



BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS

2022
SEASON
PERFORMANCE
GUIDE

THE
SECRET
GARDEN

WELCOME TO THE BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS 2022 SEASON

It has been two long years since we have been able to gather like today to watch musical magic unfold on the stage of the UC Davis Health Pavilion. Thank you for being here to share in this moment in our 70+ year history in Sacramento.

For those of you that are new to this place and/or this art form, here are the ingredients that go into what you're about to experience:

It begins with Broadway's most popular stories, told in spoken word, song, and dance. Each and every one of them – from the silliest to the most serious – was written to help us better understand ourselves and one another, and celebrate our common humanity.

Our storytellers are our actors and musicians, all of whom have trained for years to become the best that Broadway has to offer. Some are our neighbors, but many have traveled from far and wide to perform for you today.

Those on stage will be visually transformed thanks to the efforts of our costume, hair & makeup, and wardrobe teams. Every piece of clothing and wig worn has been skillfully sewn and styled to both compliment the player and articulate the essence of their character.

This theatre will also be transformed with scenery, properties, lights, projections, automation, and sound, all expertly designed to transport you from a hot summer's day in Midtown Sacramento to another (and hopefully cooler!) place and time.

Most importantly: All of the above elements have been carefully crafted and combined to be shared IN PERSON and TOGETHER. You – your laughter, tears, and applause - are the final ingredient that will make today's performance one I hope you remember and cherish for years to come.

SCOTT KLIER

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/COO

BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1949** Actor St. John Terrell sets up a summer stock theatre under a giant round tent in Lambertville, New Jersey. Drawing inspiration from the layout of Greek amphitheaters and the summer fun of the circus, Terrell's idea is a success and more than 40 others pop up across the country in the next decade.
- 1951** With the support of arts patron and newspaper owner Eleanor McClatchy, producers Russell Lewis and Howard Young establish the Sacramento Music Circus by setting up a tent in the parking lot of the Sacramento Civic Repertory Theatre. It is the first professional theatre-in-the-round to the west of the Mississippi River, and the fourth in the country.
- 1953** Lewis and Young found the Sacramento Light Opera Association to continue producing shows in the area. Sacramento Music Circus continues to be a successful summer tradition, gaining a notable reputation in the theatre community.
- 1989** The Broadway Series is introduced as a winter companion to the summer shows, bringing national tours of Broadway musicals and plays to Sacramento every year.
- 2003** The Wells Fargo Pavilion opens on the site of the original Sacramento Music Circus tent, providing a state-of-the-art, permanent, fully air-conditioned facility for all future shows.
- 2018** The company name changes to Broadway Sacramento, with the respective touring and summer seasons being named Broadway On Tour and Broadway At Music Circus.
- 2020** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Broadway At Music Circus stage is dark all summer long for the first time.
- 2022** Broadway At Music Circus returns to Sacramento for its 70th season in the newly named UC Davis Health Pavilion!

BEFORE THE SHOW BEGINS, A FEW QUICK REMINDERS:

- Make sure you find your seat before the show starts! Actors will enter using the aisles, so it is important to be seated when the lights go down to keep everyone safe. If you need to leave for any reason, the ushers in the hallway will let you know when it's okay to enter again.
- Please keep your cell phone silenced and put away during the show. You are welcome to use it before or after, but the bright screens and noises can be distracting for everyone else at the theatre. Using your phone to take pictures or video is also not allowed.
- Please refrain from talking during the show, as it can be a distraction to the actors and the people around you.
- Feel free to laugh, cheer and applaud! The actors love hearing that you're enjoying the show.

THE SECRET GARDEN

AUGUST 9 -14

BOOK & LYRICS by

Marsha Norman

MUSIC by

Lucy Simon

THE STORY

Reeling from the death of her parents, 10-year-old Mary Lennox goes to live with her reclusive uncle Archibald at Misselthwaite Manor. Although she is resistant at first, Mary begins to warm up to her new home. As she explores the grounds, she meets her cousin Colin and uncovers a mysterious garden hidden behind a locked door that may have a connection to her family's past. Guided by the ghosts of their lost loved ones, Mary and Colin embark on an adventure filled with renewal, hope, and mystery that has the potential to heal the pains of the past and change their family forever.

THE CHARACTERS

MARY LENNOX: a curious, stubborn young girl

ARCHIBALD CRAVEN: Mary's withdrawn, grief-stricken uncle

LILY CRAVEN: Archibald's wife, who died in a tragic accident

COLIN CRAVEN: Lily and Archibald's son, who suffers from illness

DR. NEVILLE CRAVEN: Archibald's bitter brother, who cares for Collin

MARTHA: a chambermaid who befriends Mary

DICKON: Martha's brother who cares for the land at the manor

BEN WEATHERSTAFF: the gruff, wise head gardener

MRS. MEDLOCK: the strict housekeeper

THE DREAMERS: people from Mary's past who narrate the story

MAKING THE SHOW

FROM BOOK TO BROADWAY



The Secret Garden first blossomed in late 1910, when English-American author Frances Hodgson Burnett published it across ten issues of *The American Magazine*. Burnett had spent some time writing in the rose garden at Maytham Hall in Kent, England, and was deeply moved by the environment and her interactions with the wildlife. Drawing on those experiences and the tone and setting of the famous Gothic novels *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, she crafted an intriguing tale of magic, mystery, and nature.

The following year, *The Secret Garden* was published as a complete novel in both England and the United States. Audiences struggled to determine if it was intended for children or adults. It was not initially as successful as Burnett's earlier children's novels *Little Lord Fauntleroy* and *A Little Princess*. It was not until the mid-1900s that the book began to grow in popularity, with several film and television adaptations boosting its profile.

Around 1988, theatre producer and designer Heidi Ettinger recruited her friend, playwright Marsha Norman, to help develop a musical adaptation of *The Secret Garden*. There had been previous attempts throughout the 1980s to adapt the novel for the stage, but none had been very successful. Along with songwriter Lucy Simon, Ettinger and Norman set out to bring the classic tale to Broadway for the first time.

components of the story with audiences' expectations for a light, family-friendly musical. Director Susan Schulman came on board to help tighten up the show as they prepared to head to New York, and the Broadway production of *The Secret Garden* opened at the St. James Theatre on April 25, 1991. Critics applauded the lush score and elaborate designs, but many also felt that the tone was inconsistent and overemphasized the story's darker moments. In a surprising move, the creative team revisited the show after opening and made further cuts to streamline the script. The changes were a success: **THE SECRET GARDEN** received 3 Tony Awards and went on to run for 709 performances, proving that young audiences were interested in more mature storylines.



Lucy Simon, Heidi Ettinger, and Marsha Norman, 1989, photo by Marc Bryan



Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1900

THE SECRET GARDEN premiered in 1989 in Norfolk, Virginia, but the writers were struggling to balance the darker

International productions of **THE SECRET GARDEN** followed in the coming years, including one by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 2000 that featured additional revisions. Another production with even more changes to the script and song order played in several theatres across the U.S. between 2016–2017, and there are tentative plans to bring that version to Broadway.

This season marks the third Broadway At Music Circus production of **THE SECRET GARDEN**, after earlier ones in 1994 and 1999. In many ways, **THE SECRET GARDEN**'s life as a musical has paralleled that of the titular garden: it has been full of change, rebirth, and growth, and the story and songs continue to bring light and hope to audiences, young and old.

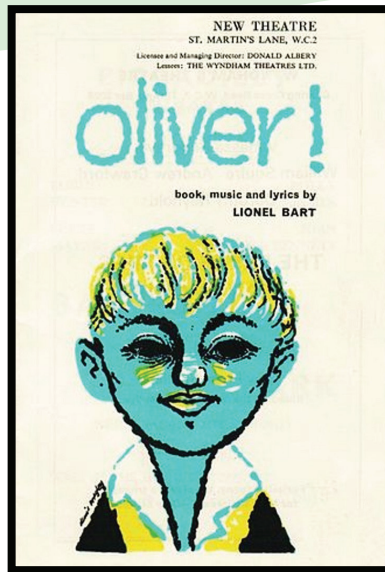
FROM SHELF TO STAGE

OFF THE PAGE AND ONTO THE STAGE

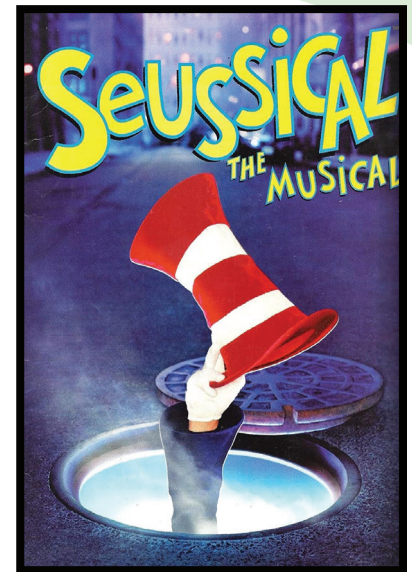
Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden* is just one of many classic children's novels that have been adapted into musicals. Have you seen or read any of these others?



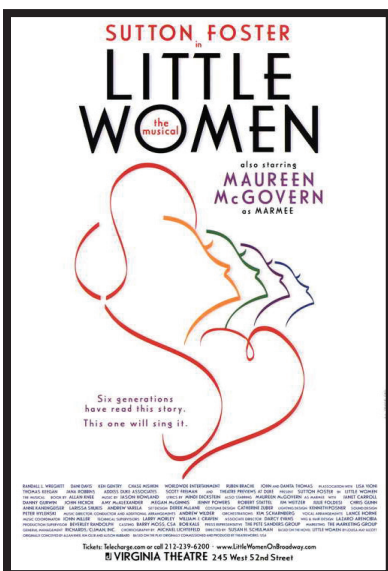
PETER PAN (1954) based on the novel *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie, Book by J.M. Barrie. Music by Jule Styne and Moose Charlap; Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Betty Comden, and Adolph Green



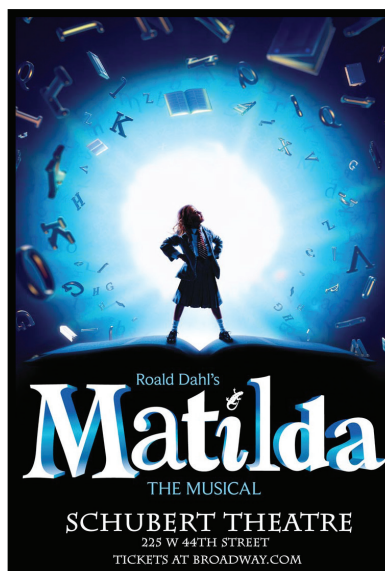
OLIVER! (1960) based on the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Book, Music, and Lyrics by Lionel Bart



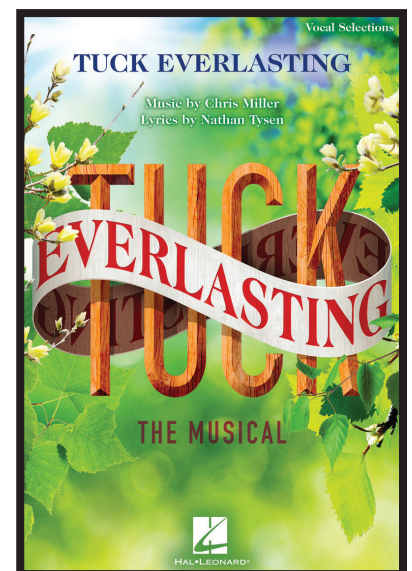
SEUSSICAL (2000) based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Book by Lynne Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, music by Stephen Flaherty, and Lyrics by Lynne Ahrens



LITTLE WOMEN (2005) based on the novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Book by Allan Knee and Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein.



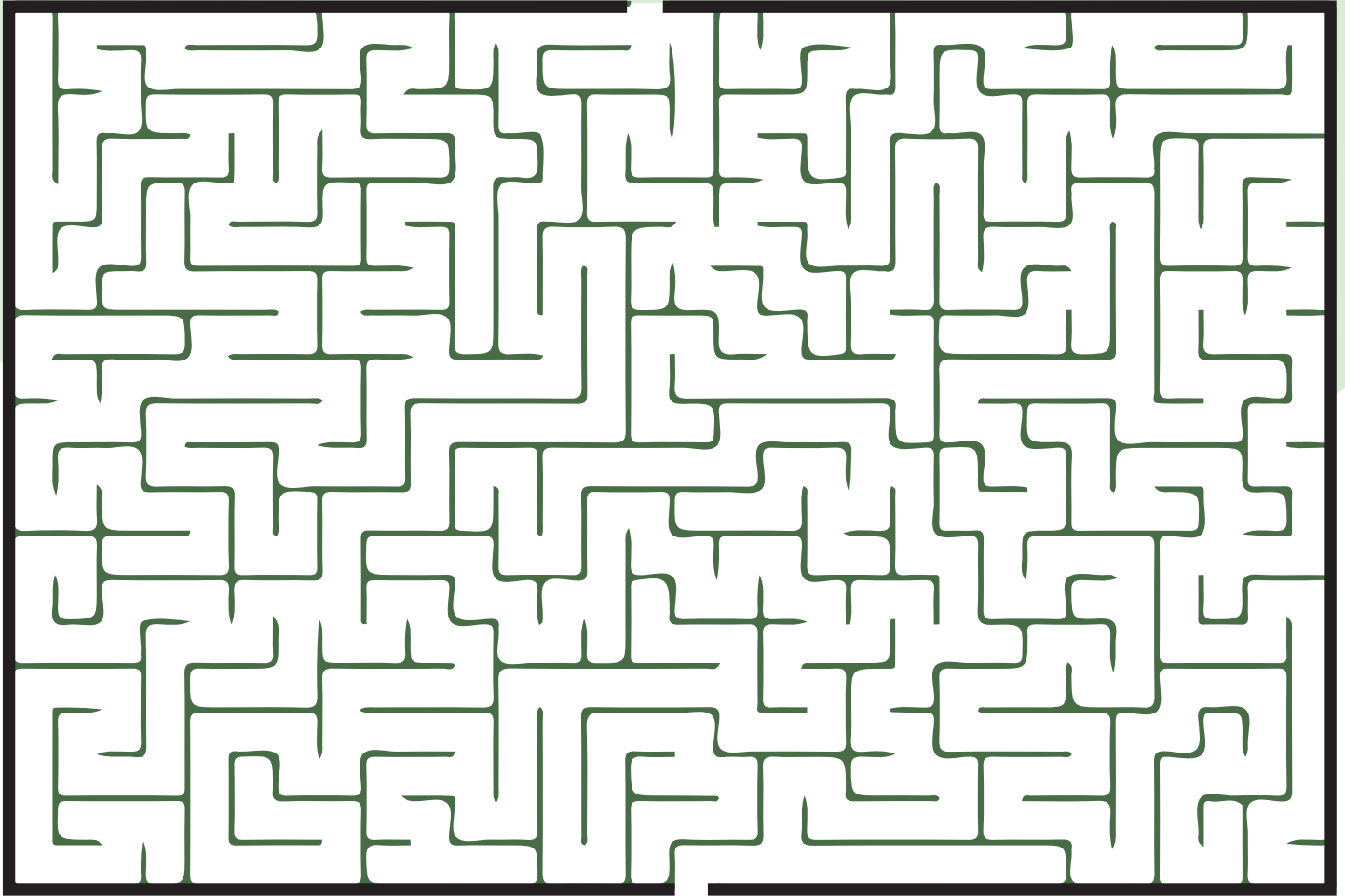
MATILDA (2011) based on the novel *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. Book by Dennis Kelly, Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin



TUCK EVERLASTING (2016) based on the novel *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt. Book by Claudia Shear and Tim Federle, Music by Chris Miller, Lyrics by Nathan Tysen

MAZE

CAN YOU MAKE IT THROUGH THE GARDEN?



THINK ABOUT IT

- **THE SECRET GARDEN** underwent many changes in its adaptation to the stage. Why do you think the creators made the changes they did? What is another book you would like to see made into a musical, and how would you change it?
- Many of the characters in **THE SECRET GARDEN** go through significant transformations over the course of the story. How do those personal changes connect to the growth in the garden? Which characters do you think grow/change the most?
- While Archibald's fear for Colin's health is understandable, it ultimately becomes an obstacle in his attempts to care for his son. Once he sees that Colin is healthy, his whole outlook on life changes. Have you ever been in a situation where you were afraid that something might happen, and it didn't? How did that change your perspective on things?
- There are several supernatural elements in **THE SECRET GARDEN**, including the ghosts of lost loved ones and the healing powers of the garden. Do you think those elements are real or metaphorical? How does your view of the story change based on your interpretation of those things?



UC **DAVIS** HEALTH PAVILION

SPECIAL THANKS TO



This guide was developed by Mason Diab, Caleb Larrosa-Colombo, and Jackie Vanderbeck. Special thanks to Griff Field, Matt Hessburg, Scott Klier, Gina Smith, Dejan Zivkovic, and YOU, audience members, for joining us at Broadway At Music Circus this summer!