

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ADAPTATION OF *THE SECRET GARDEN* BLOOMS AT THE SHAW FESTIVAL

- Previews of the beloved children's classic begin May 31 -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (May 30, 2024) – The world premiere of the **Paul Sportelli** and **Jay Turvey** adaptation of **Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*** starts previews tomorrow at the [Shaw Festival's](#) Royal George Theatre. **Jay Turvey** also directs this charming play-with-songs that positively brims with warmth, delight and just a hint of magic.

Mary Lennox (**Gabriella Sundar Singh**), a neglected upper-class child living in British-occupied India, returns home to England following the untimely death of her parents. Mary is sent to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven (**David Alan Anderson**) and his sickly son, Colin (**Gryphyn Karimloo****). Following the chance discovery of a mysterious, walled off garden, Mary slowly grows to understand the natural beauty of the world around her. Emboldened by her discovery, she resolves to share the magic of the 'secret garden' with her newfound friends and family.

[The Secret Garden](#) also features **David Adams**, **Sharry Flett**, **Patty Jamieson**, **Tama Martin***, **Drew Plummer** and **Jacqueline Thair**. Musical accompaniment performed by **Ryan deSouza** (conductor/keyboard), **Andy Ballantyne/Doug Miller** (alternating flute), **Erica Goodman** (harp), **Alex Grant** (cello) and **Tim Mulligan** (percussion).

The Shaw's original production of ***The Secret Garden*** features enchanting live musical accompaniment directed by **Ryan deSouza**, a nature-inspired set by **Beyata Hackborn**, magical costume design by **Judith Bowden**, atmospheric lighting design by **Kevin Lamotte** and engaging movement direction by **Linda Garneau**. The production team includes stage manager **Amy Jewell** and assistant stage manager **Kelly Boudreau**.

The Shaw Festival's popular 40-minute pre-show workshop for children and the young-at-heart returns with this season's ***Gardens and Nature***. Explore the wondrous properties of plants and flowers and what lessons can be learned from them. Workshops will be held one hour prior to all performances of ***The Secret Garden*** in the Market Room at the Court House (26 Queen Street) and concludes with a short parade down the street to the Royal George Theatre. Admission: \$5 with a ticket to the day's performance.

On stage at the [Royal George Theatre](#) (85 Queen Street) from May 31 to October 13 (available for review beginning June 20), ***The Secret Garden*** is recommended for audience members 8+/Grade 2+. Running time is approximately 2 hours, 20 minutes, including one intermission.

The Royal George Theatre's regular season is sponsored by **124 on Queen Hotel & Spa**. Children and Family Programming at **The Shaw** is sponsored by **Christopher** and **Jeanne Jennings**.

Cast:

David Adams
David Alan Anderson
Sharry Flett

Ben/Ensemble
Archibald/Dr. Craven/Ensemble
Mrs. Medlock/Ensemble

Patty Jamieson
Gryphyn Karimloo**
Tama Martin*
Drew Plummer
Gabriella Sundar Singh
Jacqueline Thair

Mrs. Sowerby/Ensemble
Colin/Ensemble
Robin/Ensemble
Dickon/Ensemble
Mary
Martha/Ensemble

Creative & Production

Jay Turvey
Paul Sportelli
Ryan deSouza
Beyata Hackborn
Judith Bowden
Kevin Lamotte
Linda Garneau
Amy Jewell
Kelly Boudreau

Director/Co-Writer/Arrangements by
Co-Writer/Orchestration/Arrangements by
Music Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Movement Director
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

* RBC Emerging Artists are sponsored by the RBC Foundation and RBC Emerging Artists.

** The Baillie Cohort is generously supported by the Baillie Family Fund for Education.

The Shaw Festival's 2024 season runs through to December 22, with a playbill featuring [Lerner and Loewe's My Fair Lady](#), [One Man, Two Guvnors](#), [Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart](#), [Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution](#), [The Secret Garden](#), [The Orphan of Chao](#), [Candida](#), [The House That Will Not Stand](#), [Snow in Midsummer](#) and [A Christmas Carol](#). The Spiegeltent's season features [The Shaw Variety Show](#), [The Roll of Shaw](#), [Kabarett](#), [Cotton Club](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Footlights](#), [Speakeasies](#), [What's In Your Songbook](#) and [Gospel Choir](#).

Direct bus service from Downtown Toronto and Burlington to Niagara-on-the-Lake is available on the [Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express](#). Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. \$34 return per person. Ticket to a 2024 performance is required. Please pre-arrange with the Box Office. Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates and times with the Shaw Festival Box Office.

For more information or to purchase tickets or a seat on the Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express, please contact the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW or visit shawfest.com.

Mask use at The Shaw: Masks are not currently required in our theatres. Though wearing a mask is optional, it is recommended; however, the choice remains at the discretion and comfort of the individual. The Shaw continues to maintain its [Duty of Care](#) measures. Patrons are also requested to refrain from attending any performance or event if presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

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The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of Bernard Shaw, the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw Festival is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, please visit shawfest.com.

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