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Production photos available for download at edgeofthewood.com/resident-theatre

EDGE OF THE WOOD PRESENTS *THE SECRET GARDEN* : THE INAUGURAL MUSICAL PRODUCTION OF ITS NEW RESIDENT THEATRE

CHICAGO, IL (February 28, 2013) – Edge of the Wood Theatre presents *The Secret Garden*, a family-friendly musical version of the timeless children’s story, March 8-16, at Edgebrook Community Church in Chicago. The play, about Mary, an orphan girl who releases the healing magic in a nearly forgotten garden and changes the lives of those around her forever, is the inaugural production of Edge of the Wood’s new resident theatre, and features 24 child and adult actors from across Chicagoland.

"We are thrilled to launch our resident theatre with a show that brings children and adults from the community together," says Janet Rourke, co-founder of Edge of the Wood Theatre School, now in its twelfth year. "*The Secret Garden* is beautiful and inspiring, and really about what we do every day at Edge of the Wood – empower kids to be the best that they can be."

From the inception of the Edge of the Wood Theatre School, Rourke and co-founder Jeanann Power say they always envisioned expanding programming beyond the current suite of classes for children ages 6-18. "We strive to be more than just an after-school program, to be a center for the arts in our community," says Power. Together with Rourke, who direct three student musicals annually at the school, "We've been producing shows with all-student casts for years, and now we're taking the next step."

Co-directed by Edge instructor John Chambers, *The Secret Garden* cast features three Edge of the Wood students, as well as Chambers, Power and Rourke performing in the musical, based on the 1911 novel of the same name by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The book and lyrics are by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Marsha Norman, with music by Lucy Simon. "We chose *The Secret Garden* obviously because of the tie-in with children and the appeal to our Edge families," says Chambers, "but also because it's a beautiful piece of theatre. The music is haunting and the story is magical."

The Secret Garden runs March 8-16. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children. For tickets and information visit edgeofthewood.com.

About Edge of the Wood Theatre

The Edge of the Wood school at Chicago's Edgebrook Community Church is a complete theatre program where young people, ages 6-18, become versed in acting, improv, speech, movement, and musical theatre skills in a professional atmosphere. Edge of the Wood has served over 700 students, many of whom have gone onto careers in the performing arts and arts education.

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