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Globe's Secret Garden has a moody atmosphere

By **TED BROWN**
 Staff Writer

The stage of John Elliott Theatre bridged the gap between living and dead as Georgetown Globe Productions opened *The Secret Garden* Thursday

night. Set in early 1900s Yorkshire, England and Colonial India, the story centers around young Mary Lennox, who is orphaned and sent to live with her widower uncle, the husband of her mother's sister.

Mary and her uncle Archibald are not close, simply because he cannot bear to face her— she reminds him of his late wife Lily, who died giving

birth to their crippled son Colin.

Mary has the run of the estate, and eventually finds Lily's garden, which her uncle has ordered to be closed up and never disturbed. Mary discovers the key to the garden, and eventually nurses it back to its splendor, with help from Dickon, brother to her chambermaid Martha. Eventually, she introduces

bedridden Colin to the garden, and he grows stronger with every visit.

All the time Mary is spending time at her uncle's house, she is surrounded by the ghosts of her parents, and many of the people who were with her in India, acting as protectors.

Predictably, the musical has a happy ending.

Laura Redekop absolutely shines as Mary Lennox. From her quiet manner as an orphaned girl in India, through her stay at the Yorkshire Manor, she dominates the stage with her acting and fine singing voice.

Brian Grist, who plays Archibald Craven, is equally superb as her grieving uncle. His strong voice gives his character great presence.

Jane Adair's performance as late Lily Craven gives her character a wonderful tenderness. As a ghost, she watches over her son and niece, as they restore the garden and his health.

Chris Willes, who plays Colin, aptly portrays the invalid as a demanding child, who is actually afraid.

Rob Woodcock and Marilyn King play the parts as Dr. Neville Craven (Archibald's brother) and housekeeper Mrs. Medlock, adding a sinister element to the play.

See **SECRET**, pg. 21

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