydney-based children must live within 110km commute from Sydney CBD / maximum 90 minutes travel.
Children must be fully available for the full rehearsal and performance period.

All terms of the engagement will be in accordance with the NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) (Child Employment) Regulation 2015 and the Code of Practice: and the Performers Collective Agreement (2017).

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN
MARY LENNOX
A 10-year-old British girl. Uncommonly self-possessed, brave and insightful, with a mature sense of irony. She has spent most of her life among adults in colonial India. She copes with catastrophic loss by assuming an air of independence. However, she is haunted by ghosts of the past.
Female – young girl
Playing age: 10
Vocal Range: Young Voice, Ab3-D5

ARCHIBALD CRAVEN
**UNDERSTUDY ONLY, SELECTED PERFORMANCES**
An upper-class British landowner, deformed at birth with a slight humpback which exists far worse in his mind than in reality. He is mournful and repressed having removed himself emotionally from the world. His taciturn and brisk demeanor masks a vulnerable and empathetic nature.
Male
Playing age: 35-45 years
Vocal Range: Baritone, C3-A4
LILY
Archibald’s dead wife and Mary’s mother’s sister. She haunts them both in an effort to ease the pain of their loss. In life, as in death, she is a strong willed, independent, compassionate, and loving spirit.
Female
Playing age: 28-38 years
Vocal Range: Soprano, Bb3-D6

DR. NEVILLE CRAVEN
Archibald’s younger brother. Extremely smart, educated and capable, but with an overriding sense of personal injustice and jealousy. This has and does inform every choice in his life.
Male
Playing age: 35-45 years
Vocal Range: Baritone, C3-F#4

MARTHA
A Yorkshire housemaid. She is intuitive, wise and compassionate with a playful, no nonsense sense of humor and strong maternal instincts.
Female
Playing age: 20’s
Vocal Range: Mezzo-Soprano Belt, G3-D5

DICKON
Yorkshire country lad and Martha’s younger brother. He is otherworldly, mysterious and mischievous. He communes with nature and animals. He has compassion for all living things – especially the lost and the injured.
Male
Playing age: 16-20 years
Vocal Range: Tenor, C3-G4

BEN WEATHERSTAFF
The estate gardener. Crusty, with a sly, caustic Yorkshire sense of humor. He is kind but cautious as befits a believer in spirits.
Male
Playing age: 50-60 years
Vocal Range: Flexible, E3-D#4
**MRS. MEDLOCK**  
The Yorkshire Estate housekeeper. No nonsense, efficient and impatient. She runs a tight ship taking her cues from Neville. She is frustrated by the unexpected, but does her best to cope.  
Female  
Playing age:  50-60 years  
Vocal Range: Flexible / Non-singing role

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**CAPTAIN ALBERT LENNOX**  
Mary’s father. A Captain in Her Majesty’s Royal Yorkshire Regiment in colonial India. A respected, highly trained and decorated officer. A ghost who lovingly haunts his daughter’s memory. He’s kind, patient and empathetic.  
Male  
Playing age:  30-40’s  
Vocal Range: Tenor to Bb5

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**ROSE LENNOX**  
Mary’s vain, insecure mother. She is Lily’s younger sister but possesses none of her older sister’s compassion or patience. She feels utterly displaced in India and compensates with flirtatious, pouty energy. She haunts Mary’s nightmares and daydreams.  
Female  
Playing age:  28-38 years  
Vocal Range: Soprano, A3-D6

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**COLIN CRAVEN**  
Archibald and Lily’s 10-year-old son. A petulant, entitled hypochondriac who has never experienced the company of other children or the nurturing affection of a mother and father. All he knows of the outside world – he has read in books.  
Male – young boy  
Playing age:  10  
Vocal Range: Young Voice, A3-E5

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**MRS. WINTHROP**  
A Scottish schoolmistress. Think Jean Brodie without the glamour or imagination.  
Female  
Playing age: Any age  
Vocal Range: Flexible
The servants at Misselthwaite Manor:

TIMOTHY
A Yorkshire Country lad (Understudy Dickon)
Male
Playing age: 18-20 years
Vocal Range: Baritone or Tenor to G5

BETSY/JANE
Yorkshire lass (Understudy Martha)
Female
Playing age: 20’s
Vocal Range: Soprano to B5

WILLIAM
A proper Yorkshire butler (Understudy Ben)
Male
Playing age: 50-60 years
Vocal Range: Baritone to F

In India - known collectively as “The Dreamers”; they haunt Mary’s daydreams and nightmares:

THE AYAH
Mary’s Indian nanny. She is an empowering force in Mary’s memory. She was the closest thing Mary had to a mother figure in India.
Female
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Mezzo to E5

THE FAKIR
A charismatic Indian mystic. Capable of magic. He fills Mary’s imagination with the power of spirits and charms.
Male
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Tenor to C
MAJOR SHELLEY
An officer in her Majesty’s Royal Yorkshire Regiment in colonial India. A close friend of Albert and Rose.
Must move well.
Male
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Flexible

MRS. SHELLEY
Major Shelley’s wife. A very proper British lady.
Must move well.
Female
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Flexible

ALICE
British - a friend of Rose and Albert Lennox in India.
Must move well.
Female
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Soprano to B5

LIEUTENANT GUMPTA (WRIGHT)
Indian, attached to Her Majesty’s Royal Yorkshire Regiment in India.
Male
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Baritone to G

MAJOR HOLMES
A fellow officer of Her Majesty’s Royal Yorkshire Regiment in India.
Must move well
Male
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Baritone to G

CLAIRE HOLMES
British, Major Holmes’ wife.
Must move well
Female
Playing age: Any age
Vocal Range: Soprano to B5