



LEWIS FAMILY
PLAYHOUSE
AT VICTORIA GARDENS
CULTURAL CENTER
RANCHO CUCAMONGA

NEWS RELEASE

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MainStreet Theatre Company Kicks Off 2017 with “The Secret Garden,” Opening January 28th at the Lewis Family Playhouse!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2016

Rancho Cucamonga, California – MainStreet Theatre Company will kick off the New Year with a stage adaptation of *The Secret Garden*, the beloved 1911 book by Frances Hodgson Burnet. The award-winning adaptation stays true to the original novel, which has been inspiring and delighting generations of children for over 100 years. The strictly limited engagement, geared for everyone aged 7 and up, opens January 28th and runs through February 12th.

The play, adapted by Pamela Sterling, follows the lonely and willful orphan Mary Lennox, as she is taken from her home in Colonial India to live with her reclusive uncle in the Yorkshire Moors. There, with the help of her maid Martha, Martha’s brother Dickon and a robin, she discovers a garden that changes her life, and that of those around her.

The first-rate cast of Los Angeles based Equity actors includes **Shannon Lee Clair** as Mary, as well as **Taylor Jackson Ross** (Martha), **Andrew Joseph Perez** (Dickon), **Marc Cardiff** (Ben Weatherstaff), **Doug Harvey** (Colin) and **Eileen T’Kaye** (Mrs. Medlock). **Richard Gallegos** will portray both Archibald Craven and his cousin, Dr. Craven, and **Max Lawrence** will portray the Robin (a puppet).

MainStreet is delighted to welcome back award-winning director **Jessica Kubzansky**, who previously directed *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, and *Stiles & Drewe’s The Three Little Pigs* for the company. Ms. Kubzansky directs across the country as well as in the Los Angeles area, and is Co-Artist Director of Theatre @ Boston Court in Pasadena.

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The production will stay true to the novel with attention paid to the dialect as well as the period in which it's set. The Design, with scenery by **Susan Gratch** and lighting by **Jaymi Lee Smith**, will take the audience from the heat of Colonial India to inside the gloomy manor house, to the starkness and beauty of the Yorkshire Moors, and finally, to Mary's garden, which will blossom with the help of some theatre magic. Victorian era costumes are by **Tina Haatainen Jones**. **Michelle Zamora**, who won an Ovation Honors award for her puppets for MainStreet's *The Magic Finger*, will be creating the Robin, and **John Nobori** will provide atmosphere with his original score and sound design.

The Secret Garden runs Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (no 1:00 p.m. performance January 28th) and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. The Playhouse also runs special weekday matinees for school children. Tickets are priced at \$18.00 for General admission, and \$16.00 for Seniors and Youth up to age 12. Specially priced \$10.00 tickets are available for Foundation Family Saturday performance on January 28th. Foundation Family Flex pack tickets are just \$12.00 if purchased in quantities of four or more for the same performance and are available for all MainStreet Theatre Company productions.

During the run of *The Secret Garden*, families will have the opportunity to get their own hands dirty, with some pre-show gardening activities provided by **Plant Traders Inland Empire CA Garden and Harvest Trading Community**. There will also be the traditional lobby displays, and children can meet the cast in the lobby for autographs after the show. There will also be a short "talk-back" after the performance on Sunday, February 5th.

An intimate, 536-seat venue, the Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square-foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with free parking available.

For press tickets please contact Annette Mumolo at 909-477-2775 ext. 3757 or via email at Annette.Mumolo@CityofRC.us. For more information about the show, contact Murry Hepner at 909-477-2775 ext. 3734 or via email at Mireya.Hepner@CityofRC.us.

For more information - For additional information or to purchase tickets for any of our performances please visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com or call (909) 477-2752 or (877) 858-8422.

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Lewis Family Playhouse at Victoria Gardens Cultural Center

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