

PRESENTED BY HELIX PRODUCTIONS and FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE LIBRARY

At home with
Frances Hodgson Burnett



Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849 to 1923) is most famous as the author of *The Secret Garden* but her life remains largely unknown to many. Born in Manchester in 1849, she was a phenomenally successful author with 52 books published in her lifetime, she also adapted and produced many stage versions of her stories and of course there have been now many film and television adaptations of her stories. In her lifetime she was seen as a scandalous figure with two failed marriages and her flamboyant character and lifestyle often the material for gossip columnists around the world. In tonight's presentation which is adapted from our one-woman play *In the secret garden of Frances Hodgson Burnett*, her life is presented in her own words and there will be readings from books including *That Lass O'Lowrie's* (1877), *A Little Princess* (1905), *Making of a Marchioness* (1901), *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886) and of course *The Secret Garden* (1911).

TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION IS DEVISED and PERFORMED by ALEXIS LEIGHTON and HELEN TIERNEY

ALEXIS LEIGHTON trained at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She has performed at Citizens Theatre, Traverse, and Kings Theatre, Edinburgh for Edinburgh International Festival. She toured with Northampton Theatre Royal and her one-woman show *Miss Margarida's Way* played theatres in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London. She has appeared at Buxton Opera House, Drill Hall, Kings Head, Pentameters, Southwark Playhouse, Soho Theatre and Theatre 503. Alexis played the lead role Harriet in *Key for Two* performed at The English Speaking Theatre in Vienna. She performed the role of Kit, the adoptive mum in a new play, *Giving Up Marty* at The Vaults Festival this March. Sadly, the subsequent tour had to be cancelled due to COVID 19. As Charlotte Payne Townshend in the title role of *Mrs Shaw Herself* for Helix Productions, Alexis has performed at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Bloomsbury Festival, Bury Festival, Crouch End Festival, Watford Fringe, Community Libraries (London and Herts) and The Tristan Bates Theatre, London in tandem with The Shaw Society.

HELEN TIERNEY studied music at Oxford University and works in music education and community music with a special interest in music and dementia. She has worked with music in prisons, Alzheimer's units, eating disorder clinics and homeless shelters alongside mainstream music education and is a Rhinegold Education author as well as an ABRSM examiner. Along with Bev Vincent, she devised *Music, Memories and Me* - an arts engagement project designed for residential care homes. She has performed at the Edinburgh Festival, Glastonbury, Royal Variety Performance and as a singer, has participated in over 20 Proms seasons with the BBC Symphony Chorus. With Alexis she co-devised and performs *MRS SHAW HERSELF*

We would like to thank the following people for help and support in putting this show together and tonight's event: Friends of Highgate Library, Manhasset Public Library, Society of Authors, University of Princeton library, Sharon Landau, FHB's two biographers Ann Thwaite and Gretchen Gerzina and Frances' great-granddaughter and great-great grand-daughter, Penny Deupree and Kerri Wilt.

Tonight's performance is **FREE** but any voluntary donations towards future Zoom adaptations and staged performances of this show are very welcome. Donate to

https://paypal.me/AlexisLeightonWard?locale.x=en_GB

"...If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden..."

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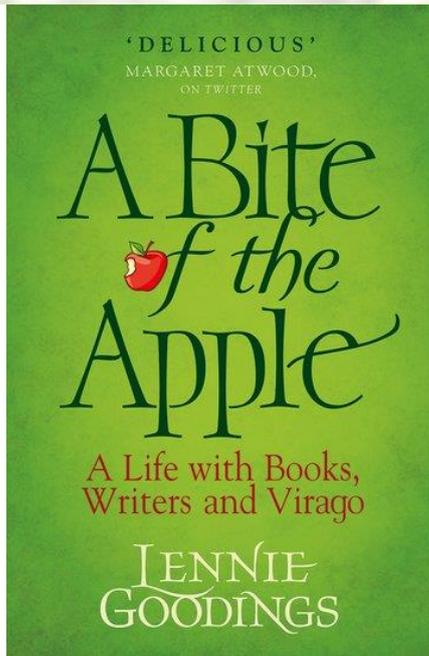
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The Friends of Highgate Library present
Thursday 9th July 2020

7.00 for 7.30pm on Zoom

Behind the scenes at the Virago Press
Lennie Goodings in conversation



“Since 1973, our mission has been to champion women’s voices and bring them to the widest possible readership.”

Part-memoir, part history and part thoughts on 40 years of feminist publishing *A Bite of an Apple* is a celebration of writing, publishing and reading. “Delicious” Margaret Atwood calls it. Lennie Goodings is Chair of Virago and editor of Sarah Waters, Margaret Atwood, Maya Angelou, Marilynne Robinson among others. Her book is about editing, idealistic publishing and the iconic press. She will talk about her life in conversation with Harriet Evans.

www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL/events

To obtain your ‘Zoom’ link please register below

eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/behind-the-scenes-at-the-virago-press-tickets-106304268930>