



(Photographs credit Nicholas Ripley)

## **THE SECRET GARDEN** Written by Frances Hodgson Burnett, Adapted by David Kerby Kendall. Directed by Marie McCarthy

Renowned for wonderful adaptations and imaginative open-air performances, Warwickshire based professional theatre company, Heartbreak Productions have been touring open air shows for nearly twenty years and have an exciting, if punishing, schedule planned for 2010.

This summer (June, July, August) Heartbreak make their incomparable contribution to the open-air theatre season with a family show:

- **THE SECRET GARDEN** – Frances Hodgson Burnett’s classic tale of a young orphaned girl who finds the key to friendship and happiness by unlocking her Uncle’s secret garden. Adapted by David Kerby Kendall. Directed by Marie McCarthy. Suitable for all who believe in magic, especially aged 6yrs & above. Heartbreak encourage you to gather friends and family pack a mouthwatering picnic and head out to see Heartbreak Productions performing in a picturesque settings close you you - tour details available on [www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk](http://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk) - **Open air theatre at its best.**

### **Notes on the Adaptation:**

“I had never read *The Secret Garden* before and was utterly charmed by it - by its beauty, its brutal honesty, its intrinsic Britishness, and of a beautifully written story that is both extraordinarily sad, but ultimately triumphant and life-empowering. Frances Hodgson-Burnett’s wonderful prose was incredibly easy to adapt because her story is as pertinent today as it was in 1910, indeed as it would be at any time. It is said that children adapt better than adults; that they are less likely to judge others of a different class or belief system, because they have yet to take on the unnecessary conventions we allow to taint our lives when we reach adulthood. I think this novel proves that we are all children, that we can all adapt no matter what age we are. It’s a story of spiritual magic, and how that magic links everybody’s souls and brings us closer together. If only this wonderful story could be a microcosm for the rest of the world.....” (David Kerby Kendall)

**Notes on David Kerby Kendall:** David starting writing three years ago. His first play *SaveYour Kisses For Me* played to critical acclaim ( his mum liked it ) in London fringe in 2007 and his second play *The Moon is Halfway to Heaven* is opening at a central London fringe venue in the early autumn. became Heartbreak’s in-house writer in 2009, co-adapting *Emma*, writing additional dialogue for *Peter Pan* and is currently writing a screenplay about a team of touring actors. *The Secret Garden* is his first full-scale adaptation.

### **Notes on the Direction:**

*Their belief in the Magic was an abiding thing.* Magic is very exciting because it appears to be invisible and yet the results are numerous and far reaching, particularly in *The Secret Garden*. Mary, Colin and his father, locked up inside their own loneliness and grief, feel the magic of the abundant force of friendship and transform. The magic of nature brings a neglected and decaying garden to life and allows the children to get on living. The magic of belief enables Colin to stand and know that he will live to be a man. It has been our intention that magic is ever present in this production and even though we hope that it remains invisible and do know how it is made and we can’t tell you because...it’s a secret!

PS. We are lucky to have a very well trained Robin in our production who gave us a top tip - Magic happens if you are observant and patient and trust

**Notes on Marie McCarthy:** Marie has an MA in Theatre Directing (Birkbeck, University of London) where she won the Sir Peter Cheeseman award for achievement. She first worked with Heartbreak in 2001, directing Slip Road at the Bridge House Theatre; Warwick and returned last year to direct The Wind in the Willows. She is also coartistic director of Lightning Ensemble.

**Tour Schedule:**

Date	VenueName	Box office	Time
<b>June</b>			
Wed 02	Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa	01926 334418	6:30:00 PM
Thu 03	Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa	01926 334418	6:30:00 PM
Fri 04	Wythenshawe Park, Manchester	0843 208 0500	6:30:00 PM
Sat 05	Wythenshawe Park, Manchester	0843 208 0500	2:00:00 PM
Sat 05	Wythenshawe Park, Manchester	0843 208 0500	6:30:00 PM
Sun 06	Wythenshawe Park, Manchester	0843 208 0500	6:30:00 PM
Sat 12	Dunham Massey Hall (NT), Altringham	0161 9411025	7:00:00 PM
Sun 13	Crutch Farm (FOAG), Droitwich	01905 831276	3:00:00 PM
Wed 16	Lifford Hall, Broadway	01242 691190	7:30:00 PM
Thu 17	Warley Woods	0121 4292440 *	7:30:00 PM
Fri 18	Walkden Gardens, Sale	0161 912 5616	5:30:00 PM
Sat 19	Nottingham Castle, Nottinghamshire	0115 9895555	6:30:00 PM
Fri 25	Basildon Park (NT), Reading	0844 2491895	7:00:00 PM
Sun 27	Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield	01484 430528	7:00:00 PM
<b>July</b>			
Thu 01	Chepstow Castle, Monmouthshire	01291 625981	7:30:00 PM
Fri 02	Witley Court (EH), Worcester	01299 896636	7:00:00 PM
Sat 03	Witley Court (EH), Worcester	01299 896636	7:00:00 PM
Sun 04	Rockingham Castle, Market Harborough	01536 770240	7:30:00 PM
Wed 07	Walton Hall Gardens (Marquee Event), Warrington	01925 442345	7:00:00 PM
Fri 09	Shenley Park (Walled Garden), Shenley	01923 852629	6:30:00 PM
Sat 10	Hidcote Manor Garden (NT), Nr. Chipping Campden	01386 438333	7:30:00 PM
Sun 11	Charlecote Park (NT), Warwick	0844 2491895	4:30:00 PM
Thu 15	St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0191 230 5151	6:30:00 PM
Fri 16	St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0191 230 5151	6:30:00 PM
Sat 17	St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0191 230 5151	2:00:00 PM
Sat 17	St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0191 230 5151	6:30:00 PM
Sun 18	St. George's Green, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne	0191 230 5151	3:30:00 PM
Thur 22	Chiswick House, The Walled Garden, London	0844 477 1000	6:30:00 PM
Fri 23	Thornbury Castle and Tudor Gardens, Nr Bristol	01454 281182	7:30:00 PM
Sat 24	Standen (NT), East Grinstead	01342 323029	6:00:00 PM
Tue 27	Brueton Park, Solihull	0121 704 6962	7:00:00 PM

Wed 28	Fountains Abbey (NT), Ripon	0844 2491895	6:30:00 PM
Thu 29	Woolley Hall, Wakefield	01226 392300	7:00:00 PM
Fri 30	Portland Castle (EH), Nr. Weymouth	01305 820539	7:00:00 PM
Sat 31	R.H.S. Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington	01805 626800	6:30:00 PM
<b>August</b>			
Sun 01	Calke Abbey (NT), Derby	0844 249 1895	6:30:00 PM
Tue 03	Kenilworth Castle (EH), Warwickshire	01926 852078	7:00:00 PM
Wed 04	Kenilworth Castle (EH), Warwickshire	01926 852078	7:00:00 PM
Thu 05	Waterperry Gardens, Nr. Wheatley	01844 337264	6:00:00 PM
Fri 06	Lydiard Park, Swindon	01793 614837	6:30:00 PM
Sat 07	Greenway (NT), Brixham	01803 842382	6:30:00 PM
Sun 08	Shrewsbury High School Grounds	01743 281281	5:00:00 PM
Tue 10	The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield	0114 249 6000	6:30:00 PM
Wed 11	The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield	0114 249 6000	6:30:00 PM
Thu 12	The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield	0114 249 6000	6:30:00 PM
Fri 13	The Botanical Gardens, Sheffield	0114 249 6000	6:30:00 PM
Sat 14	Blickling Hall (NT), Norwich	0844 800 4308	7:30:00 PM
Sun 15	Manor Heath Park, Halifax	01422 349422	6:30:00 PM
Tue 17	Belsay Hall & Gardens (EH), Nr. Ponteland	01661 881636	7:15:00 PM
Wed 18	Warkworth Castle (EH), Warkworth	01665 711423	7:15:00 PM
Thu 19	Mount Grace Priory (EH), Nr. Northallerton	01609 883494	7:15:00 PM
Fri 20	mima Gardens, Centre Square, Middlesbrough	01642 815181	4:00:00 PM
Sat 21	Goodrich Castle (EH), Nr. Ross on Wye	01600 890538	7:00:00 PM
Sun 22	Trelissick Garden (NT), Nr. Truro	01872 862090	6:30:00 PM
Wed 25	Corfe Castle (NT), Dorset	0844 2491895	7:30:00 PM
Thu 26	Honeybrook Farm and Country Park, Wimbourne	01202 881120	7:30:00 PM
Fri 27	Danson House, Bexleyheath	01322 621238	6:00:00 PM
Sat 28	Mottisfont Abbey Garden (NT), Nr. Romsey	0844 2491895	6:30:00 PM
Sun 29	Hatfield House, Hertfordshire	01707 287010	4:00:00 PM

**Heartbreak have two other shows on tour: AN IDEAL HUSBAND and LOVE IN SHAKESPEARE.**

**For full information, please visit [www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk](http://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk)**

**or call 01926 430307 and ask for a tour brochure.**

**For photographs and press enquiries visit [www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk/press](http://www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk/press)**

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