

Tony award-winning musical “The Secret Garden” is coming back to the West End!

Director
Rupert Hands

Musical Director
Richard Baker

Choreographer
Jamie Neale

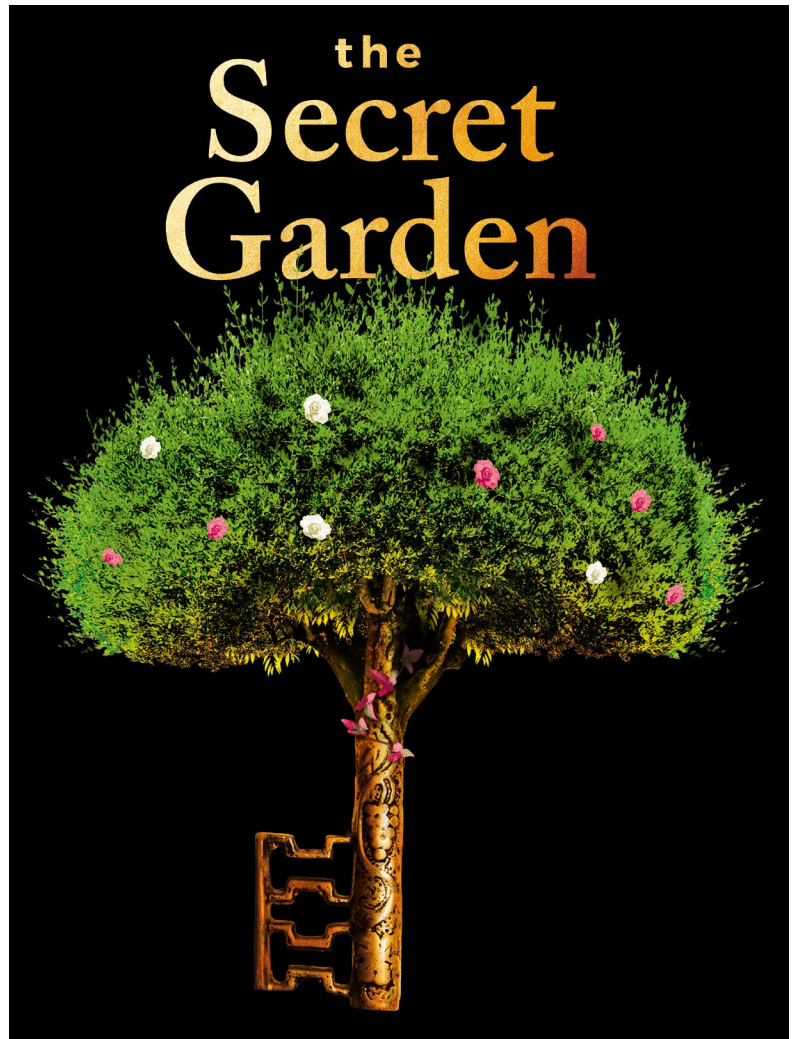
Costume and Set Design
Lizzy Leech

Lighting Designer
TBA TBA

Resident Director
Julie Thomas

Resident Choreographer
Katy Stephens

Producers
Matthew Chandler and Stephan Garcia
for P2P Productions



The Tony award-winning musical **The Secret Garden**, based on the 1911 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett with script and lyrics by Pulitzer prize and Tony award-winner Marsha Norman and music by Grammy award-winner Lucy Simon, is coming back to the West End for a summer season.

The Secret Garden, directed by Rupert Hands, will run 6 weeks at the Ambassadors Theatre from Wednesday 27 July to Wednesday 31 August.

Press Night is Wednesday 3 August at 8.00pm

This specially “Spring” version of the show has been adapted to 75 minutes by its creators to be performed by young people. **The Secret Garden** is from the same production team as *Annie Jr*, which smashed box office records last summer at the Arts Theatre, at the same time giving 350 youngsters the chance to act for the first time in the West End.

More than 2,000 children have auditioned for **The Secret Garden** and 300 youngsters will be cast in the show.

Producer Matthew Chandler of P2P Productions said: “This is the European premiere of a new version of **The Secret Garden**, specially adapted to be performed with just 4 adult actors and 20 children. We have 21 teams child actors who will perform in rotation throughout the season. It is a fantastic opportunity for all the youngsters involved.”

Orphaned while living in India, 10 year-old Mary Lennox returns to Yorkshire, England to live with her embittered, reclusive uncle Archibald, whom she has never met. There, the ill-tempered and lonely Mary meets Martha, a chambermaid, who tells her of a secret garden which belonged to her aunt Lily before she died. Mary’s search for the garden introduces her to a slew of other characters including Dickon (Martha’s brother), Ben (the head gardener), Neville (her other uncle), and a spirited robin that seems to be trying to talk to her. This compelling tale of forgiveness and hope reveals that even the cruelest of environments can blossom with new life.

The Secret Garden is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Director Rupert Hands said: “I’m very much looking forward to working on this beautiful musical with such an exciting company of young actors. Giving young people the opportunity to work on great shows in great spaces is vital for the future of theatre.”

RUPERT HANDS (Director)

As Director: *Seeming Trust* - rehearsed reading (Trafalgar Studios & St James Theatre), *The White Slaves of Barbary* (St James Studio), *An Unkindness of Ravens* - scratch performance (Five Fountayne). As Associate Director: *Hobson's Choice* (Vaudeville Theatre West End & UK Tour), *Monsieur Populaire* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Beautiful Thing* (UK Tour). As Assistant Director: *Assassins* (Menier Chocolate Factory), *The Ruling Class* (Trafalgar Theatre), *Grey Gardens* (Southwark Playhouse), *The Rehearsal* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Around The World In 80 Days* (St James Theatre), *Orson's Shadow* (Southwark Playhouse), *Hamlet, The Herbal Bed, Ghosts, Somewhere In England* (Clwyd Theatre Cymru). Rupert read English Literature at Warwick where he directed *Sweeney Todd, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Oleanna, The History Boys* and *Memory*.

JAMIE NEALE (Choreographer)

Jamie choreographed *It Is This?!* at Sadlers Wells, choreographed for recording artist "R" on their track - *Change*, created two pieces for Design for Dance at the Central St Martin Art & Design, a collaboration with designers Saul Sebastien Aiden, Isakoolkid and Paloma-Jacob Duvernett, choreographed for singer/artist Madara Vilson at the Hippodrome Matcham Theatre, assisted Rachel-Birch Lawson in *Dark Tower* with director/writer Conor Mitchell for Youth Music Theatre and assisted Sarah Dowling at the U.Dance festival in Nottingham & Plymouth, He is associate choreographer on *Snow Queen* tour. Jamie has recently been given the opportunity to make his stamp on the world of TV, having secured a choreographer position on *So you think you can Dance* in Portugal and has worked with Mika and Will Young on their latest music tracks.

RICHARD BAKER (Musical Director)

Richard has been working as a Musical Director since 2005 and is also a composer, improviser and repetiteur. He is one of the MDs of Mischief Theatre, composing for the Olivier Award-nominated *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* at the Apollo Theatre and playing for *Lights! Camera! Improve!* at the Duchess Theatre. Richard recently worked on *Our House* and Stephen Sondheim's *Road Show* (Union Theatre) and *Princess Ida* (Finborough). He also worked with Act Now! last year, as MD of *Loserville* at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre. Other MD credits include *NewsRevue* at Canal Cafe Theatre, *Finian's Rainbow* at Charing Cross Theatre, *City of Angels* at Hammersmith Lyric, *Much Ado About Nothing* at Riverside Studios, the 7th and 8th annual *50-Hour London Improvathon* at the LOST Theatre, *Comedians* at Chelsea Theatre, *Iolanthe* at Buxton Opera House, and *The Wandering Scholar* at the King's Head Theatre.

LISTINGS INFO

THE SECRET GARDEN

Ambassadors Theatre
West Street
LONDON
WC2H 9ND

Box Office: 020 7395 5405

www.theambassadorstheatre.co.uk

**Wednesday 27 July to
Wednesday 31 August**

Press Night Wednesday 3 August at 8.00pm

Tickets: £10.00 - £25.00

£65.00 for a family of 4 £18.50 tickets
Additional childrens tickets at £16.25

Performance Schedule

11.00am

Fri 28 July, Sat 30 July, Fri 5 Aug, Sat 6 Aug, Fri 12 Aug, Sat 13 Aug, Fri 19 Aug, Sat 20 Aug, Fri 26 Aug, Sat 27 Aug, Mon 29 Aug

2.00pm

Wed 27 July, Tue 2 Aug, Wed 3 Aug, Tue 9 Aug, Wed 10 Aug, Tue 16 Aug, Tue 23 Aug, Mon 29 Aug, Tue 30 Aug, Wed 31 Aug

3.30pm

Fri 29 Aug, Fri 5 Aug, Fri 12 Aug, Fri 19 Aug, Fri 26 Aug

5.00pm

Wed 27 July, Tue 2 Aug, Wed 3 Aug, Tue 9 Aug, Wed 10 Aug, Tue 16 Aug, Tue 23 Aug, Tue 30 Aug, Wed 31 Aug

8.00pm

Wed 27 July, Tue 2 Aug, **Wed 3 Aug (Press Night)**,
Tue 9 Aug, Wed 10 Aug, Tue 16 Aug, Tue 23 Aug, Tue 30 Aug, Wed 31 Aug

Press Contact:

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