

AUDITION BRIEF – CHILDREN ROLES ONLY

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 J. ADAMS

PRODUCTION DATES

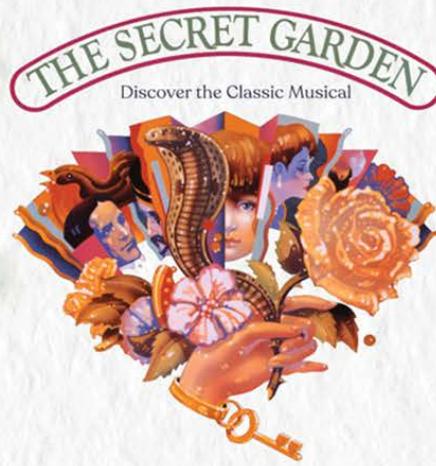
Dates are subject to change at the Producer's discretion.

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.

The Melbourne season will follow and commence at Her Majesty's Theatre in November 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 DATES & GUIDELINES

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

SYDNEY:

Saturday 22 February – Sunday 23 February 2020

CALLBACKS: Sunday 23 February

The Opera Centre, Sydney. 480 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW, 2010

MELBOURNE:

Saturday 29 February 2020 – Sunday 1 March 2020

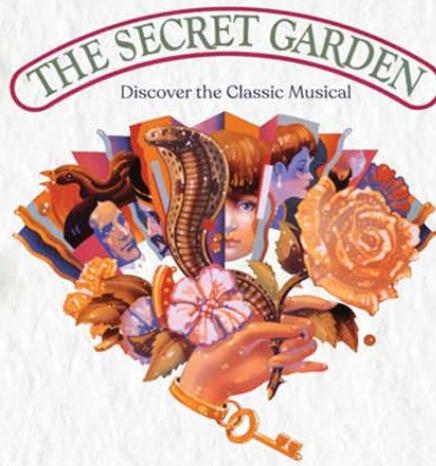
CALLBACKS: Sunday 1 March

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. If you have previously auditioned for *The Secret Garden* in December 2019, you are not eligible to re-audition. We are only auditioning children who have not yet auditioned.
3. Children must be shorter than 145cm. Any child taller than 145cm is ineligible to audition.
4. Auditionees should be available for the entire audition period. Any restrictions must be noted in the submission.
5. Auditions will take place in Sydney and Melbourne only.
6. Auditions are at the risk and the sole financial responsibility of the auditionee.
7. Auditionees may be photographed and recorded as part of their participation in the audition process for casting purposes.
8. 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, programming 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 10 February, 2020

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.

Melbourne based children must live within 60 minutes travel time from Her Majesty's Theatre.

Children must be fully available for the full rehearsal and performance period.

The Children may be required to tour with this Production, subject to final casting.

All terms of the engagement will be in accordance with the following Codes: NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection), (Child Employment) Regulation 2015, The Code of Practice, the Performers Collective Agreement (2017), The Child Employment Act 2003 (Vic) (the Act), Mandatory Code of Practice for the Employment of Children in Entertainment (2014) (the Code) and the OHS Act – Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic).

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

Maximum Height: 145cm

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

Maximum Height: 145cm