



LITTLE
WOMEN

the
broadway
musical

Nov. 19-21

LITTLE WOMEN

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broadway
musical

Book by
ALLAN KNEE

Music by
JASON HOWLAND

Lyrics by
MINDI DICKSTEIN

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

LITTLE WOMEN The Broadway Musical
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This is a story we're all somewhat familiar with, but our goal with this production will be to connect the journeys of these characters to the current state of the human condition. As we attempt to transition to a post-covid world, we are all seeking to re-establish a semblance of control. However, just like the March Family, we must learn to let go of things we cannot control, such as sickness, death, and even love. The only thing we have control over is whenever disaster strikes, or heartache ensues; we have the choice on how we choose to pick up the pieces and move forward. The process of bringing this show to life has been a thrilling ride! I'm excited to share this heartwarming adventure that this cast and crew have worked extremely hard to create.



Peace, Love, and Blessings
Sheldon Mba, MFA
Assistant Professor of Music Theatre and Dance

PROGRAM

ACT 1

Scene 1

Mrs. Kirk's NYC Boarding House – January 1865

An Operatic Tragedy..... JO, CLARISSA, BRAXTON,
RODRIGO

Better.....JO

*The March Attic, Concord, Mass. It is the day
before Christmas, 1863*

Our Finest DreamsJO, MEG, BETH, AMY

The March Parlor

Here Alone MARMEE

Scene 2

Aunt March's Stately House – January 1864

Could You.....AUNT MARCH, JO

Scene 3

The March Parlor – February 14, 1864

Delighted MARMEE, MEG, JO, BETH

Atrium in Annie Moffat's House

Take a Chance On Me..... LAURIE

Take a Chance On Me – Transition..... LAURIE

The March Parlor/The Attic

Better – Reprise..... JO

Scene 4

The March Parlor

Off to Massachusetts..... BETH, MR. LAURENCE

Five Forever..... JO, LAURIE, AY, MEG, BETH

Scene 5/6

The Sun Porch, outside the March House – Spring 1865

More Than I Am.....MR. BROOKE, MEG

Scene 7

The Attic – May, 1865

Take A Chance – Reprise..... LAURIE

Astonishing..... JO

ACT 2

Scene 1

The Parlor of Mrs. Kirk's Boarding House – June, 1865

The Weekly Volcano Press.....JO, BRAXTON
CLARISSA, RODRIGO, HAG, TROLL, KNIGHT,
MRS. KIRK, PROFESSOR BHAER, ENSEMBLE

Scene 2

The March Parlor – Summer 1865

Off to Massachusetts – Reprise MR. LAURENCE,
BETH, MARMEE, MEG, MR. BROOKE

The Attic/Mrs. Kirk's Boarding House

How I Am..... PROFESSOR BHAER

Scene 3

A Beach in Falmouth on Cape Cod – September, 1865

Some Things Are Meant To Be..... JO, BETH

Scene 4

The March Parlor – Winter, 1865

The Most Amazing Thing AMY, LAURIE

The Attic

Days of Plenty..... MARMEE

The Fire Within Me.....JO

Scene 5

Outside the March House – Spring, 1866

Small Umbrella In The Rain ..PROFESSOR BHAER, JO

Volcano – RepriseJO

CAST

Jo March	Rebecca Hale
Amy March	Gretchen Otter
Meg March	Abigail Hale
Beth March	Olena Withrow
Marmee March	Elizabeth Yeremin
Aunt March	Caitlyn Fox
Theodore 'Laurie' Laurence	Lorenz Looney
John Brooke	Zachary Garraway
Professor Bhaer	Clayton Reitz
Mr. Laurence	Joseph Fisher
Mrs. Kirk	Kay Lee Jo Reinke
Rodrigo	Nicholas Wetta
Clarissa	Sarah Pressnell
Rodrigo	Madyson Groves
Hag	Chenille Hawkins
Troll	Bethany Filer
Knight	Clark Chestnut
Braxton	Joshua Kelley
Ensemble	Gemma Watts, Kay Lee Jo Reinke, Kathleen Rutler, Vivian Titus, Jyavon Hill, Kelley McDonald, and Emily Kries

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1		Laura Black*
Violin 2		Tan Ngo
Viola		Lillian Green*
Cello		Ezekiel McGee
Bass		Makenna Williams
Flute, piccolo		Alison Parker
Clarinet, bass clarinet		Clay Butherus
Oboe, English horn		Cindy Thompson*
Horn		Leo Leopold
Trumpet		Brian Hoffman **
Trombone		Adin Gilmore
Percussion		Sydnee Smith, Matthew Treto
Keyboard		Vanessa Whalen**

*Friends Faculty & Staff

**Community Member

PRODUCTION

Stage Director & Choreographer | Sheldon Mba
Music Director & Chorus Master | Rolaine Hetherington
Scenic Design & Construction, Lighting Control | Kurt Priebe
Costumers | Emily Baldrige, Callan Bideau, Patty Parker
Technical Director | Robert Hett

Production Stage Manager | Bellaly Escalantes
Assistant Stage Manager | Emma Burnett, Brandon Rose
Running Crew | Emma Burnett, Brandon Rose, Michael Taylor
Rehearsal Accompanist | Vanessa Whalen
Followspot Operator | Michael Taylor, Faith Cox
Assistant Director | Mia Krebs
Assistant Choreographer/Dance Captain | Sarah Pressnell
Hair & Make Up | Emily Baldrige
Costume Shop | Maria Cordoba, Cory Bell, Jyavon Hill, Emily Kreis
Program/Poster Design, Publicity | Alyssa Whalen

THANKS

Dr. Matthew Schloneger
Dr. Rayvon Moore
Robyn Mabe
Alyssa Whalen

CAST BIOS

Rebecca Hale | Jo March



Rebecca is a senior Music Education major at Friends University, and is absolutely thrilled to be portraying Jo! Before coming to Friends in 2020, she was involved with choir and acapella at Butler Community College, and has been doing theatre since middle school. Some of her favorite roles she has played are Eponine in *Les Miserables* and Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*. She would

like to thank her professors and castmates for being nothing but encouraging and uplifting during this process, and her family and friends for always supporting her musical endeavors. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Gretchen Otter | Amy March



Gretchen Otter is a sophomore chasing her *Finest Dreams* here at Friends with a major in Musical Theatre. She is absolutely Delighted to be performing her fourth role here at school, two of which include "Kate Rushton" in *Working*, and "Gwendolyn Fairfax" in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She would like to thank everyone who supports her and pushes her to be Better. She thinks performing in this show is

just *The Most Amazing Thing*, and hopes you agree that it's Astonishing!

Abigail Hale | Meg March



Abigail is a senior at Friends, double majoring in musical theatre and vocal performance. She has participated in choirs and gained valuable experience in both opera and musical theatre, spending time at Wichita Grand Opera and Music Theatre of Wichita. Some of her favorite roles include Laurey Williams in *Oklahoma!* and Mae Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting*. She is excited to bring to life the role of Meg March, performing

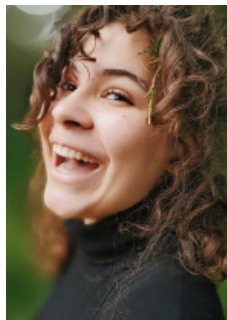
alongside her real life sister Rebecca! When she isn't singing, she enjoys reading, composing music, dancing ballet, and drinking copious amounts of coffee.

Olena Withrow | Beth March, Jo understudy



Olena Withrow is a senior from Chandler, Ok studying Religion and Philosophy. She's thankful for the opportunity to perform with friends.

Elizabeth Yeremin | Marmee March



Elizabeth Yeremin is in her 3rd year studying Art Education of Graphic Design. Although majoring in visual arts, Elizabeth loves the performing arts where she can use her voice and skills for people to enjoy. After college, she would love to teach at an inner city school where she hopes to share her gifts and passions to her students to be able to support and love them. With all

her performances, Elizabeth would like to dedicate them to God and hopes that the audience will enjoy!

Caitlyn Fox | Aunt March, Marmee understudy



Caitlyn Fox is a senior Musical Theatre student here at Friends and is thankful to Rolaine and Sheldon as well as the cast for bringing this show to life. Enjoy the show and come see her senior recital in the spring!

Lorenz Looney | Theodore 'Laurie' Laurence



Lorenz Looney is a junior and is majoring in Musical Theatre. He has participated in other shows like *Radium Girls*, *Working* and *Bright Star*. He is super excited to get this show started and hopes that you enjoy this show as much as he does!

Zachary Garraway | John Brooke



Hey everyone! I'm Zachary Garraway, a freshman at Friends University. I'm super excited to be playing the role of Mr. John Brooke for my first role in my college career. I hope you enjoy the show!

Clayton Reitz | Professor Bhaer



Clayton is a senior majoring in Music Theatre with plans to pursue a career in that field. He has been involved in the arts from a young age, starting with church plays and choirs, and then moving on to community theatre before joining Christian Youth Theatre Wichita (CYT) when

he was ten, where he performed throughout middle and high school. He is very happy to be playing Professor Bhaer in *Little Women* and is grateful to Professors Mba and Hetherington for their direction in this process.

Joseph Fisher | Mr. Laurence



Joseph Fisher is a senior at Friends University. He is involved in the Concert Band, Concert Jazz Band, and singing Quakers. He has been involved in theater all throughout college, with shows including *Watson, Fools, Bright Star, and Working*. He would like to

thank everyone who has been involved in this process and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

Kay Lee Jo Reinke | Mrs. Kirk, Ensemble



KJ Reinke is a freshman dual majoring in vocal performance and music theatre, and plans on opening her own private studio to teach lessons in the future. She has a profound love for dance, music, and theatre.

Nicholas Wetta | Rodrigo,



Laurie understudy
Nick ecstatic about performing in *Little Women*! He would like to share a poem of his experience with this show: Roses are red, rodrigo has a sword. I had fun. Thank you. Enjoy the show!



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

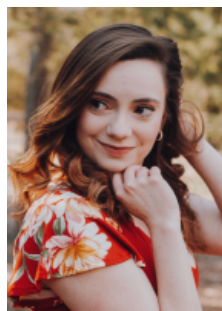
Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Sarah Pressnell | Clarissa, Meg understudy



Sarah is thrilled to be in her first musical production with Friends University! She is a transfer student from Butler Community College and is a Music Theatre major. Sarah loves the Fine Arts and has been doing musical theater since she was a sophomore in high school, where she was a part of Christian Youth Theater. She was in 7 different productions with CYT, with some of her favorites being *Beauty & The Beast, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *The Little Mermaid*. When not performing, she enjoys drinking

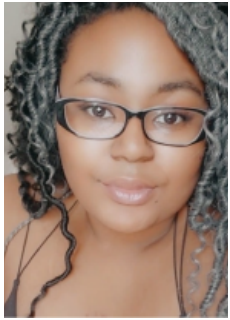
coffee, eating good food, curling up in a blanket with a book, or spending time with friends, family and her husband. Sarah feels incredibly blessed to be at Friends and is grateful for all that the Lord has provided for her this year.

Madyson Groves | Rodrigo II, Amy understudy



Madyson is a freshman studying Music Education here at Friends U. After performing as Robin in *Godspell* (2019), Cinderella in *Into The Woods* (2020), as well as designing costumes and working with stage management in high school, she is so excited to continue performing at Friends. She is so excited to be dancing again after such a long spell without the arts. Enjoy the show!

Chenille Hawkins | Hag



Chenille Hawkins is a senior at Friends University. She is majoring in vocal music education and vocal performance. She is a First Year Mentor At Friends University and is also a part of the Collegiate National Association for Music Educators, Kansas Choral Directors Association, and She is also the chapter president of Mu Phi Epsilon which is a professional music fraternity that

encourages the advancement of music throughout the world. After she graduates, she still intends to teach and conduct choirs while still continuing her dream of performing in, orchestras, music theater and opera productions

Gemma Watts | Ensemble



Hello everyone. I am a sophomore here at Friends University. I am an aspiring actress and singer. This is my first official musical that I have ever gotten cast in here at Friends. Rehearsals have been a lot of fun with my fellow cast members. I hope you enjoy the show, and hopefully like the stories us chorus members have to tell. Thank you for coming.

Kathleen Rutler | Ensemble



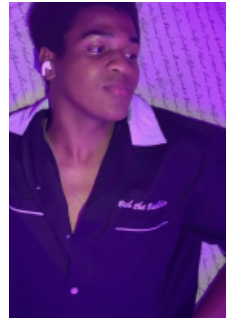
Kathleen Rutler is a second year transfer to Friends' Zoo Science program, which she plans on using to help boost a career in herpetology. Though she spends most of her free time either napping or playing video games, she also embraces her love of music given to her by her Creator. If you saw her squawking, flailing around, or falling backwards in her chair at dining hall, no you didn't.

Vivian Titus | Braxton, Aunt March understudy



Vivian Titus is a junior at Friends University studying Elementary Education and Christian Spiritual Formation. She loves music, reading, and spending time with friends and family. One of her favorite books is Little Women, so she is super excited to be a part of this musical!

Jyavon Hill | Ensemble

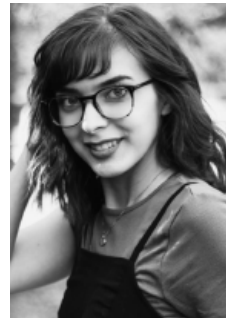


Jyavon Hill is a freshman majoring in musical theatre. This is his first production and he is excited to be apart of this masterpiece. He has no previous theatre training and is excited to continue this journey.

Kelley McDonald | Ensemble

Kelley Is a Freshman at Friends University Majoring in Zoo Science with the hope to work on conserving natural wildlife around the world. Theatre played a big part of her life during school. Doing different shows throughout *Highschool Miss Nelson is Missing*, *Mary Poppins*, *It's A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, *Women and War: A One Act War*, *Morning at 7*, *Suessical*, *A Moment in Time*, *Mirrors*, *FootLoose*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Almost Maine*, *Working*, doing cast, crew, and even directing a show. Everything has been done to get the full theatrical experience. She is excited to continue theatre through college.

Emma Burnett | Assistant Stage Manger



Emma Burnett is 21 years old in her junior year of college, here at Friends University pursuing degrees in Theatre Education and Elementary Education. Emma graduated from Butler Community College with an associate's degree in Technical Theatre and Secondary Education. At Butler, Emma performed in 5 theatrical productions under the close instruction of Bob

Peterson. Emma has experience as an actor, stagehand, makeup artist, assistant director and choreographer, and intern from several different theatre companies in the Wichita area over the last 7 years. She has a passion for theatre and for teaching. Her dream is to become a theatre teacher and director and one day own her own theatre company. She is also prepared to and would love to work as a 2nd-grade teacher, but she never wants to give up theatre, she's just open for what God puts in front of her! She's very excited to be assisting in Friends University's production of *Little Women*.

Bethany Filer | Troll , Beth Understudy

Clark Chestnut | Knight

Joshua Kelley | Braxton

THANKS FOR COMING!

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Christmas Candlelight

Central Community Church
Friday, Dec. 3 | 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 4 | 2 p.m.

Calamity Town (winter theatre)

Sebits Auditorium
Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Jan. 27-29 | 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 30 | 2 p.m.

Band Concert

Sebits Auditorium
Monday, Feb. 14 | 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Festival: Concert Jazz Band

Sebits Auditorium
Friday, Feb. 18 | 7:30 p.m.

Jazz Festival: Friends University Headliner Concert

Sebits Auditorium
Saturday, Feb. 19 | 7:30 p.m.

Old Maid and the Thief and Fables (spring opera)

Sebits Auditorium
Saturday, Feb. 26 | 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 27 | 2 p.m.

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