

The Secret Garden Character Breakdowns

CASTING NOTE:

TAP & *The Secret Garden* Production Team value diversity in race, physical ability, gender, sexuality, socio-economic background, age, and body type. Anyone who sees a little of themselves in one of these characters is welcome and warmly encouraged to audition! The character descriptions may indicate the age of the character, but not necessarily the age of the actor. Unless otherwise noted, actors of all races and ethnicities will be considered for all roles.

UNDERSTUDY NOTE:

Given the length of the run, *The Secret Garden* Production Team has opted to include understudies in this production. Each Dreamer will cover one (1) principal character as listed below. Fakir and Ayah will cover one another. In addition, Mary Lennox and Colin Craven will be double cast, each actor guaranteed four (4) of the eight (8) performances. Due to the smaller cast, there will be no guaranteed understudy performance; the coverage is merely a precaution. Understudies will be encouraged to attend rehearsals for their understudy tracks, and we have built two (2) understudy rehearsals into the schedule in lieu of brush-ups.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

MARY LENNOX: Principal. Young female voice, Ab3 to D5. A ten year-old girl sent to live with her uncle, Archibald, when her parents die from cholera in India. Mary is quite the curious explorer, and often finds herself in trouble. Indignant at times, yet always willing to fight for what she believes in. Must be a strong actress capable of carrying a show. **This role will be double cast.**

ARCHIBALD CRAVEN: Principal. Baritenor, C3 to A4. Mary's uncle and the lord of Misselthwaite Manor. He has a hunchback. Haunted by his past and afraid of the future, he locks himself away both physically and mentally. Mary painfully reminds him too much of his wife, Lily, who died ten years ago.

LILY: Principal. Soprano, Bb3 to D6. Mary's aunt and Archibald Craven's deceased wife. In life, she tended to a walled garden hidden on the grounds. After dying in a tragic accident within her garden, she now haunts the halls of Misselthwaite Manor. A warm, passionate woman who followed her own instincts, she reaches from beyond the grave to ensure the happiness of those she loves.

COLIN CRAVEN: Principal. Young male voice, A3 to E5. Archibald's ten year-old son. Colin has spent his life hidden away in bed due to a heart condition. He is very stubborn and morose. He believes his father hates him for causing his mother's death. **This role will be double cast.**

DR. NEVILLE CRAVEN: Principal. Baritone, C3 to F#4. Archibald's younger brother. Neville has undertaken the medical care of his nephew Colin. Imprisoned by an unrequited love, he is unwilling to escape these haunted memories that lurk within Misselthwaite Manor.

MARTHA: Principal. Mezzo-soprano belter, G3 to D5. Mary's young housemaid. Grew up near Yorkshire and has the accent to prove it. Spirited and loveable from the start, Martha becomes like a surrogate mother to Mary. Although she is from a lower class family, her wisdom is often far beyond the men of the household.

DICKON: Principal. Tenor, D3 to G4. Martha's younger brother. He befriends Mary and convinces her to tend to Lily's garden. He is a young man who is between the world of child imagination and adult reasoning. Earthy, honest, and energetic.

MRS. MEDLOCK: Principal. Soprano. Archibald's stern housekeeper. Mary's first introduction to Yorkshire, she remains as cold as the drafty halls of Misselthwaite Manor.

BEN WEATHERSTAFF: Principal. Baritone, E3 to D#4. Head gardener of Misselthwaite Manor. Ben was secretly entrusted to take care of the garden after Lily's death. He knows a great deal about the history of the garden and the grounds it sits on. He has worked for the family for many years.

THE DREAMERS: The Following characters, referred to collectively as the Dreamers, are deceased people from Mary's life in India, who haunt her until she finds her new life in Yorkshire. They function as a Greek chorus and serve as the narrators of our story. Some Dreamers will double as additional featured roles.

ROSE LENNOX: Soprano, A3-D6. Mary's mother. A “dreamer” from the past who doesn't understand how her sister Lily could truly love Archibald. She is extremely loyal to her husband and refuses to leave India during the cholera outbreak that takes her life. **Rose will understudy either Lily or Mrs. Medlock.**

ALBERT LENNOX: Tenor, D3-A5. Mary's father. He cares very dearly for his wife and young daughter. Serving as an officer in the British Indian Army, Albert attempts in vain to send his family out of India during the cholera outbreak. **Albert will understudy either Archibald Craven or Dickon.**

ALICE: Mezzo-soprano. Rose's society friend in British India. **Alice will understudy Martha.**

LT. WRIGHT: Baritone. A fellow officer in Albert's unit in the British Indian Army. **Lt. Wright will understudy either Dr. Neville Craven or Ben Weatherstaff.**

LT. SHAW: Tenor. A fellow officer in Albert's unit in the British Indian Army. **Lt. Shaw will understudy either Archibald Craven or Dickon.**

MAJOR HOLMES: Baritone. The commanding major of Albert's unit in the British Indian Army. **Major Holmes will understudy either Dr. Neville Craven or Ben Weatherstaff.**

CLAIRE HOLMES: Soprano. Major Holmes' wife and Rose's society friend in British India. **Claire Holmes will understudy either Lily or Mrs. Medlock.**

FAKIR: Tenor, C3-B4. An itinerant Hindu ascetic, Mary finds a spiritual connection to the memory of his prayers while tending to the garden. We are specifically seeking to cast an actor of South Asian descent in this role. **Fakir will understudy Ayah.**

AYAH: Mezzo-soprano. Mary's native nursemaid in British India, responsible for caring for Mary during her early childhood. We are specifically seeking to cast an actor of South Asian descent in this role. **Ayah will understudy Fakir.**