



THE SECRET GARDEN

by
ELIZABETH NEWMAN

Adapted from the novel by
FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT



Programme

26th - 28th June & 1st - 5th July 2026

Maskers Studio Theatre

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us as we open the gate and invite you into The Secret Garden.

It has been a privilege to bring this much-loved story to life with our talented cast and creative team from across Light UP and Maskers. At its heart, *The Secret Garden* is a story about friendship, resilience, hope and the transformative power of kindness; themes that feel just as relevant today as when Frances Hodgson Burnett first wrote the novel over a century ago.

For our young performers and the Maskers, this production has presented exciting new challenges. From mastering complex scenes and puppetry to exploring the emotional journeys of these beloved characters, they have approached every rehearsal with enthusiasm, determination and creativity. It has been wonderful to see how they've inspired one another and throughout that, confidence has grown, friendships have strengthened and a genuine sense of community has blossomed across the ensemble. I am immensely proud of every member of this ensemble cast and grateful for the energy, passion and heart they have brought to bring this collaboration to life.

Productions such as this are only possible because of the dedication of so many people. My sincere thanks go to our cast, creative team, volunteers, chaperones, families and supporters for the countless hours of work, encouragement and commitment they have given along the way. Every person involved has played a part in helping this garden grow.

We hope you enjoy stepping into our Secret Garden and sharing in the wonder, laughter and heartfelt moments that make this story so special. May it remind us all that, with care, patience and a little courage, beautiful things can grow in even the most unexpected places.

Thank you for visiting us in the garden!

Courtney discovered her passion for acting and directing at a young age, spending family holidays forcing her siblings and cousins to learn Disney musical numbers. Now, many years later, she gets to do it for a living and with willing participants! After graduating from University of Wisconsin with a BFA in Theatre Management and Promotions, Courtney was made the MD of SouthWisco KidStage for 3 years before moving to England in 2014 and becoming a freelance drama facilitator with a variety of different youth theatre programmes. That work led her to Light UP where she's been for the last 11 years and is now serving as the charity's Executive Director.

Among her many producing and directing credits, is the 2023 co-production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* which was our first time joining forces with Maskers and we can't wait to do it again as we head into *The Secret Garden*.



Courtney Fayle, Director
Executive Director of
Light UP/Unexpected Places

"If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden."



MASKERS & LIGHT UP YOUTH THEATRE PRESENT



THE SECRET GARDEN

By Elizabeth Newman

Adapted from the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Directed by Courtney Fayle

Production Manager Christine Baker

Stage Manager Robert Osborne

Deputy Stage Managers Tom & Jo Fox

Set Design Clive Weeks & Courtney Fayle

Lighting Design Clive Weeks

Sound Engineer Jamie McCarthy

Technical Assistant Ash Martin

Original Music composed by Juliette Ribí & Jed Brown

Dialect Coach Allegra Carlton

Set Construction Clive Weeks, Martyn Welch,

Martin Caveney, Brian Stansbridge, Kevin Butler & William Baggs

Set Painting Rob Iliffe, Lisa Iliffe, Molly Iliffe,

Nicky Anderson, Clive Weeks, Kevin Butler & William Baggs

Set Dressings James Lawson, Sue Dashper, Jo and Tom Fox,

Angela Stansbridge & Courtney Fayle

Puppet Design & Construction Courtney Fayle

Costumes Christine Baker, Allegra Carlton & Courtney Fayle

Properties Courtney Fayle & Teo Rusu

Projections designed by Clive Weeks

Poster Design by Courtney Fayle & Clive Weeks

Show Photography Courtney Fayle & Clive Weeks

Technicians and Operators Natalie Mason & Channah Sutton

Backstage Crew Betty Hamer & Julia Maddock

This amateur production of 'The Secret Garden' is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books. We kindly ask that no photos or videos are taken throughout the performance.

There will be one interval of 20 minutes.

CAST

Robin.....Sophia Burke/Harriet Clarke
Mary Lennox.....Maia Lowrey/Sophie Rodgers
Colin Craven.....William Buckley/Angeline Leaver
Martha.....Poppy Harbut/Tess Ward
DickonDani Leaver/ Marlowe Tart
Annie/RabbitBethany Nice/Evie Fayle
Basil/Lamb.....Rebekah Sutton/Willow Butler

Adesh/Deer.....Maddy Cope
Mrs. Lennox/Ensemble.....Jenni Prior
Officer/Ensemble.....Jed Brown
Captain/Ensemble.....Kevin Butler
Lieutenant/Ben.....Duncan Randall
Mrs. MedlockAllegra Carlton
Archibald CravenNeil Maddock
Lilias Craven/Crow.....Angela Raistrick

MUSICIANS

Flute.....Juliette Ribl
Guitar.....Jed Brown

MARIGOLD YOUTH CAST BIOS



Sophia Burke - Robin

Sophia is beyond excited to work with this supportive cast. Robin is her first role working with puppetry and she is looking forward to bringing the Robin to life. Sophia is grateful for this opportunity of working with Maskers Theatre for the third time. Previously she has performed in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Jane Eyre*.



Maia Lowrey - Mary Lennox

Maia has been going to Light UP for 6 years and this is her 2nd production with Maskers. Previous credits include, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Hairspray*, *Annie*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Great British Bump Off*, *A Grimm Gathering*, *Peter Pan* and more. She can't wait to perform in *The Secret Garden* and would like to thank everyone who has helped with the show.



William Buckley - Colin Craven

William has loved being a part of the Light Up community for over 4 years, performing on stage and making friends off stage. He has enjoyed playing various roles in productions including *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Five Children and It*, *The Signalman* and *The Fourth Wall*. He is excited to once again be performing with Maskers Theatre Company as Colin in *The Secret Garden*.



Poppy Harbut - Martha

Poppy looks forward to playing Martha alongside this wonderful and hardworking cast. She has been acting for nearly 10 years and previously played many fun roles at Light UP, including Wendy in *Peter Pan*, The Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland* and Susan in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Poppy is beyond excited to perform and hopes that you enjoy the full immersion into the magic of *The Secret Garden*.



MARIGOLD YOUTH CAST BIOS



Dani Leaver - Dickon

This is Dani's 4th big show with Light UP having joined in 2024, most recently playing the Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland*. She has also worked with Nomads serving as Tom the Cat in *Dick Whittington*. It has been a joy to be in the cast of *The Secret Garden*, who have gone from feeling like a group of people to one big family! On that note I hope you enjoy, or as Dickon would say, "Enjoy t' show."



Bethany Nice - Annie/Rabbit

Bethany has been a member of Light UP for 2 and a half years, thoroughly enjoying the chance to take part in *Five Children and IT*, and *Alice in Wonderland* as combined company productions. Bethany has enjoyed rehearsing a production as part of an amazing cast with adults and children working alongside each other. She has enjoyed learning about puppetry and can't wait to perform in *The Secret Garden*.



Rebekah Sutton - Basil/Lamb

Rebekah has performed with Light UP for ten years. Previous roles include: Narrator's sister in *The Signalman*, Narrator 1/Soldier 2 in *Fourth Wall*, and Doodads in *Five Children and It*. Rebekah is excited to join the Maskers for this production and to try her hand at puppetry.



LILAC YOUTH CAST BIOS



Harriet Clarke - Robin

Harriet is grateful for the wonderful opportunity to play the role of Robin in such a lovable show with an even more lovable cast. She had previously been in Light UP and Maskers collaborations, such as playing young Jane in *Jane Eyre* and Mrs Beaver in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. She hopes the audience have as much fun watching as everyone does performing!



Sophie Rodgers - Mary Lennox

Sophie is looking forward to her first Maskers' performance. She loves the story of *The Secret Garden* and is excited to be playing Mary. She has done performances at school and has been in 3 shows at the Romsey Plaza - *Snow White*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*. She has just achieved her Grade 5 LAMDA Acting award. Sophie is a keen baker, a self-confessed bookworm, and loves playing football.



Angeline Leaver - Colin Craven

Angeline joined Light UP in 2024 and since has made some great friends. Over time her confidence has grown. In addition to LUP, Angeline has also taken part in 2 pantomimes with Nomads in Romsey but one of her funnest roles, was playing Tweedle-Dum. She is excited to play Colin in *The Secret Garden*. Her biggest challenge, has been the crying but she's pushed through and has loved being part of this spectacular cast.



Tess Ward - Martha

Previous roles include Angel in *Ride or Die*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Miranda in *The Tempest*, Dora in *Five Children and It*, Zeke in *The Wizard of Oz*, Lucy in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Calico Jackie in *Treasure Island*, Duffy in *Annie*, and other productions.



LILAC YOUTH CAST BIOS



Marlowe Tart – Dickon

This is Marlowe's first time working with adult actors since *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and he's really looking forward to it! Marlowe has been doing youth theatre with Light UP for the last 6 years and some of his recent roles include: the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Ace Allstar in *Ride or Die*. He is very fond of fish and chips.



Evie Fayle - Annie/Rabbit

This is Evie's third production with Maskers, having also appeared in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Jane Eyre*. Since starting Light UP at 4 years old, Evie has built a large list of credits including *Suessified Christmas Carol*, *Annie Kids*, *Bump Off*, *High School Musical Jr*, *Peter Pan*, *Matilda Jr*, *Five Children and It*, *A Grimm Gathering*, *Frozen Jr*, *Alice in Wonderland* and, most recently, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Willow Butler - Basil/Lamb

Willow Fay has been a performer with Light UP for nearly 10 years appearing in many shows, most recently in the role of Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is especially excited to be acting in her 2nd Light UP/Maskers co-production along with her father! Willow is loving the opportunity to develop puppetry skills and be part of a troupe of community players bringing this wonderful story to the Maskers' stage.



MASKERS CAST BIOS



Maddy Cope - Adesh/Deer

Maddy joined Maskers in 2023 and has been active on and offstage, both on the technical side and on social media. She helped with tech for *The Producers*, at the Theatre Royal, Winchester before appearing for Maskers as the violently insane Bertha, in our summer open-air production of *Jane Eyre*. More recently she played Edith in *Blithe Spirit* and she's provided a great deal of support working behind the scenes.



Jenni Prior - Mrs. Lennox/Ensemble

Jenni joined Maskers in November 2023 to appear in *Almost, Maine*, and has a long history of acting, directing and backstage roles before Maskers. She directed the sell-out production of Bill Bryson's *Notes for a Small Island* last year (which she also ended up appearing in due to cast illness!) and the sell-out production of *Educating Rita* this year. She was also the joint director of *Murder in the Studio* and assistant director for *Winter Sparkles*. In case she doesn't have enough to do, Jenni also has the demanding role of Marketing Director for the company.



Jed Brown - Officer/Ensemble/Musician

Jed has returned to the stage for the first time since A level theatre studies to rediscover the joy of performance. Jed played the co-lead role as Eddy in *Blood Brothers*. More recently he has been pursuing music as his creative outlet.



Kevin Butler - Captain/Ensemble

This is Kevin's first production with Maskers and Light UP Drama. He is very excited about this opportunity as he is a fan of both groups. Kevin has been involved with amateur dramatics for many years having been a member of many different groups in and around Southampton. He enjoys writing, directing but above all performing. In this production, he has had both the opportunity to help back stage and perform with his daughter, which has pleased him enormously.



Duncan Randall - Lieutenant/Ben Weatherstaff

Duncan is involved in various community theatre groups in Southampton. Duncan joined the Maskers 2022, playing Athos in *The Three Musketeers*. Since then, he has appeared in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Gormenghast*, *Time and Tide*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Murder in the Studio*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Blue Remembered Hills*, *Absurd Person Singular* and most recently, *Desire Under the Elms*. Duncan has enjoyed bringing the outside into the studio alongside tending to his own garden, no secret about that!



MASKERS CAST BIOS



Allegra Carlton - Mrs. Medlock

Allegra is a displaced Yorkshirewoman who has been living in Southampton for many decades, for all of which she has been involved in theatre as actor, musician, wardrobe mistress, and now dialect coach! She has been involved in a range of Maskers' productions, her most recent role was as Vera ***Sharks in the Custard***, rehearsing remotely from Yorkshire during lockdown! She is delighted to be playing the role of Mrs Medlock, the housekeeper, in what was one of her favourite childhood books



Neil Maddock - Archibald Craven

Neil has toured the UK and worked in NZ for different theatre companies and is now enjoying being part of the local theatre scene! Neil's previous roles with Maskers include Aslan ***The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe***, Hugh Evans ***Merry Wives of Windsor***, and Henry Tilney ***Northanger Abbey***. Elsewhere, he has played Jesus (***Southampton and Havant Passion plays***), the Ghost of Christmas Present ***A Christmas Carol***, Nathan Detroit ***Guys & Dolls***, and, most recently, Henry Higgins ***My Fair Lady***.



Angela Raistrick - Crow/Mrs. Craven

This is Angela's third production with Maskers, having previously appeared in ***Merry Maskerade*** and ***The Scottish Play***. Angela studied Performing Arts at college and has been performing from a young age, first appearing dancing as a sugarplum in ***The Nutcracker*** aged just three and being involved in junior performances at the Nuffield Theatre. Later this year she is breaking out into directing with ***2:22 A Ghost Story***.



Juliette Ribi - Musician

Juliette studied Music at Anglia Polytechnic University where she was also on stage for music-based productions. She has worked in the teaching and music teaching profession for over 25 years, played for amateur dramatics and is a Music Worship Leader. Having first created, adapted and performed live music for Maskers' productions of ***Northanger Abbey*** and ***Merry Maskerade*** in 2025, Juliette has really enjoyed composing for ***The Secret Garden*** and is looking forward to seeing both play and music mould together.

For the Maskers

Technical Manager:- Jamie McCarthy;

Lighting Consultant:- Clive Weeks; **Sound Consultant:-** Jamie McCarthy;

Marketing Team:- Jenni Prior, Angela Stansbridge, Tash Priddle, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Paul Baker;

Front of House Manager:- James Lawson; **Box Office Manager:-** Chris Baker; **Photographers:-** Clive Weeks, Donald Coe, Ian Wilson;

Bar Manager:- Meri Mackney; **Chaperones:-** Meri Mackney, Angela Stansbridge, Lisa Holmes and Helen Ralph

OPEN HOUSE

Shirley's own studio theatre opens
its doors to everyone!



Meet our members for technical demos, costume displays,
props making, behind the scenes chats & more.

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE

off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

FREE ENTRY - All welcome!

**First Saturday
of each month**


10am to 1pm

Just Drop-In

maskers.org.uk

FREE Refreshments

Registered charity 90067

 "Life being what it is, one dreams of revenge."



The Breath of Life by David Hare

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE
off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

Mon 21 - Sat 26 September

at 7:30pm (Doors open at 7pm)

Full details and on-line booking at:
maskers.org.uk

Tickets £16.50
Registered charity 90067

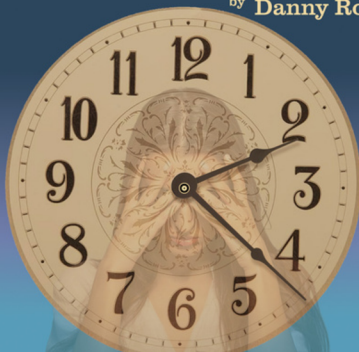
Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366

Contains strong language - recommended for age 12 and up
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals



MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY
presents

2:22 - A GHOST STORY by Danny Robins



A ghost story for our times!

MASKERS STUDIO THEATRE
off Emsworth Road, Shirley, SO15 3LX

Mon 26 - Sat 31 October

at 7:30pm (Doors open at 7pm)

Full details and on-line booking at:
maskers.org.uk

Tickets £16.50
Registered charity 90067

Telephone booking:
0333 666 3366

Contains strong language recommended for ages 14 up
An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Horn Books

Light Up presents
SYP 2026

Disney Beauty AND THE BEAST JR.



Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

Book by
Linda Woolverton



Be Our Guest . . .


1 August 2026

**BOOKING: maskers.org.uk or
0333 666 3366**

LIGHT UP EVENTS - WWW.TICKETSOURCE.COM/LIGHT-UP
WEBSITE - WWW.LIGHTUPDRAMA.ORG.UK

AUTOGRAPHS



 @MaskersTheatreCompany

 Find us on
Facebook

Registered charity 900067