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# LITTLE WOMEN

the  
broadway  
musical



**8th Avenue Players**

**8th AVE**

**&**

**Scott MacAuley Performing Arts Centre**

PRESENTS

# **LITTLE WOMEN**

## **The Broadway Musical**

Book by  
**Allan Knee**

Music by  
**Jason Howland**

Lyrics by  
**Mindi Dickenstein**

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

with

Katelynn Clow  
Vanessa MacArthur  
Marc Arsenault  
Brennan Smith

Julia Cerisano  
Amber Phillips  
Isabella Butler  
Dominique Lapierre

Matthew Dunn  
Eric Cerisano  
Laura Lefebvre  
Sara Cousins

Director  
Mark Cerisano

Assistant Director/Choreographer  
Rebekah Brown

Musical Director  
Mark Cerisano

Lighting Designer  
Max Gallant

Costume Designer  
Marion Warren

Sound Designer  
Peter Gallant

*Little Women* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
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# SONGS

## ACT I

Overture	Orchestra
An Operatic Tragedy	Jo, Clarissa, Braxton, Rodrigo
Better	Jo
Our Finest Dreams	Jo, Meg, Beth, Amy
Here Alone	Marmee
Could You?	Aunt March, Jo
I'd Be Delighted	Marmee, Meg, Jo, Beth
Take A Chance On Me	Laurie
Off To Massachusetts	Beth, Mr. Laurence
Five Forever	Jo, Laurie, Amy, Meg, Beth
More Than I Am	Mr. Brooke, Meg
Astonishing	Jo

## Act II

Entr'acte	Orchestra
The Weekly Volcano Press	Ensemble
Off to Massachusetts - Reprise	Beth, Mr. Laurence
How I Am	Prof. Bhaer
Some Things Are Meant to Be	Jo, Beth
The Most Amazing Thing	Laurie, Amy
Days of Plenty	Marmee
The Fire Within Me	Jo
Small Umbrella in the Rain	Prof. Bhaer, Jo
Volcano - Reprise	Jo



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# CAST/ORCHESTRA

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## Cast

Jo March .....	Julia Cerisano
Margaret "Meg" March .....	Amber Phillips
Amy March .....	Dominique Lapierre
Beth March/Clarissa .....	Isabella Butler
Marmee .....	Katelynn Clow
Laurie/Rodrigo .....	Brennan Smith
John Brooke/Braxton .....	Eric Cerisano
Mr. Laurence/Knight .....	Marc Arsenault
Aunt March/Hag .....	Vanessa MacArthur
Prof. Bhaer .....	Matt Dunn
Mrs. Kirk/Troll .....	Laura Lefebvre
Rodriga (Clarissa's Sister) .....	Sara Cousins

## Orchestra

Flute, Piccolo, Alto Flute .....	Miriam Rhodes
Oboe/English Horn .....	Marc DesRoches
Clarinet/Bass Clarinet .....	Amy Simon
French Horn .....	Darin MacBeth
Trumpet/Cornet/Flugel Horn .....	Laura MacDonald
Trombone/Bass Trombone/Euphonium .....	Jacob Reddin
Piano .....	Tanya Bernard
Percussion .....	Collin Campbell
Violin .....	Madeline Kapp-MacDonald
Viola .....	Jeffrey Bazett-Jones
Cello .....	Mathieu Hughes
Bass .....	Christopher Martell

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# CREW

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## Crew Members

Stage Managers .....	Victoria Winchester Eliza Law
Set Design .....	Mark Cerisano Matthew Brown
Set Construction .....	Philip Brown Matthew Brown Nicholas Balla
Props .....	Victoria Winchester Eliza Law Cathy Lalonde
Costumes .....	Marion Warren Karen Pierce
Hair .....	Leslie Dunn Meghan Skerry Nikki Dunn
Back Stage .....	Brooke-Lyn Winchester Amani Taleb
Program .....	Laura Lefebvre Claire McNeill Mark Cerisano
Video Streaming .....	Liam Cerisano

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Some costumes are provided by Karen Pierce Costumes, Montreal.

Victorian wedding dress, ball gowns, and Mr. Brooke's military uniform hand made by Marion Warren.

The actors, musicians, and crew of 8th Ave Players come from all across this unceded land we now call Canada. We are grateful to perform today's production of Little Women on Epekwitk, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

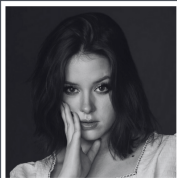
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# WHO'S WHO



## **MARK CERISANO** (*Director/Musical Director*)

Mark's first job as musical director was for South Pacific when he was 17 years old. Since then he has been involved as director or musical director in many productions including *West Island Story*, *The King and I*, *Les Mis*, *The Greatest Showman*, and *The Sound of Music*, as well as others. He also co-wrote an original musical called *1642: The Montreal Story*. ([1642themontrealstory.com](http://1642themontrealstory.com)) Mark is beyond ecstatic to be working again with his children Julia and Eric. "Great idea Julia and Rebekah!"



## **REBEKAH BROWN** (*Asst. Director/ Choreographer*)

Based in Charlottetown, PE, Rebekah Brown is thrilled to be a part of this up-and-coming production company. With credits such as *Anne and Gilbert*, *Heathers* and *The Outsiders*, along with many other shows and titles, she is excited to tread in new waters and try her hand at assistant directing and choreographing!



## **MARION WARREN** (*Costume Design*)

Marion learned to sew from her mom and made her first full outfit when she was 10. She has been creating costumes for a medieval reenactment group known as the SCA for 28 years. Her love of making and wearing historic costumes has been nurtured through SCA and the plays she's been part of. Recent productions that she has been costume designer/dresser for include *The Secret Garden*, *West Side Story*, and *Arcadia*.



## **PETER GALLANT** (*Sound Design*)

Peter is the Director of the Performing Arts Centre at the College of Piping. He retired as music director after 33 years at Summerside Intermediate School and Music Department Head for the Province of PEI. As well, Peter was tech director / audio engineer at the Indian River Festival (now Under The Spire) for 13 years and owned his own production company, Solo Audio Projects. He is delighted to be working with the 8th Avenue Players in the staging of *Little Women*.



## **MAX GALLANT** (*Lighting Design*)

Max Gallant is a musician and theatre technician born and raised in Summerside, PE. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance from Acadia University. Max has been active in the island jazz scene and currently teaches drum set at the College of Piping. Since 2022 he has been the in-house lighting technician at the Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Center.



## **ELIZA LAW** (*Co-Stage Manager*)

Eliza is excited to be a part of this production because of her love for Louisa May Alcott and her literary classic, *Little Women*. Eliza has been able to put her managing skills to the test after organizing a number of musical concerts for the hospital during the Christmas season, and taking part in musicals such as an original called *Mama's Quilt* and the beloved story of *Alice in Wonderland*.



## **VICTORIA WINCHESTER** (*Co-Stage Manager*)

Victoria is excited to be a co-stage manager with Eliza Law. Victoria has stage management experience from the productions of *Heathers* at Three Oaks Senior High School, where she was an actress and stage manager. She is excited to work with the cast and take on the roll of co-stage manager.

# WHO'S WHO



## **JULIA CERISANO** (*Jo March*)

Julia is excited to be playing the iconic character of Jo March alongside an amazing cast and orchestra. She has been involved in community theatre since her stage debut as young Cosette in a community theatre production of *Les Mis* in Montreal. Other production credits include as *Heathers*, *Fiddler on The Roof*, and *The Outsiders*. Enjoy the show!



## **AMBER PHILLIPS** (*Meg March*)

Amber has been performing for six years and has played many roles including Willy Wonka, Wendy (*Peter Pan*) and Alice (*Alice in Wonderland*). She is very excited to get back on stage and be performing as Meg with the amazing cast of *Little Women*. She hopes you enjoy the show!



## **ISABELLA BUTLER** (*Beth March/Clarissa*)

Isabella is delighted to be on stage as Beth/Clarissa in *Little Women*. At 16 years old she has been performing in community theatre since 2016. Roles include Belle (*Beauty and The Beast*), Fiona (*Shrek*), Witch (*Into The Woods*), and as herself in *The Tunes and Tales of PEI*. She is a student of musical theatre and has been studying many dance, vocals, and various instruments since childhood. Isabella is grateful for this exciting opportunity and thanks her family for supporting her as she follows her dreams.



## **DOMINIQUE LAPIERRE** (*Amy March*)

Dominique is thrilled to be returning to the stage as Amy March in this production of *Little Women*! Her previous stage experience includes both acting and directorial roles in various community theatre productions. Dominique also runs a children's community theatre class! In her free time she enjoys reading and listening to music. She is elated to take part in this performance with such an amazing cast and orchestra, and hopes that the audience finds happiness and comfort in this nostalgic classic!



## **KATELYNN KELLY** (*Marmee*)

Katelynn is excited to be taking the stage in 8th Avenue Players production of *Little Woman* as Marmee. She is so honoured to be working with such an amazing cast and outstanding musicians! Katelynn has been very involved in theatre for most of her teen and adult life, acting, volunteering and directing through Spotlight School of Arts. When she is not performing Katelynn enjoys painting and chasing after her 3 year old son.



## **VANESSA MACARTHUR** (*Aunt March/Hag*)

Vanessa is very excited to be making her theatrical debut as a member of 8th Ave Players production of *Little Women* in the role of Aunt March. Born and raised on the west end of PEI, she now resides in Freetown with her boyfriend, and their pets. She graduated Holland College in 2017 with a certificate in Cabinetmaking and since has been employed with Tops To Floors. In her free time she enjoys singing, reading, crafting, and spending time with friends.

# WHO'S WHO



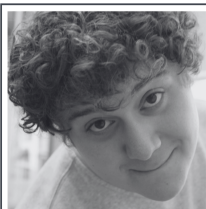
## **MATTHEW DUNN** (*Professor Bhaer*)

Matthew is a university student studying philosophy at UPEI, which makes him the perfect fit for his character, Professor Bhaer. He is relatively new to the performing scene, with some prior experience in school plays and short films, and this will be his first time performing in a musical. In his free time, Matt loves to read books, rock climb and play bass for his funk band.



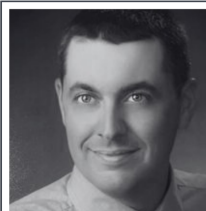
## **BRENNAN SMITH** (*Laurie/Rodrigo*)

Brennan Smith is a young musician and actor from PEI. Ever since he was young, he has loved performing in shows, and feels very refreshed to be back after a long break. He is very excited to be performing again, and hopes that we can bring the joy of theatre back into the hearts of people, no matter where they are.



## **ERIC CERISANO** (*John Brooke/Braxton*)

Eric has been involved in theatre since he was 8 years old when he played the lead of Jim Hawkins in *Treasure Island*. Since then he has played Marius (*Les Mis*), P.T. Barnum (*The Greatest Show on Earth*). Eric is currently studying Film at Toronto Film School.



## **MARC ARSENAULT** (*Mr. Lawrence/Knight*)

Marc is very excited to join 8th Ave players in the production of *Little Women* with an amazing cast of performers. Between 2017 and 2018 he has been involved in four different productions. Marc has discovered his interest in theatre during Jr high and realized he enjoys being on stage performing.



## **LAURA LEFEBVRE** (*Mrs. Kirk/Troll*)

Laura is thrilled to be joining 8th Ave Players for this performance of *Little Women*. In the past, she has been involved in productions of *West Side Story*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Oliver!* and *Twinderella the Musical*, and has been a violinist in several bands and orchestras across Canada. She has so enjoyed working with the incredibly talented cast, crew, and orchestra for *Little Women*, and is excited for you to enjoy the show.



## **SARA COUSINS** (*Rodrigo*)

Sara is so excited to be joining the cast of *Little Women*. In the past she has been a part of a number of productions including: *The Music Man*, *The Wiz*, *Oliver*, and *Tom Sawyer*. In her spare time, she enjoys sewing and reading. She hopes that you enjoy the show!



# WHO'S WHO



## **MIRIAM RHODES** (*Flute/Alto Flute/Piccolo*)

Miriam Rhodes (BMus) plays flute and piccolo in the PEI Symphony and the PEI Regiment Band. Highlights of her career include recording in Nashville with producer Gilles Godard, which garnered national airplay. Miriam has opened for John Allan Cameron, Smiley Bates, and The Rankin Family. She has performed solo during the 1995 Canada Winter Games. She recently recorded and produced her own CD *Midnight Gypsy*, a collection of 12 songs including 5 originals.



## **MARC DESROCHES** (*Oboe/English Horn*)

Marc DesRoches (he/him) is an oboist and music educator from Miscouche, PE. He holds Bachelor degrees from UPEI and MUN in oboe and music education. As a former Oboe Teaching Artist with Sistema NB, Marc has played in the pit of the Capiol Theatre as part of the Tutta Musica Orchestra. Marc currently lives in Summerside, PE and teaches music privately in his home town of Miscouche.



## **AMY SIMON** (*Clarinet/Bass Clarinet*)

Amy Simon is Instructor of Clarinet at UPEI. As an orchestral clarinetist, she toured throughout Europe and North America for several years, performing in renowned theatres and opera houses. She performs regularly with the PEI Symphony Orchestra and acted as producer for the 2022 CD release of *Solitary Clarinet* by Karem J. Simon.



## **DARIN MACBETH** (*French Horn*)

Darin MacBeth hails from and currently resides in Prince Edward Island. He is the father of Sofia and Gracie and co-owner of MacBeth Bros. Roofing Inc. As a childhood dancer/ singer, he performed in *Anne of Green Gables* and played several lead roles in musical theatre. He studied Music at Acadia University and was a member of the Ceremonial Guard Band. He has competed in the National Music Festival and has been a French horn soloist for many ensembles including the PEISO. Darin genuinely feels privileged to perform, every single time.



## **LAURA MACLEOD** (*Trumpet/Cornet/Flugel Horn*)

Laura MacLeod completed her BMus at UPEI studying under Dr. G. Irvine. During her studies, Laura performed as principal trumpet with the National Youth Band of Canada in Montreal, QC. After graduation, she attended Le Domaine Forget in Charlevoix, QC. She has been performing with the PEI Symphony since 2009 where she now performs as principal trumpet. She is also a member of the UPEI Wind Symphony where she was the featured soloist in 2015, the PEI Regiment Band, and the Great George Street Brass Band.



## **JACOB REDDIN** (*Trombone/Bass Trombone/Euphonium*)

Jacob Reddin is a practiced trombonist and arranger with experience in various genres of music. With a heavy background in jazz, they're an active member of the Charlottetown Jazz Ensemble, has played with various popular music groups on the island, and is a founding member and band leader of the Striped Shirt Funk Quartet. Along with his experience in jazz and popular music, Jacob is also an active solo performer and ensemble player in the classical world, acting as principal trombone with the UPEI Wind Symphony.

# WHO'S WHO



## **TANYA BERNARD** (*Piano*)

Tanya Bernard has been around music almost her whole life. She started playing piano at age 8 and hasn't stopped since! She's been the accompanist/keyboardist for many groups, including Eilean (a choir formed out of the College of Piping when they first opened), the Summerside Community Choir, Coro Dolce, Marcella Richard, and other local artists, including being a musical director for Fandango Musical Players, in which they did such productions as *A Christmas Carol*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Enjoy the show!



## **COLIN CAMPBELL** (*Percussion*)

Colin Campbell is a 2nd year UPEI student studying music. He is well versed in all percussion instruments ranging from the marimba to drums. This is his first debut in a professional setting outside of school bands.



## **MADELINE KAPP MACDONALD** (*Violin*)

Madeline Kapp MacDonald is a collaborative violinist and consummate freelancer, most at home when supporting singers and leading an ensemble of peers. Born in New York to a family of professional musicians, she began playing at age 4 and earned her degree in violin performance from the University of Toronto (B.Mus 2010).



## **JEFFREY BAZETT-JONES** (*Viola*)

Jeffrey Bazett-Jones is a freelance violist and violinist living in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. A member of the Atlantic String Machine and the PEI Symphony, Jeffrey is grateful to pursue his love of music on this beautiful island.



## **MATTHIEU HUGHES** (*Cello*)

Matthieu Hughes is a cellist based in Charlottetown, PE. He has been playing professionally for over 10 years, and has played in various ensembles across two continents. He currently plays with the PEI Symphony Orchestra and as principal cellist of the UPEI String Orchestra.



## **CHRISTOPHER MARTELL** (*Double Bass*)

Christopher Martell is well recognized in the PEI community as one of the preeminent jazz bassists on the island. He has had a long career of playing professionally on cruise ships as bassist and musical director and continues to be heard at many professional concerts on PEI. You can often hear him playing or even being featured in the professional jazz session at Baba's Lounge on Thursday evenings.



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### Words of Encouragement and Appreciation

“Matt, Can’t wait to see you shine on the big stage. I’m so very proud of you. Break a leg!” - Love Mom

“Julia and Eric! We couldn’t be more proud. We love you!” - Love Mom and Dad

“Best of Luck to the Players !” - Your Friends at Sunnybrook Farms Pet Supply”

Many thanks to all the people and companies who chipped in and supported us with ads, money, donations of items, etc, including:

Kristen Dunsford and the City of Summerside  
Visual Printing  
Bayside Builders  
Minerva at the Summerside Rotary Library  
Sister Joan and the Margerite Bourgeois Centre  
Jean-Louis Arsenaunt  
Peter and Max Gallant and the College of Piping  
Dale Sorensen the head of music at UPEI  
Laura Ono at the PEI Symphony Orchestra  
Dave Skinner at Long and McQuade Music  
Claire Smith and Sara McCarthy from TOSH

Karen Pierce  
Sara Jane Bee  
Mark Jackson  
Sherri Gaudet-Arsenaunt  
Francie Dunn-MacDougall  
Tashia-Thain Macleod  
Donna Vesey

A special word of thank you and appreciation to my lovely wife who supported us 100% in all that had to be done to put this on. It means the world to us. We love you!

### The Story of the 8th Avenue Players

When the idea started to put on a musical in Summerside, the search began for a name for our newly formed group. The Red Sand Players, The Island Players, a lot of names were thrown about.

Then, while browsing Google Maps, we saw that 8th Avenue was one street north of Broadway, and we realized, Summerside is also north of Broadway. And so the name 8th Avenue Players was registered as a non-profit.

The concept was simple; bring as much of New York Broadway to Summerside as possible. To that end we began to plan and try to have all the following so that our audience, you, might imagine in some small way, that they were on an adventure to a far away place, a place that is steeped in the tradition of great performances, music, and story-telling.

- Professional musicians
- Licensed and legal production rights
- Professionally produced and designed Play Bill program (The same company that prints the programs for Broadway) professionally printed by Summerside’s own Visual Printing.
- Custom costumes (Check out the Victorian wedding dress hand made by our own Marion Warren!)
- Impressive sets
- Professional quality actors and singers, as well as other touches too numerous to mention.

If we have in any way brought a little of NYC to you, please drop us a line at [contact@8thAvePlayers.com](mailto:contact@8thAvePlayers.com)

*A Message from the Director*

What do I and others love about musical theatre? I've asked myself that a lot lately.

One thing I have learnt is that when I live in the present, I feel happier, more joyful, and grateful. Maybe it's the same thing with theatre, or movies, or any great entertainment. When it's good, you are only thinking about the present, not where else you could be or what you have to do tomorrow or what happened at work or school today.

Watching these fantastic actors and musicians perform in rehearsal, I can tell you that there were many, many times when I was transported and thoroughly engaged in the present.

My hope for you all tonight is that you too will forget the past and the future that worries you, and that you think only about the lives of these four young girls and their family and friends; who they are, what they are thinking, and what they are feeling, so that for these few hours, you may live in the present with these *Little Women*.

- Mark Cerisano, Director



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