News Release
Theatre Tuscaloosa & Shelton State Community College
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MAGIC BLOOMS AS “THE SECRET GARDEN” OPENS THEATRE TUSCALOOSA’S 2010-11 SEASON

(Tuscaloosa) Theatre Tuscaloosa opens its 2010-2011 season on October 22 with the Broadway musical “The Secret Garden.” Performances at the Bean-Brown Theatre on the campus of Shelton State Community College will continue through October 31.

Adapted by Marsha Norman (book and lyrics), with music by Lucy Simon, “The Secret Garden” is based on the classic children’s novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Set in Colonial India and England at the turn of the 20th century, “The Secret Garden” tells the story of Mary Lennox, an 11-year-old girl whose parents have died during a cholera epidemic. Sent to live with her widower uncle, Archibald, who is still mourning the loss of his wife, Mary finds she is alone and lost in a grown up world. Eventually she meets her cousin Colin, a sick boy who can’t get out of bed, but everything changes when they find each other, and the magic of the secret garden!

Rife with gothic imagery, unresolved grief, and a touch of the supernatural, “The Secret Garden” is more Harry Potter than Hans Christian Andersen. The rich Lucy Simon score includes several celebrated songs from the contemporary musical theatre canon, including “Come to My Garden,” “A Bit of Earth”, and the show-stopping duet “Lily's Eyes.” Dubbed by TIME Magazine "the best American musical of the Broadway season” in its 1991 premiere, the original cast featured Mandy Patinkin as Archibald Craven, Alabama’s own Rebecca Luker as Lily, and a Tony Award-winning portrayal of Mary Lennox by Daisy Eagan.

The cast for Theatre Tuscaloosa’s production includes Kate Gates as Lily, Morgan Green as Mary Lennox, Tina Turley as Mrs. Medlock, Charles Prosser as Dr. Neville Craven, Brent Jones as Archibald, Danielle K. Molina as Martha, Zachaeus Kimbrell as Dickon, and Emily McGuire as Colin Craven. Also in the cast are Ernie Turley, Beth McGuire, Hillary Burke, Jameson Sanford, Mary Becher, Cooper McKelroy, Drey Mitchell, Matthew Smith, Miranda Rivas, Adam Vanek, Annika Kernop, Russell Stephens, Ashley Kontos, Mary Becher, Molly McCollum, Beth McGuire, Michelle Muntifering, Miranda Rivas, Aaron Bamberg, Adam Vanek, Drey Mitchell, Matthew Smith, and Michael Manos.

Artistic staff for the production includes Director and Scenic Designer Paul K. Looney, Musical Director Leslie S. Poss, Choreographers Susan Looney and Lindsey Jones, Costume Designer Jeanette Waterman, Lighting Designer Erin Hisey, Sound Designer Frank Duren, and Stage Manager Martez Clemons. Tina F. Turley is Executive Producer for Theatre Tuscaloosa.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on October 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30, with 2:00 p.m. matinees on October 24, 27 and 31. Tickets are $22 for adults, $17 for seniors, and $10 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased by calling 205-391-2277 or online at www.theatretusc.com.

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