

# AUDITION NOTICE



## READ THROUGH AUDITIONS

Tuesday 10 September 2024, 8pm in the Studio  
Tuesday 24 September 2024, 7.30pm in the Theatre  
Sunday 29 September 2024, 2pm in the Theatre

## FIRST REHEARSAL PERFORMANCES

Wednesday 13 November 2024  
16 - 25 January 2025 at 7.45pm  
**Two matinées:** Saturday 18 January and Saturday 25 January at 2.30pm  
There will be no Monday performance

## DIRECTOR PA

**Lucinda Banton** [Isabanton16@gmail.com](mailto:Isabanton16@gmail.com)  
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Scripts available from Jay

When orphaned Mary Lennox comes to live at her uncle's house on the Yorkshire Moors, she finds it full of secrets. Left to make her own entertainment, Mary stumbles upon a garden, overgrown and locked up for years. Finding her way inside, with the help of a friendly robin, Mary begins to feel a connection to the house and the inhabitants...

This will be very much an ensemble piece with cast members being used for scene changes etc so be ready for a busy but very rewarding play!

Please note: most characters have two audition pieces to prepare; however, we may not ask you to read both at the audition, depending on time constraints.

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS:

### Playing ages

For the children we have put the playing age as true to the story, however we would be keen to see anyone who can demonstrate the qualities we are looking for regardless of age (within reason!!).

**MARY** – Female, playing age 10.

**Please note:** this is a substantial role – Mary does not leave the stage during the play.

At the start, Mary is a spoilt, lonely child, prone to tantrums. She needs to show a bitterness towards the world that leads to her dour personality and sickly looks. She is curious about the garden and the house that she is left to explore, leading her to discover her secret garden. Thanks to her time spent in the outdoors, and her new friendships with Dickon, Colin and the animals, she starts to thaw and can see the beauty in the world again.

**Audition Pieces:**

P27-29 from ‘What is it? Hang on Robin’ to ‘when the weeds had been smothering him’  
P45-47 from ‘You stop!’ to ‘Tomorrow, we go outside’

**DICKON** – Male, playing age 16.

**Please note:** this role requires a Yorkshire accent.

Dickon is Martha’s sister. He loves to be outdoors and has a magic hold over animals and plants. He helps Mary to revive her secret garden, and to introduce Colin to the world outside of his confinement in his bedroom. He is a straightforward, patient and kind boy who does not rise to anger easily.

**Audition Pieces:**

P29-31 from ‘Move gentle’ to ‘A gardener couldn’t have told th’ better’  
P43-44 from ‘There is something I want to tell you’ to ‘Look out tha doesn’t tell on us’

**COLIN** – Male, playing age 12.

Colin is a sickly boy, who is confined to his room; he is convinced that he can feel a lump in his spine and believes that he is too ill to walk. Like Mary, he is prone to tantrums, and is lonely. He becomes jealous of Mary’s friendship with Dickon, but soon grows to trust them both enough to follow them out to the garden, realising that he is much stronger than he believes.

**Audition Pieces:**

P45-47 from ‘You stop!’ to ‘Tomorrow, we go outside’  
P37-39 from ‘Are you a ghost?’ to ‘That’s nice, thank you’

**ROBIN** – Male, age 30+.

**Please note:** this role will require puppeteering and the ability to whistle.

A country worker, Robin takes on the narrator role in this play; he starts the play as a human version of a robin before becoming the puppeteer for the puppet robin who leads Mary to the secret garden.

**Audition Pieces:**

P27-29 from ‘What is it? Hang on Robin’ to ‘when the weeds had been smothering him’. We will also ask you to demonstrate your puppeteering skills using the dialogue on p20 – at this point the Robin does not have any lines but needs to interact with Ben and Mary.

**MRS MEDLOCK** – Female, age 40+.

Mrs Medlock is the housekeeper at Misselthwaite Manor. She is a harsh woman, who does not think much of where she works. She shows a change at the end of the play to demonstrate her delight at seeing the healing powers of the garden.

**Audition Pieces:**

P15-17 from 'come along' to 'Martha, take the girl'  
P38-39 from 'What on earth' to 'Did you hear me? Go'

**MARTHA** – Female, 20s.

**Please note:** this role requires a Yorkshire accent.

Martha is Mary's maid at Misselthwaite Manor. She is a friendly, simple living girl, who tries to teach Mary how to be more childlike and likeable. Although she is straight-talking with Mary, she is always kind and this quality needs to be very evident.

**Audition Pieces:**

P17-19 from 'Yes ma'am' to 'There's Mrs Medlock's bell ringing'  
P24 from 'Aye the storm's over' down to demonstrating skipping! Please be ready to attempt this!

**MR CRAVEN / LIEUTENANT** – Male

**Please note:** this is a dual role - Lieutenant is a very small part at the start of the play.

Mr Craven is Mary's uncle. He is an unhappy man, who has never recovered from the loss of his beloved wife. He is softly spoken with Mary, but she needs to feel how melancholy he is. He has a revelation at the end of the play, and rediscovers the healing powers of the garden.

**Audition Piece:**

P33-35 from 'Come in' to 'Leave me now'

**BEN WEATHERSTAFF / CAPTAIN** – Male

**Please note:** this role requires a Yorkshire accent. This is a dual role - Captain is a very small part at the start of the play.

Ben is the gardener at Misselthwaite Manor. He is a gruff, no-nonsense man. He appears sharp with the children, but in fact he admires their work in the garden; we discover that he had been tending to the secret garden until his arthritis stopped him.

**Audition Pieces:**

P20-22 from 'finally I've found you' to 'I've not got time for this'