

Marblehead Little Theatre  
presents



# 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



**February 21 - March 2 2025**

Produced by Andrew Barnett,  
Elaine Leahy & Anthony Lombardi

Directed by Alexandra Dietrich

Music Directed by Lianne Bunting

**Tickets at [MLTLive.org](http://MLTLive.org)**



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

**"I like good strong words that mean something" replied Jo.**

Why do we love Jo March?

Why do we retell this story in many movies, translate it into more than 50 languages, and now, 20 years after its Broadway debut, set the seemingly every day adventures of the March Sisters to music?

Because of those good, strong words that describe our Jo:

Bold.

Brave.

Brash.

Beloved.

As a young girl, I was more of a Beth - devastatingly quiet, watching life from the piano, and head over heels in adoration for my two older sisters and our own personal Marmee, Annette.

But Jo - her fire and heart - they lit a future of possibility. They told every young cricket on the hearth that they had the ability to change the world. You could be vulnerable, make mistakes, love unconditionally, and let your imagination run wild while creating. You could buck binary gender expectations. You could make a family - biological or chosen - into a bond that even death cannot break. You could be you.

Perfectly imperfect you.

And there would be enough love in the world for you when you stepped into that honor and accepted the mantle that Jo passed on for Your Turn.

Then, this novel, by the luminary Louisa May Alcott, created a whole new genre of books for youths, specifically young women who were discovering what else life can hold. She drew from herself, her own family, her time serving in the Civil War, and the Alcott's home Orchard House to bring the public in through that little front door under the gable in Concord, MA that started it all. In our homage, we have attempted to capture elements from Orchard House: paintings on the walls by the youngest sister, the melodeon of sweet Beth, and owls that Louisa adored and collected.

Now, more than ever, do we need to remind ourselves that women indeed have always done and will continue to do astonishing deeds. Who knows which next Jo March will be sitting in this audience realizing that she will cure cancer, become President, and change the world through empathy, bravery, and love.

With eternal gratitude to Louisa for opening that door for us all,  
-Alexandra Dietrich, Stage Director

# LITTLE WOMEN

## The Broadway Musical

Book by                      Music by                      Lyrics by  
Allan Knee      Jason Howland      Mindi Dickstein

**Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott**

### **LITTLE WOMEN**

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

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[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

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### **A Very Grateful Thank You to Our Sponsors**

Your support is vital to the success of this production and to our continued ability to bring to life quality live theatre in Marblehead

Bluestone Capital - *Performance Sponsor for Saturday, February 22*

Elaine Leahy - *Performance Sponsor for Sunday, March 2*

### **Character Sponsors**

Jo March - Aaron Swiniuch, Tom Leone

Meg March - Dr. Malinda Haslett

Beth March - Doug Hill

Amy March - Dr. Lisa Graham, A Donor Valentine

Aunt March - Kenneth Griffith, A Donor Valentine

Marmee March - A Donor Valentine

Theodore Laurence III aka Laurie - Doug Hill

Mr. John Brooke - A Donor Valentine

Professor Fritz Bhaer - Steve and Emily Black

Mr. James Laurence - Elaine Leahy

Additional Donations: Camille McKenna, Lauren Schultes

# CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jo March .....	Samantha Leone
Meg March & Clarissa.....	Olivia Christopher
Beth March & Rodrigo 2.....	Bridget Saunders
Amy March & Troll .....	Sophie Mintsiveris
Marmee March & Hag.....	Kaitlin Eggers
Aunt March & Mrs. Kirk .....	Victoria Weinstein
Theodore “Laurie” Laurence & Rodrigo.....	Kyle Doherty
Mr. Laurence & Knight .....	Doug Hill
Mr. John Brooks & Braxton .....	David Picariello
Andrew Hankinson.....	Professor Bhaer

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Produced by .....	Andrew Barnett, Elaine Leahy, Anthony Lombardi
Executive Producer .....	Chris King
Directed by .....	Alexandra Dietrich
Music Directed by .....	Lianne Bunting
Choreographed by.....	Alexandra Dietrich
Stage Manager .....	Katie Meuse
Set Design .....	Andrew Barnett
Light Design .....	Maddie Dustin
Costume Design.....	Kate Doucette
Sound Design/Operator .....	Jeremy Kovac
Technical Director.....	Andrew Barnett
Fight Choreography by.....	Alexandra Dietrich
Intimacy Direction by .....	Alexandra Dietrich
Speciality Painter .....	Alicia Cohen
Props/Set Dressing.....	Alexandra Dietrich
Wig Stylist .....	Kaitlin Eggers
Photographer .....	Benjamin Rose
Set Construction & Painting .....	Lou Schoenthal, Jill Kaplan,
.....	Chuck Kaplan, Andrew Barnett

## MUSICIANS

Keyboard/Conductor.....	Lianne Bunting
Percussion.....	Chris Faria
Reeds .....	Mikayla White
Trumpet.....	Tim Deik (Mark Napierkowski 2/22 @ 1:30)
Violin .....	Sarah Bowen (Caroline Drozdiak 3/2)
Cello.....	Zachary Larson (Dave Cabral 3/2)

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## Act One

An Operatic Tragedy ..... Jo, Carrissa, Braxton, Rodrigo  
Better ..... Jo  
Our Finest Dreams..... Jo, Meg, Beth, Amy  
Here Alone..... Marmee  
Could You ..... Aunt March, Jo  
Delighted ..... Marmee, Meg, Jo, Beth  
Take A Chance On Me ..... Laurie  
Better - Reprise..... Jo  
Off To Massachusetts ..... Beth, Mr. Laurence  
Five Forever..... Jo, Laurie, Amy. Meg. Beth  
More Than I Am..... Mr. Brooke, Meg  
Take A Chance - Reprose ..... Laurie  
Astonishing ..... Jo

## Act Two

The Weekly Volcano Press ..... Jo, Braxton, Clarissa, Rodrigo, Hag,  
..... Troll, Knight, Rodrigo 2, Mrs. Kirk,  
..... Professor Bhaer  
Off To Massachusetts - Reprise..... Mr Laurence, Beth, Marmee,  
..... Meg, Mr. Brooke  
How I Am..... Professor Bhaer  
Some things Are Meant To Be ..... Jo, Beth  
The Most Amazing Thing..... Amy, Laurie  
Days Of Plenty ..... Marmee  
The Fire Within Me ..... Jo  
Small Umbrella In The Rain..... Professor Bhaer, Jo  
Volcano - Reprise..... Jo

# LITTLE WOMEN

## The Broadway Musical

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott



**Samantha Leone**  
JO MARCH



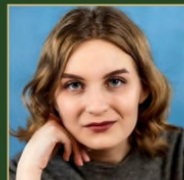
**Kaitlin Eggers**  
MARMEE MARCH



**Olivia Christopher**  
MEG MARCH



**Bridget Saunders**  
BETH MARCH



**Sophie Mintsiveris**  
AMY MARCH



**Victoria Weinstein**  
AUNT MARCH



**Kyle Doherty**  
THEODORE "LAURIE"  
LAURENCE



**David Picariello**  
MR. JOHN BROOKE



**Douglas Hill**  
MR. LAURENCE



**Andrew Hankinson**  
PROFESSOR BHAER

## CAST BIOS

**Olivia Christopher (Meg March & Clarissa)** is a New Hampshire native newly based in the Boston area. Primarily a classical soprano, she is happy to be returning to musical theater for her MLT debut. Olivia has a BA in Music from the Osher School of Music she performed with the award winning USM Chamber Singers both at Carnegie Hall and their Vietnam tour. Past performance credits include La Fée in 'Viardot's Cendrillon,' Marie in 'La Fille du Régiment,' First Spirit in 'Die Zauberflöte,' as well as regular appearances in Brooklyn's Regina Opera Chorus.

Equal parts performer, musicologist, and teacher, Olivia's research on early 20th century women composers has brought her to France, Italy and Luxembourg. Her work on Luxembourgish composer Helen Buchholtz earned her Fulbright Open Study Research (Alternate) Award in 2023. An Agatha Christie enthusiast, Olivia loves spending her free time at her favorite coffee shop with a new murder mystery.

**Kyle Doherty (Theodore "Laurie" Laurence & Rodrigo)** is ecstatic to finally make a return to the stage after nearly a decade away from performing. A Salem native now living in Boston's South End, Kyle studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, from which he graduated in 2019. Past productions include 'Kiss Me Kate,' 'RENT,' 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,' and 'Joseph' at Salem High School, and 'Ragtime,' 'Les Miserables,' and 'Billy Elliot' at MLT. Kyle would like to thank Lianne and the entire 'Little Women' team for guiding him back to the stage again, his wife Julia for her constant support, and Lisa for her lasting inspiration.

**Kaitlin Eggers (Marmee & Hag / Wig Stylist)** is so thrilled and grateful to be returning to the stage after a nearly 10 year hiatus. She has a BFA in Theatre Performance from Salem State, and is currently an Esthetician at Maison Esthetique Christiane Bourque Spa in Danvers. Past roles at MLT include April in 'Company' and Kate Keller in 'The Miracle Worker.' Other past favorite roles are Amy in 'Company,' Chills in 'The Snow Queen,' Philia in 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,' and Yvette in 'Mother Courage.'

She also styles wigs for Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth NH. A huge thank you to her mom- her own Marmee- for her constant support and for being the perfect inspiration for this role. Thank you to Sal for his

love and his support of her return to the stage, and to her amazing friends for helping her stay somewhat sane through this process. And thank you to this amazing cast, crew and production team for such a beautiful interpretation of one of her favorite stories.

**Andrew Hankinson (Professor Bhaer)** originally hails from northern Vermont. He studied at Oberlin College before moving back east to find his calling. Andrew has spent a great deal of his life involved with local theater and performed all over New England and central Pennsylvania. Some of his favorites include 'Chicago,' 'Tuck Everlasting,' 'Pirates of Penzance,' 'Mamma Mia,' 'Titanic,' '1776,' 'Wonderful Town,' 'The Secret Garden,' 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood' and 'Cabaret,' and he is excited, as always, to work with Marblehead Little Theater.

**Doug Hill (Mr. James Laurence)** is thrilled to be performing at Marblehead Little Theatre (MLT) as he was the president of MLT 25 years ago when the organization initially purchased the old Firehouse as its permanent home. Although he has produced several shows since, this is his first opportunity to actually perform in the space that he worked so hard to acquire and convert into a theater. As a retired USAF officer, Doug was first assigned to Hanscom AFB in 1978 and lived in Concord, Massachusetts where he was inspired by the historic and literary significance of this charming New England town. In 1984, he was reassigned to Hanscom AFB but this time he moved to Marblehead - a place which immediately captured his imagination and has become his permanent home.

His first role with Marblehead Little Theatre was in 1994 as Captain Brackett in 'South Pacific.' He has over the years appeared in several other musicals to include 'The Sound of Music,' 'Oliver,' and 'My Fair Lady.' Doug is especially delighted to be teamed up once again with Alex, Katie and Bridget who he first worked with two years ago as one of the producers of MLT's world premiere production of 'The Great Gatsby- an American Musical.' The joy of being reunited with them and now a part of such a talented and thoughtful cast/crew is what makes Marblehead Little Theatre such a town treasure.

**Samantha Leone (Jo March)** is a Plymouth State University graduate in Musical Theatre and Stage Management. She is excited to work with Marblehead Little Theater and its community for the first time. Some acting credits include Holly in 'The Wedding Singer,' Mary Sunshine in 'Chicago,' The Big Bad Wolf in 'TYA 'The Three Little Pigs,' and Olive Ostrovsky in 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.' Samantha

is an avid iced coffee drinker and loves to spend her days hanging out with her dog, Oliver. Samantha would like to thank the 'Little Women' production team, cast, voice teacher, friends, and family for their consistent support and confidence throughout this process.

**Sophia Mintsiveris (Amy March & Troll)** is a soprano originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, and is currently based in Boston. She holds a BM and MM in vocal performance from Baldwin Wallace University and Longy School of Music. In addition to singing chorally with the Lilith Vocal Ensemble, Sophie loves to perform in both opera and musical theatre productions. Recent performances include several concert appearances with the American Institute of Musical Studies in Austria, The Fox in Portman's 'The Little Prince,' Sandman in 'Hänsel und Gretel,' and Sibella in 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder' at MLT.

Sophie is also a classical pianist and choral director, currently serving as Music Director at the Weston United Methodist Church in Weston, MA. She is delighted to help tell this beautiful story!

**David Picariello (Mr. John Brooke & Braxton)** is delighted to be returning to Marblehead Little Theatre for the first time in almost a decade. David previously appeared at MLT in 'American Idiot' in 2015. David graduated from Salem State University in 2017 with a BFA in Theatre Performance and minors in Film Studies and Dramatic Literature. Some credits include Moritz in 'Spring Awakening' (EMACT nomination) and Barfee in 'The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee' (Theatre Company of Saugus), Bernstein in 'Little Shop of Horrors' and David in the world premiere of 'Stat Geek' in Natick (Firehouse Center for the Arts), Starveling in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Apollinaire Theatre Company), and Shmuel in the regional premiere of 'Trayf' (New Repertory Theatre).

Since graduating, David has gotten married, rescued a cat (Dewey!), and will soon become a dad later this year. He'd like to thank his friends and family for their continuous support, Alex and the entire MLT team for welcoming him back, and his wife Lee Ann for being his biggest fan - and soon to be best mom.

**Bridget Saunders (Beth March & Rodrigo 2)** is an actor, singer, and dancer hailing from central Maine. She is a graduate of Salem State University with a BFA in Theatre Performance and a minor in French. Bridget is ecstatic to return to Marblehead Little Theatre after performing in the ensemble of the 2023 world premiere musical, 'The Great Gatsby,'

An American Musical!’ Recent credits include ‘A Christmas Carol’ and ‘Salem Sisters Spectacular’ (Emerald City Theatrical); ‘The Infinite Moment of Now’ (Larcom Theatre); and ‘The Suppliant Women’ (Apollinaire Theatre Company).

Bridget would like to thank her parents, Mary and Craig, for their endless support as she pursues her dreams, and honor the memory of her Cancerian Goddess and luminous actor friend, Alyssa June Fluet.  
bridgetrsaunders.com | @bridgetrsaunders

**Victoria Weinstein (Aunt March/Mrs. Kirk)** is thrilled to make her debut with MLT in a show that allows her to combine her love of theatre with her love of the New England Transcendentalists. She was last seen as ‘The Wizard of Oz’ in the Apollinaire Theatre’s bi-lingual production ‘Y Tu Perrito También (And Your Little Dog, Too).’ She played Sara Jane Moore in ‘Assassins’ for Arts After Hours in Lynn, where she has lived since 2013. Other roles include Miss Hannigan in ‘Annie’ and Penelope Pennywise in ‘Urinetown’ (EMACT Nomination) at Massasoit Community Theatre, Emma Goldman in ‘Ragtime’ and Floretta Vining in ‘Paragon Park’ at the Company Theatre in Norwell.

Off-stage, Victoria is the Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn in Swampscott (uucgl.org), and is grateful to be part of the arts and spirituality communities in Essex County. Keep that inner fire burning bright. Thank you to the MLT production team and company!

## PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

**Andrew Barnett (Technical Director)** designed and built his first set at the Marblehead Middle (Village) School in 1992 for 'Fiddler on the Roof.' Since then, he has built sets for Rebel Shakespeare Company, Endicott College, Gordon College, Opera Boston, Gloucester Stage, Roxbury Center for the Arts, MassJam, Perkins School for the Blind, Boston Center for the Arts, Mssng Lnks, and Marblehead Little Theatre. Andy was a member of the production team as master carpenter, designer and technical director Revels Inc., for more than 25 years, creating The Summer Revels, Riversing, and The Christmas Revels His shows are dedicated to his wife Jessica, sons Nick and Jeremy and their spouses, and grandchildren Jacob, Vivienne, and Rose, and to Marblehead Little Theatre for providing great live theatre to patrons of all ages.

**Lianne Bunting (Music Director)** is excited to be returning to Marblehead Little Theatre after a brief hiatus. A full-time music teacher in Billerica, Lianne also freelances in the Boston area as a music director, pianist, and singer. Recent music directing credits include 'Mean Girls' at both Billerica Memorial High School and Wellesley High School, as well as 'Lizzie: The Musical' at the Concord Umbrella Center for the Arts. Favorite past productions with MLT include 'Mamma Mia!,' 'Next to Normal,' and 'Jesus Christ Superstar.'

Lianne holds a B.M. in Music Education from the University of New Hampshire, and an M.M. in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Alexandra Dietrich's, (Stage Director)** 2024-2025 season opened with her company debut at Boston Lyric Opera where she was Assistant Director to James Darrah's production of 'Mitridate.' Her season continues with a return to her favorite Marblehead Little Theatre to direct 'Little Women, The Broadway Musical,' followed by returning to BLO to be Assistant Director to Zack Winokur on his production of 'The Seasons.' She directed 'Glory Denied' at Opera Company of Middlebury in Fall of 2023, where her production was hailed as "stunning, unforgettable, constantly surprising". At MLT, she has directed sold-out and award-nominated runs of 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder,' 'The Great Gatsby, An American Musical,' and 'Jesus Christ Superstar.' She had the honor of directing back to back productions for the opening of the Arrow Street Arts Center: Brooke's 'La tragédie de

Carmen' with Boston Opera Collaborative and Portman's 'The Little Prince' with the Longy School of Music of Bard. In 2019, Ms. Dietrich joined the voice faculty at the University of Southern Maine as an Artist Faculty. Ms. Dietrich served as the Artistic Director of NEMPAC Opera Project from 2018 to 2022. In August of 2023, Ms. Dietrich was chosen as 'SIX' on Broadway's #QueenoftheWeek after multiple students nominated her for the honor for her work to create an inclusive space on stage and off, where pride in individuality of identity is amplified, honored, and celebrated. She is the proud mother of Javier Tadeo who made his operatic stage debut when his Mama was three months pregnant with him as she played Jo March in "Little Women." For updates, please visit: [www.dietrichdirectormezzo.com](http://www.dietrichdirectormezzo.com).

**Maddie Dustin (Lighting Designer)** is thrilled to be working for Marblehead Little Theater for the first time. She has a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theater Technology from Salem State University. Previous design credits include 'Heathers' (Salem State Theatre Ensemble). Other recent credits include 'Othello' and 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare' (Salem State University), 'Lunar Eclipse' (Shakespeare and Company), 'Kinky Boots' and 'Christmas Carol' (Palace Theatre), 'Sweeney Todd' (Moonbox Productions)

**Chris Adam King (MLT Executive Producer)** recently joined Marblehead Little Theatre as the new Executive Producer this past Fall and has had a fun time jumping into the production side of things at MLT. However, he is no stranger to the performing side of things, having appeared in MLT's 2011 production of 'Hairspray' as Corny Collins. Other Regional theater credits include Fiddlehead Theatre's 'Show Boat,' Reagle Music Theater's 'Guys and Dolls' (Benny Southstreet), 'Wonderful Town' (Officer Lonigan), 'Singin' in the Rain' (Production Tenor), 'The Music Man' (Jacey Squires/Ewart Dunlop), 'Les Mis,' 'Fiddler,' 'Mame,' 'Joseph...Dreamcoat,' 'Bye Bye Birdie,' 'Annie,' 'Carousel,' 'My Fair Lady' and as a soloist in 'ChristmasTime.'

Chris is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theater program and appeared in Boston Conservatory's mainstage productions of 'The Pajama Game' (Mr. Hassler/Pop), and 'Assassins' (Giuseppe Zangara). Congratulations to the cast and crew of 'Little Women,' you truly are astonishing!

**Jeremy Kovac (Sound Designer)** has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sound Design from Marymount Manhattan College. He has been volunteering at the Marblehead Little Theatre for the past few years as a follow spot,

sound designer and stage crew member. Jeremy has worked on 'Spamalot,' 'The Pirates of Penzance,' 'A Gentleman's Guide To Love and Murder' and 'The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui.'

**Elaine Leahy (Producer)** is thrilled to be working with this talented cast and crew. She loves being part of the MLT organization and the magic of theater. She previously co-produced 'Gershwin & Porter,' produced 'Mother of the Maid' and worked on publicity, props and house on the production of 'Party!' Elaine has a MA in Strategic Communication and enjoys marketing and publicizing shows. She is grateful to be part of such a talented production team and congratulates the cast and crew on a job well done.

**Anthony Lombardi (Producer)** hails from Peabody, MA. He currently holds a Bachelor's degree from Salem State University. Anthony has previously done stage work for MLT's productions of 'The Great Gatsby: An American Musical' and 'Something Rotten!' and has been a stage manager for North Shore Players' production of 'The Crucible.' He also assists with social media for MLT and is a member of their marketing committee.

**Katie Meuse (Stage Manager)** is a Salem State University alumni with the class of 2020, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts. She's been working with Marblehead Little Theatre's Children's program since her time at SSU. Katie is thrilled to be stage managing at MLT again after directing 'Something Rotten!' last year. She has worked on other MLT productions such as 'Gypsy,' 'Plaza Suite,' and 'A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder.' She is grateful to her family, friends and MLT family for all their support.



**Marblehead Little Theatre**  
12 School Street, Marblehead, MA 01945  
**MLTLive.org**

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**Thanks for production support, material assistance, advice and technical support:**

Javi, Steve Ordonez, Bryan Lussier, The University of Southern Maine  
Osher School of Music, The Beacon Restaurant, Abbot Public Library,  
Ida Pelikhov and Girl Scout Troop #67140,  
Marblehead VFW Post #2005, The Clifton Lutheran Church  
The Board of Marblehead Little Theatre

