

The Barn Players Present

LITTLE WOMEN

The Broadway Musical

Book by
ALLAN KNEE

Music by
JASON HOWLAND

Lyrics by
MINDI DICKSTEIN

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

August 11-20, 2023

The Black Box Theatre at The Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, Overland Park, KS

Featuring:

Directed by **CARA HAMPTON**

Musical Direction by **BETSY JANE BLEDSOE**

Stage Manager
Alisha Morris

Choreographer
Rob Reeder

Properties Designer
Barb Nichols

Costume Designer
Patricia Berning

Spotlight Operator
Talise Myers

Technical Director
Bill Wright

Lighting Designer
Tinna Rivera

Sound Designer
Sean Leistico

Assistant Stage Managers
Leo Steger and Ash Bennett

Running Crew
Zach Connett, Karley Brooks, Quinn Hubbard, Eva Chellin, Haley McKeehan

Special Thanks to JCCC Theatre Department,
Olathe West High School Theatre Department, Katheryn Graham,
Theatre Lawrence, Chip Buckner, Eric Palmquist, The Culture House,
Jonathan Antle, Anne Haines

Little Women

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Little Women

Act I

Overture.....	Orchestra
An Operatic Tragedy.....	Jo, Clarissa, Braxton, Rodrigo
Better.....	Jo
Our Finest Dreams.....	Jo, Beth, Amy, and Meg
Here Alone.....	Marmee
Could You?.....	Aunt March and Jo
Delighted.....	Marmee, Meg, Beth, and Jo
Take a Chance on Me.....	Laurie
Better (Reprise).....	Jo
Off to Massachusetts.....	Beth and Mr. Laurence
Five Forever.....	Jo, Beth, Meg, Amy, and Laurie
More Than I Am.....	Mr. Brooke and Meg
Take A Chance on Me (Reprise).....	Laurie
Astonishing.....	Jo

THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Act II

The Weekly Volcano Press.....	Jo, Professor Bhaer, Mrs. Kirk, Clarissa, Braxton, Rodrigo, Hag, Troll, Knight, Rodrigo II
Off To Massachusetts (Reprise).....	Mr. Laurence, Beth, Jo, Marmee, Meg, Mr. Brooke
How I Am.....	Professor Bhaer
Some Things Are Meant to Be.....	Beth and Jo
The Most Amazing Thing.....	Amy and Laurie
Days of Plenty.....	Marmee
The Fire Within Me.....	Jo
Small Umbrella in the Rain.....	Jo and Professor Bhaer
Volcano (Reprise).....	Jo



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ARTS

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Is**

WRITTEN BY
ALESHA HARRIS
DIRECTED BY
LYNN KING

THE AMEN CORNER

WRITTEN BY **JAMES BALDWIN**

DIRECTED BY
**MELONNIE
WALKER**



THE SESSION

WRITTEN BY **HARVEY WILLIAMS**



DIRECTED BY **LEWIS MORROW**

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?



WRITTEN BY **EDWARD ALBEE**
DIRECTED BY **ILE HAGGINS**

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kcmeltingpot.com

kc_{mpt}

*To leap or not to leap,
that is the question.*



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leap boldly since 2018.

SPRINGBOARD
CREATIVE

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CAST

JO MARCH.....	Miranda Brand
MEG MARCH.....	Larissa Briley
BETH MARCH.....	Abbey Downs
AMY MARCH.....	Mia Cabrera
MARMEE.....	Ginger Birch
AUNT MARCH/MRS. KIRK.....	Kathleen Marx
PROFESSOR BHAER.....	Zak Smith
JOHN BROOKE.....	Carson Tate
LAURIE.....	Henry Morgan
MR. LAURENCE.....	Stan Cole

ORCHESTRA

Betsy Jane Bledsoe, Conductor
Jerilyn J. Main, Flute
Amy Schwartz, Oboe
Robin Bledsoe, Clarinet
Michael Farmer, Horn
Scott Stevens, Trumpet
Jimmy Bloomquist, Trombone
John Gilmore, Percussion
Kim Ico, Violin 1
Emily Gooden, Violin 2
Kieren Ojakangas, Cello
Sandra Meo, Piano

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The Barn Players – Little Women - 7

THE CAST



Ginger Birch (Marmee) is debuting with The Barn Players in one of her favorite stories - she's seen every movie and adaptation! Her recent roles were Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* and Mama Murphy in *Bright Star* with Summit Theatre Group. Ginger holds a masters in Vocal Performance and Conducting and teaches over 25 students at her home voice studio, Studio Chyree. She teaches and directs musical theatre performance camps & classes with STG Studio and enjoys directing/music directing in area community theatres. This summer she produced *Beauty & the Beast Jr*, *Mean Girls Jr*, and *9 to 5 the Musical!*



Miranda Brand (Jo March) Grateful is an understatement for what Miranda feels to have been a part of this production. Jo & *Little Women* hold a very special place in her heart; it is a true honor to get to portray her for the second time. You may have seen Miranda last in *Little Women* at Theatre Atchison as Jo, or as the Director for *Beauty & the Beast* at Leawood Stage Company. Her performance is dedicated to her sister, with whom she shares a bond

akin to the March Sisters. " I like adventures, and I'm going to find some." - Jo March

THE CAST



Larissa Briley (Meg March) is delighted to be back on stage with The Barn Players! She is extremely grateful for this opportunity to return to *Little Women*. Past credits include *The Odd Couple* (The White Theatre), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (The Barn Players) and *Violet* (OCTA). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support.



Mia Cabrera (Amy March) is so excited to share this production of *Little Women*! Mia has performed in numerous productions in the KC Metro area. Her favorites being: Wednesday in *The Addams Family* (The J), Percy Jackson in *The Lightning Thief* (BVSW), and Matilda in *Matilda* (TTIP). Mia is also apart of KCAC's Soundproof and Stage Right's Vocalocity! Follow Mia @miacabreradavila on Instagram. Enjoy the show!!

THE CAST



Stan Cole (Mr. Lawrence) is excited to return to the Barn stage for the third time! You will usually find him teaching at Blue Springs South where he leads the JROTC program or in Parkville as the owner of Roosters Men's Grooming Center. Stan is a KC native, retired Air Force colonel, and proud US Air Force Academy grad. Favorite credits include Dan Goodman in *Next to Normal*, Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* (STG), Harry in *Company*, and Man 1 in *Putting it Together* (Barn Players). Thanks to family and friends for always being awesome!



Abbey Downs (Beth March) is delighted to join the cast of *Little Women* for her 4th production with The Barn Players. Rehearsing with this amazing group of people has been a true joy and she is excited to get to share this beautiful story with you! Past Barn shows include *Songs for a New World*, *Mamma Mia*, and *Urinetown*. More recently she has appeared in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (TTIP), *Golden Age of Broadway* (STG), and *The Curious Savage* (OCTA).

THE CAST



Kathleen Marx (Aunt March/Mrs. Kirk) loves a good book, and so couldn't be more pleased that you came to see this wonderful musical adaptation of a literary classic! Her favorite role is Nana, but favorite stage roles include the Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (OCTA), Patricia Fodor in *Crazy for You* (TTIP), Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense* (Leawood Stage Company), Grandma in *The Addams Family* (MLP), and Carol Strong in *Catch Me if*

You Can (Barn Players). You may also have seen Kathleen in productions at Black Repertory Theatre, the White Theatre, and The Culture House. Love to the family!



Henry Morgan (Laurie). Henry is incredibly excited to be portraying Laurie in this production of *Little Women*! Henry is currently pursuing a degree in theatre at Kansas City Kansas Community College. Recent productions Henry has been a part of include *Waiting for Godot* (Vladimir), *Mauritius* (Dennis), and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Duke), all performed at KCKCC. He also recently participated in the Irene Ryan

scholarship competition and placed third overall in his region! Henry would like to thank his friends and family, this fantastic cast, his wonderful directors Cara, Betsy, Rob, and his fantastic stage manager Alisha. Enjoy the show!

THE CAST



Zak Smith (Professor Bhaer) Zak is making his Barn Players debut with *Little Women*. Zak studied Music Theatre and Dance at Wichita State University. Favorite roles include Eric in *The Little Mermaid* and Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* (09) at TTIP, Charlemagne in *Pippin* and Mike in *White Christmas* at MTKC PRO, *Forever Plaid* and *Men on Broadway* at the Chestnut. For any directors reading this, dream roles include Will Rogers, Leo Bloom, Bert, Pierrepont Finch, Georg Nowack and Freddy Benson. Thanks to Abbey for introducing this musical to me and encouraging me to audition and to Cara, Betsy and Rob for the opportunity! Genießen!!



Carson Tate (John Brooke) is thrilled to be returning for his fourth show at The Barn Players! He has been in several shows around the Kansas City area and is always excited to meet new people. Previous acting credits include *Something Rotten* (Nick Bottom) and *Curtains* (Aaron Fox) with TTIP, *Carousel* (Ensemble) with Musical Theatre Heritage, and *The Spongebob musical* (Cover) with The Coterie. Carson would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support and encouragement.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Alisha Morris (Stage Manager) Alisha is a dark chocolate lover, spreadsheet nerd, and Theatre Educator. She is beginning her 11th year of teaching high school theatre. She currently teaches at Olathe West HS and has been there since the school opened in 2017. Her last SM gig was *Newsies* at Theatre in the Park in 2021 and she is super thankful to be doing a show indoors this year. Many thanks to Willie, the friends, the fam, and all her OWTheatre kids. Come see Olathe West's production of *The Prom* Nov. 16-18! www.owtheatre.com

Barbara Nichols (Props) Barbara serves on the Barn Board and is thrilled to be on the *Little Women* team. She has directed many Barn productions including *Once*, *Secret Garden*, *Urinetown*. Thank you for supporting live theatre!

Betsy Jane Bledsoe (Music Director) Betsy Jane Bledsoe studied music at Mizzou and Michigan State. Cara and Betsy have been dreaming about teaming up to do a show together for a long time. How exciting that the dream has finally become reality! Betsy has been seen on stage with the Barn Players in *Once* and *Avenue Q*. She is a soprano in Vox Nova, a vocal chamber group from Columbia, MO. Betsy likes: long runs, pickles, Critical Role, her dog Sully, her bari sax and reading lots of books. Betsy dislikes: long runs, KU, hot weather, and snakes. Your secrets are safe with my indifference.

Cara Hampton (Director) This is Cara's first time directing for The Barn, having previously acted for the company in *Once* (2021) and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2015). She has worked as an actor, director, and theatre educator throughout the KC area since moving back here in 2011. She has a fondness for this story, having grown up with sisters and now having five children of her own. She played Jo in the 2014 production at OCTA, and is grateful to be able to cast her vision for this special show today with such a talented cast and crew.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Patricia Berning (Costume Designer) Patricia is happy to be working on her second Barn show! *Little Women* is such a classic story and costuming for that time period and is both challenging and interesting. Previously Patricia did costumes for the Barn's production of *A Grand Night for Singing* along with numerous shows at Theatre in the Park and The White Theatre at the J. She hopes you enjoy this trip back in time!

Rob Reeder (Choreographer) has choreographed a number of productions at the Barn including *Titanic* (2020), *La Cage Aux Folles* (2014), *Chess* (2013), *Curtains* (2012), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (2010) and *Secret Garden* (2009).

Sean Leistico (Sound Designer) has been working with the Barn Players since 2004 as an actor, technician, designer for lights and sound and scenery, voice of The Barn, and as Operations Manager. He also works in the Theatre Department at Johnson County Community College as Scene Shop foreman, Sound Designer and design mentor, and occasionally gets onstage when the opportunity presents itself. Special thanks to everyone who supports him in his theatrical endeavors. Hi, Mom. Hi, Nora ☆ ☆💕☆☆ . Thank you, and enjoy the show!

Tinna Rivera (Lighting Designer) Tinna recently received her B.F.A. in Technical Theatre from Avila University. She is a stage manager, lighting designer, painter, and photographer when something important happens in her family. Tinna would like to thank her little brother for being her longest friend and favorite board op to work with.

ORCHESTRA

Robin Bledsoe (Clarinet) Robin is happy join everyone in this delightful production. She enjoys playing clarinet with The Spirit of Independence Concert Band (26 years), but this opportunity is a special treat. Thanks to all of the talented musicians and director, Betsy.

Jimmy Bloomquist (Trombone) Jimmy is a trombonist and guitarist living and working in Lawrence with his wife and 5-year-old son. He is a graduate of the University of South Dakota and performs regularly for area musical productions and with a handful of local country and folk acts.

Michael Farmer (French Horn) Born in Ft. Worth, Texas. Bachelor of Music from TCU; Master of Music Education from University of North Texas. Taught Band and Choir in Texas for 32 years; taught Band and Choir in Oklahoma for 5 years; currently teaching Choir in St. Joseph, Missouri (3 years). Directed several Methodist Church Choirs in Texas for 14 years. Primary instruments are trumpet and French horn. Married to beautiful wife Kari Lynne, living in Smithville, MO; plays French horn in the Spirit of Independence Community Band. Very excited to get to be a part of this performance of Little Women!

John Gilmore (Percussion) John is a veteran of many musicals, playing drums and percussion for a few previous Barn Players shows, including *First Date*, *High Fidelity*, and *Grey Gardens*. A proud husband to Erin and father to Evelyn and Ezra, he loves being able to contribute to live theater when the opportunity presents itself.

Emily Gooden (Second Violin) Emily has been playing violin for over 20 years, studying privately from a young age through graduate school at the University of Notre Dame. While she pursued a career in business professionally she enjoys being able to share her love for music with her fellow artists and community in her spare time.

Kim Ico (Violin 1) Kim is delighted to be part of this production! He has been contributing his violin talents to the KC theater scene for the last 10 years. An engineer by day, making music and collaborating with other musicians are some of his favorite hobbies. He also enjoys crocheting, cooking, and spending time with his dogs and fiancé. Thank you for coming out to support local theater; this show will be simply astonishing!

Jerilyn J Main (Flute / Piccolo) Jerilyn is a CPA and operates her own business, but her first degree was in music from UMKC Conservatory. She has and is performing with numerous groups including but not limited to Overland Park Concert Band, Shawnee Civic Band, Church of the Resurrection Orchestra, First City Flue Choir (Alto Flute and Bass Flute) and Quintessentials (a woodwind quintet). She has performed in musicals with the Leawood Stage Company, Theatre in the Park, First Act of Kansas City and Farris Theatre in Richmond, MO. She is excited to be part of the Barn Players production of *Little Women*.

Sandra Meo (Accompanist) Sandra hails from St. Louis, but after living in Kansas City for over 25 years and graduating from Mid America Nazarene University with a music degree, considers herself a Kansas Citian! This is her first show with the Barn Players and has enjoyed the experience immensely. She performed as Accompanist for OCTA and Theater in the Park in *Man of No Importance* and *Zombie Prom*, respectively. When not accompanying, she runs a 35 student piano studio. She lives in West Shawnee with her 10 year old daughter and her dog, Percy.

Kieran Ojakangas (Cello) Software engineer by day, musician by night. Working with other bright stars of talent in community theater here and there, the experiences never cease to make him smile. He's ready to have a heck of a time and a slamming show here!

Scott Stevens (Trumpet) Scott is part owner/manager of Bike Stop in Martin City. He retired from the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2018 as a member of the 43rd Army National Guard Band based in Lincoln, NE. He served a total of 23 years. He is currently a member of the Kansas City Wind Symphony and enjoys being part of the pit orchestras for local community theater performances.

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DIRECTED BY **Kipp Simmons**
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **Delano Mendoza**

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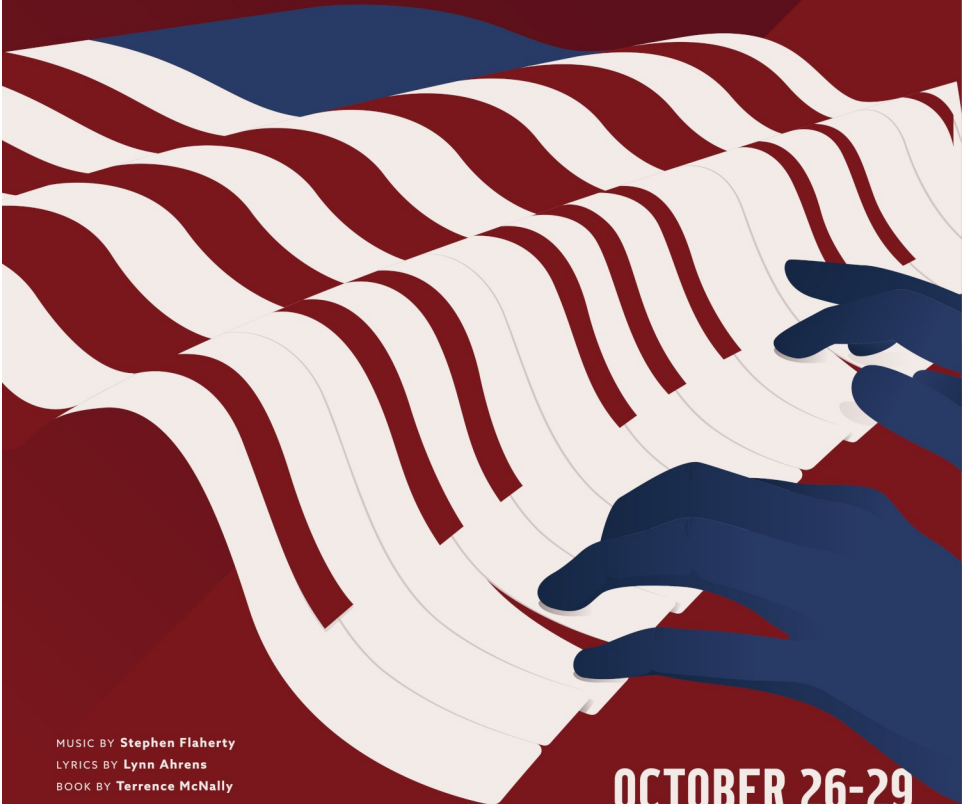
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SENIORS (65+) - \$18
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IN CONCERT



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LYRICS BY **Lynn Ahrens**
BOOK BY **Terrence McNally**
BASED ON THE NOVEL "RAGTIME" BY E. L. DOCTOROW
DIRECTED BY **Damron Armstrong**
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **Delano Mendoza**

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ALL SEATS \$15

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