

January 2020

Dear Student/Parent,

Highlands High School's spring musical, *The Secret Garden* will take place March 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This enchanting classic of children's literature is reimagined in brilliant musical style by composer Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *'Night Mother*. Orphaned in India, 11-year-old Mary Lennox returns to Yorkshire to live with her embittered, reclusive uncle Archibald and his invalid son Colin. The estate's many wonders include a magic garden which beckons the children with haunting melodies and the "Dreamers", spirits from Mary's past who guide her through her new life, dramatizing *The Secret Garden's* compelling tale of forgiveness and renewal.

*The Secret Garden* requires a younger actor for the role of Colin. Colin is Archibald's invalid son who is bed-ridden and has no company other than his dour uncle and servants. Capable of being very rude and petulant, but essentially sweet-natured. This is a featured role with singing. We are looking for a boy that is in 4<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup> grade to fill this role. You do not have to be a Fort Thomas Independent School student in order to audition.

**Auditions for this role will be held Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Performing Arts Center**

In order to audition, you must email Jason Burgess at [Jason.burgess@fortthomas.kyschools.us](mailto:Jason.burgess@fortthomas.kyschools.us)

The rehearsal schedule is already finalized and attached to this packet for perusal.

**The Secret Garden Parent Meeting will take place Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Performing Arts Center. At this meeting, Mr. Burgess will go over all vital information with parents and answer any questions.**

We understand that participating in this musical requires a commitment. Please consider all extra-curricular activities when thinking about joining the musical. Make sure that this is an activity you can commit to before auditioning. Students will have two (2) unexcused absences and any more after that and students will not be allowed to continue in this program. Also note that mandatory rehearsals will occur the week before the show opens and the production week of the show. Also, if a student's conflicts become too much that they are missing too many rehearsals and causing musical numbers and scenes to be troublesome, disorganized and substandard, the production team reserves the right to pull that student from such musical numbers and scenes.

Requirements of the audition are:

- Reading from the script and singing selected pieces of music from the script. You do not need to prepare anything in advance of the audition.

**Please fill out the online application and bring a recent photo of you to the audition.**

**The audition form can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/HHSAud>**

# ***Plot Synopsis for The Secret Garden***

The year is 1911. Young Mary Lennox awakes one morning in India, to discover that her parents, and in fact, everyone she knows in the English compound in Bombay, have died of cholera. Having nowhere else to go, she is sent to live with her brooding Uncle Archibald, in his 100-room mansion in Yorkshire.

On her first evening at Misselthwaite, Mary hears an eerie wailing but sees only the shadows cast by her uncle as he wanders the halls hearing what he thinks is the ghost of his dead wife.

The next morning Mary meets the irrepressible maid, Martha, who hints there might be something interesting to do outside.

Once she begins to spend her days outside, however, Mary's sourness gradually diminishes. She learns from the cantankerous head gardener, Ben Weatherstaff of a mysterious walled garden which has been kept locked since Lily's death. She meets Martha's brother Dickon, a young forest wizard who calls forth the spring in a rock anthem. Then, accompanied by the pan pipe and dulcimer, Dickon teaches Mary to speak to the ever-chirping Robin in Yorkshire, and the bird, in turn, shows Mary where to find the key to the garden.

But unable to find the door to Lily's garden, Mary decides she will plant the seeds Dickon gave her and goes to her uncle to ask if she might have "a bit of earth". That simple request triggers powerful memories for Archibald, and as a storm rages outside, Archibald sinks further into the past. Archibald and his brother, Dr. Neville Craven, sing of how Mary reminds them of Lily, and Neville reveals that he was also in love with his brother's beautiful wife.

Later, still disturbed by the persistent wailing at night, Mary enters the forbidden west wing, where she discovers her cousin Colin, a sickly but imperious boy who is confined to his bed and only visited by his father when he is asleep. Their budding friendship is interrupted by Dr. Craven and Mrs. Medlock, and Mary is banished from Colin's room. At the height of the storm, Mary rushes out of the house, suddenly reliving the cholera epidemic, and feeling more lost than ever. As Act I ends, the watchful spirits lead her through this nightmare, bringing her finally to the ivy-cloaked door of The Secret Garden. Mary dreams of the perfection the garden promises. Everyone she has known and loved is alive and well, and all are gathered in the garden to celebrate her birthday. But the perfection is not to be. Inside the house, Dr. Craven discovers Archibald packing to leave for Paris, and accuses him of shirking his responsibilities. He insists that Mary is disturbing Colin and must be sent away to school. The brothers quarrel, triggering the appearance of Lily and Mary's mother, Rose.

On the next clear morning, Mary tells Dickon that she has found the garden, but it is dead. It is the most "forgotten place" she has ever seen. Dickon sings the melodic "Wick", the Yorkshire word for "alive" and encourages her to take a closer look. Together, they resolve, they will bring the garden back to life.

**Monday, January 27, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                | LOCATION                                |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| 6:00PM - 9:00PM | Music - Full Company | Highlands High School Choral Music Room |

**Monday, February 3, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                                       | LOCATION                                |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | Choreo - Storm I, Storm II and Final Storm  | Highlands High School PAC               |
| 6:00PM - 9:00PM | Music - Ensemble Solos and Named Characters | Highlands High School Choral Music Room |

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                                      | LOCATION                         |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 6:00PM - 7:00PM | Dialect Work - RP (Received Pronunciation) | Highlands High School Drama Room |

**Friday, February 14, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                         | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 5:30PM | Choreo - Round Shouldered Man | Highlands High School PAC |

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                     | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 4:00PM | Headshots for the Program | Highlands High School PAC |

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                     | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 5:30PM | Blocking - Act I, Scene 7 | Highlands High School PAC |

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE     | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 6:00PM - 9:00PM | Run Act I | Highlands High School PAC |

**Friday, February 28, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                            | LOCATION                                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | Choreo - Come Spirit, Come Charm | Highlands High School Black Box Theatre |

**Monday, March 2, 2020**

| TIME | TITLE | LOCATION |
|------|-------|----------|
|------|-------|----------|

|                 |  |                              |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | <b>Choreo - The Girl I Mean<br/>To Be &amp; Wick</b> | Highlands High<br>School PAC |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|

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## Wednesday, March 4, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE   | LOCATION                     |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 5:30PM | <b>Blocking - Act II, Scene<br/>3 &amp; 4</b> | Highlands High<br>School PAC |

## Thursday, March 5, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE  | LOCATION                                      |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | <b>Music - Ensemble Solos<br/>and Named Characters</b> | Highlands High<br>School Choral<br>Music Room |

## Friday, March 6, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE  | LOCATION                     |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | <b>Choreo - How Could I<br/>Ever Know &amp; Finale</b> | Highlands High<br>School PAC |

## Tuesday, March 10, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE  | LOCATION                                      |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | <b>Music - Full Company</b>                    | Highlands High<br>School Choral<br>Music Room |
| 4:00PM - 6:00PM | <b>Blocking - Act II, Scenes<br/>5 &amp; 6</b> | Highlands High<br>School PAC                  |

## Thursday, March 12, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE                       | LOCATION                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | <b>Music - Full Company</b> | Highlands High<br>School Choral<br>Music Room |

## Friday, March 13, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE   | LOCATION                     |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | <b>Blocking - Act II, Scenes<br/>9 &amp; 10</b> | Highlands High<br>School PAC |

## Sunday, March 15, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE             | LOCATION                     |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 6:00PM - 9:00PM | <b>Run Act II</b> | Highlands High<br>School PAC |

## Monday, March 16, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE                       | LOCATION                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 6:00PM - 9:00PM | <b>Music - Full Company</b> | Highlands High<br>School Choral<br>Music Room |

**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 4:00PM - 7:00PM | Run Act I (Off Book) | Highlands High School PAC |

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                 | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | Run Act II (Off Book) | Highlands High School PAC |

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                     | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6:00PM - 9:00PM | Run Show (All Crew Watch) | Highlands High School PAC |

**Friday, March 20, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE    | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM | Run Show | Highlands High School PAC |

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

| TIME             | TITLE                     | LOCATION                  |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12:30PM - 9:00PM | First Technical Rehearsal | Highlands High School PAC |

**Monday, March 23, 2020**

| TIME            | TITLE                      | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 9:00PM | Second Technical Rehearsal | Highlands High School PAC |

**Tuesday, March 24, 2020**

| TIME             | TITLE                     | LOCATION                  |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5:00PM - 10:00PM | Third Technical Rehearsal | Highlands High School PAC |

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

| TIME             | TITLE                 | LOCATION                  |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 5:00PM - 10:30PM | Final Dress Rehearsal | Highlands High School PAC |

**Thursday, March 26, 2020**

| TIME             | TITLE         | LOCATION                  |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 5:30PM - 10:30PM | Opening Night | Highlands High School PAC |

**Friday, March 27, 2020**

| TIME             | TITLE                    | LOCATION                  |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5:30PM - 10:30PM | Friday Night Performance | Highlands High School PAC |

## Saturday, March 28, 2020

| TIME             | TITLE                             | LOCATION                  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5:30PM - 10:30PM | <b>Saturday Night Performance</b> | Highlands High School PAC |

## Sunday, March 29, 2020

| TIME             | TITLE   | LOCATION                  |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 12:30PM - 5:00PM | <b>Sunday Matinee Performance (Closing Performance)</b> | Highlands High School PAC |

## Monday, March 30, 2020

| TIME            | TITLE         | LOCATION                  |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 3:00PM - 4:30PM | <b>Strike</b> | Highlands High School PAC |