

# EVERGREEN players

Summer 2004

## *Secret Garden* an Enchanting Musical

**W**hen a glum Mary Lennox arrives at Misselthwaite Manor, Mrs. Medlock, the housekeeper asks, "But don't you care about your new home?" Mary can hardly care. Orphaned when her parents died in a cholera epidemic in India, Mary has been sent to live with her uncle Archibald on the windswept Yorkshire moors.

"Why you're being brought to Misselthwaite I'll never know," Mrs. Medlock says. "Your uncle isn't going to trouble himself about you, that's sure and certain. He never troubles himself about anyone."

Archibald is a lonely man. His home is a sad, gloomy place, haunted by spirits – especially the spirit of his wife Lily who died suddenly years before. Lily had a beautiful garden but when she died Archibald ordered it locked and forbid anyone to enter it.

Of course it isn't long before Mary finds this secret garden and yearns to see what's beyond the locked gate. There are other secrets, too, and she tries to root these out as well. But

will she succeed before Dr. Craven, Archibald's brother, sends her away? Dr. Craven, after all, wants the manor for himself. It's unlikely he'd let a little girl stand in his way.



*Discover The Secret Garden July 9-Aug. 8 at Center/Stage. Illustration by Peggy Morgan Stenmark.*

Based on the beloved novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden* is one of those very special musicals – enchanting, imaginative, a sheer delight for all ages, featuring, according to one

writer, "some of the most beautiful music ever written for Broadway." On its Broadway debut, *U.S.A Today* called it "a splendid, intelligent musical .... It's all you can hope for in children's theatre. But the best surprise is that this show is the most adult new musical of the season."

Our production, directed by **Kathleen Davis** and **P.K. Worley**, features set design by our own artist-in-residence **Peggy Morgan Stenmark** and costumes by 2004 CCTC award-winner **Jan Hart** (see article on Page 3). The cast includes **Wendell Bell, Jamie Billings, Juliana Black, Stephen Caldwell, Kent Carney, Tyler Collins, Shane Delavan, Rebecca Dellinger, JoAnn Goode, Matt Gottlieb, Melissa Lepert, Michael LaBarge, Carol Meredith, Mandi Ogle, Robert Riney, Bobby Thornton** and **Donna Worley**. **Kate Lewis** and **Joshua Rivera** are understudies for the show.

*The Secret Garden*, book and lyrics by Marsha Norman and music by Lucy Simon, runs weekends July 9-Aug. 8 at Center/Stage.

**For reservations call us at (303) 674-4934 or visit [www. evergreenplayers.org](http://www.evergreenplayers.org).**

## Meet Our Part-time Production Coordinator

Evergreen Players has hired Margaret Pettee Olsen to fill the newly created position of production coordinator. As our second part-time staffer, Olsen will handle reservations and assist producers in tying up all the many loose ends involved in putting a show on stage. One of her particular areas of focus will be in helping develop the Players' volunteer base.

Kristin Andersen continues as business manager, taking care of marketing, grants and so on.

Olsen, 40, grew up in Rochester, N.Y. She's an artist with a bachelor's degree in painting from Rhode Island School of Design and master's in art and art education from Columbia. At one time, though, she was well on her way to being a professional ballet dancer. She took company classes with

American Ballet Theatre.

"That was great fun because who stood behind me at the bar was Mikhail Baryshnikov," she says, recalling he "scared the living (you know what) out of me."



Margaret Pettee Olsen

She toured briefly with ABT as a stand in for some of the *corps de ballet* dancers but chronic tendonitis ended her aspirations. After college she worked as a serigrapher in New York City, printing limited edi-

tions for artists such as Frank Stella, Roy Lichtenstein, Willem de Kooning and Robert Motherwell. She also helped her husband Bill start a printmaking business. Later she worked in a frame shop and learned a lot about the gallery side of things, "so I was able to make that kind of bridge between the

artists and the (gallery) directors." She expects she'll be able to draw on that experience working with Evergreen Players.

"I guess I kind of enjoy being in all different parts of the art-making process," she says. That's what's been fun for her in getting to know the Players thus far. "There's definitely a theater person in me somewhere."

"I think that the open-endedness of it and the fact that you can kind of morph into various roles because you really love to do those things – that to me is a wonderful thing to be working with. You know these people are there because they love it, not just because they're getting a few bucks out of the deal."

Margaret and her husband Bill, 42, live in the North Turkey Creek area. They have two children, Rhys, 8, and Ana, 6.

Welcome aboard, Margaret!

## Gay and Lesbian Fund Boosts Next Season

It's official: Evergreen Players has received a \$5,000 grant from the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado through Colorado Springs-based Gill Foundation. The grant will help fund our 2004-2005 season.

"At the recently concluded Colorado Theatre Festival," notes John Davis, Evergreen Players' Board president, "we were commended for our production values on a very difficult project. The grant from the Gay and Lesbian Fund will allow continued growth of our award-winning theater."

This is the second grant Evergreen Players has received from the Gay and Lesbian Fund. A previous grant helped fund the 2002-2003 season.

Evergreen Players counts on grants and donations each

year. "Only about half of our costs are covered by ticket sales annually," says Kristin Andersen, business manager. "We also receive important funding from SCFD (Scientific and Cultural Facilities District)." For the past couple of years we've also jointly applied for and received grants from Evergreen Arts Council to help fund the marketing of Center/Stage, she says.

"Grants like these allow our growing audience base to continue to see high quality theater," Davis says.

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado is a fund of the Gill Foundation, a private philanthropic organization based in Colorado Springs. The Fund has provided more than \$11 million to support quality community programs in Colorado Springs and throughout the state.



## Hallelujah A Winner at Annual Theater Fest

Evergreen Players made its seventh trip to the annual Colorado Community Theatre Coalition festival and walked away with more awards. This time around it was our world-premiere production of *Hallelujah House* that garnered the honors.

**Marta Barnard** directed the show, written by Evergreen writer, **Carolyn Campbell**. **Kathleen Davis** was music director, notating the score and providing some of the harmonization.

Nine theater groups from around Colorado attended the festival, which took place in Aspen this year. Evergreen Players won Best Set Design (**Chad Branham**), Best Costumes (**Jan Hart**) and the interestingly named Tech Tinabulation award.

The Tech Tinabulation award is a special honor given by the host theater for technical efficiency. Our intrepid tech crew included **Katherine Quinby**, **David Avery**, **P.K. Worley** and **John Davis**.

Evergreen Players members also were named to the All-State Company: **Jan Hart** for costume design, **Katherine Quinby** for lighting design, **Chad Branham** for set design and **Michelle A. Grimes** for acting.

In previous trips to the festival, Evergreen Players has won numerous awards. Its 2003 production of *The Trip to Bountiful* won six of eight major awards, including First Place Show and Best Actress. In 2000 its production of *All in the Timing* won People's Choice at state and went on to win in regional competition. *Timing* went on to the national American Association of Community Theatre's biennial festival that took place in Harrisburg, Pa., in 2001.

Evergreen Players presented the world premiere of *Hallelujah House* this past spring in Evergreen and Boulder. Local Evergreen author



Photos by P.K. Worley

*Top left: Cast gets some rehearsal time before performance. Top right: John Davis gets a hug from Aspen Theatre's Wendy Moore. Bottom left: Dave Avery accepts the Tech Tinabulation award. Bottom right: Players doing what they do best — relaxing after a job well done.*

Carolyn Campbell wrote the play, a musical based on her book of poetry *Soiled Doves of Colorado and the Old West*. It offers a glimpse into the lives of prostitutes in the 1880s and many of the characters are based on historical figures, including Madame Cora and Baby Doe Tabor.

Cast members making the Aspen trip were **Portia Benson**, **Kristin Fuhrmann Clark**, **Amy Dinyse**, **Michelle A. Grimes**, **Din Manobla**, **Carol Meredith**, **John Meredith**, **Stephanie Schmidt**, **Emily Smith**, **Gary Sohrweid** and **Donna Worley**.

**Gus Chambers** played guitar.

Colorado Theatre Festival, sponsored by Colorado Community Theatre Coalition, took place June 9-June 12, 2004, at Aspen High School. Bas Bleu from Fort Collins won First Place Show for its production of *Beast on the Moon*.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to ensure *Hallelujah House* had a successful run and an award-winning trip to Aspen!

# Take a Peek at Evergreen Players' 55th Season

Check out this terrific line up for Evergreen Players in 2004-2005:

## **Bullshot Crummond, Oct. 29-Nov. 14, 2004**

An uproarious farce that spoofs the 1930s "Bulldog Drummond" detective series of B movie fame, this show packs lots of laughs inside a madcap mystery. **Auditions: Sat., Aug. 14 at Center/Stage. Check our website at [www.evergreenplayers.org](http://www.evergreenplayers.org) for details.**

## **The Miracle Worker, Jan. 21-Feb. 6, 2005**

This classic drama tells the inspiring story of Helen Keller. Blind and mute from birth, Helen is a bitter, violent child when Annie Sullivan becomes her teacher. But Sullivan, herself blind, is able to reach Helen and rescues her from her silent, tortured world.

## **The Last Night of Ballyhoo, April 1-17, 2005**

By the author of "Driving Miss Daisy," this drama/comedy tells the story of an upper class Jewish family living in Atlanta on the eve of World War II. It's 1939. Hitler is invad-

ing Poland but Atlanta's elite's only concern is who's going to the social event of the season.

## **Lucky Stiff, July 8-Aug. 7, 2005**

From the duo that gave us "Ragtime the Musical" and "Suessical" comes a zany, offbeat musical along the lines of "Weekend at Bernie's." Harry Witherspoon stands to inherit \$6 million from his late murdered uncle but first he must take the corpse on a weeklong trip to Monte Carlo.

---

*Special thanks to Jim Morton and Evergreen Auto Works for providing Evergreen Players and Mount Evans Hospice storage space!*



The Evergreen Players  
P.O. Box 1271  
Evergreen, CO 80437

*Thanks to our sponsors!*



Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #158  
Evergreen, CO

## The Secret Garden

*A musical for all ages based on the children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett*

**Weekends July 9-Aug. 8, 2004, at Center/Stage**

Reserve now for dinner at Tivoli Deer