

PLAYBILL®



International Thespian Troupe #8989

presents

Little Women, the Broadway Musical

March 25 and 26, 2021—7:00 PM

March 27, 2021—2:00 PM

Hamilton Hall
Frederica Academy

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

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LITTLE WOMEN

the broadway musical



Book by Alan Knee

Music by Jason Howland

Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein

Based on the Novel by Louisa May Alcott

Thursday, March 25, and Friday, March 26, - 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 27, - 2:00 PM

Proudly presented by
International Thespian Troupe #8989
Hamilton Hall Stage
Frederica Academy

CAST

Marmee March	★ Sophia Holloway, '22
Aunt March	★ Annika Clark, '22
Margaret "Meg" March	★ Madison Morgan, '22
Josephine "Jo" March	★ Lauren Jobe, '21
Elizabeth "Beth" March	Lea Maye Smith, '25
Amy March, age 12	Elizabeth Temple, '26
Amy March, age 19	★ Virginia Anne Tennant, '21
Theodore 'Laurie' Laurence	★ Evan Moitoso, '22
Mr. John Brooke	★ Case Harrison, '23
Mr. Laurence	★ Wyatt Whitlow, '24
Professor Fritz Bhaer	★ Jacob Triplett, '21
Mrs. Kirk	Emily Wyrick, '25
Helga	Brooke Lewis, '25

The Players of the 'Operatic Tragedy'

Clarissa	Laila Gilbert, '26
Braxton	Gemma Johnston, '27
Rodrigo	Olivia Helms, '27
Troll	Aubre Smith, '25
Blue Witch	Kyler Alexander, '27
Gold Witch	Ava Wyrick, '27
Enchanted Princess	★ Greta Johnston, '22

The Debutantes: Kyler Alexander, Laila Gilbert, Olivia Helms, Gemma Johnston, Brooke Lewis, Aubre Smith, Ava Wyrick, Emily Wyrick

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Tess Nielsen
Assistant Director	Bruce Post
Stage Manager	★Lottie Snyder, '22
Stage Manager	★Sydney Carroll, '23
Costume Mistress	★Greta Johnston, '22
Set Designer	★Jaxson Grotz, '22
Set Designer	★Paul Kaselak, '23
Set Designer	Payton Topp, '24
Set Crew	Maddison Moore, '21
Set Crew	Nicholle Patron, '25

Pianist	Kathleen Turner
MIDI Operator	Tess Nielsen
Lighting Design	Dan Zynda
Lead Set Painter	Laura Edenfield
Photographer	Caleb Shorthouse
Sound Engineering	AV East, LLC
Livestream Videography	IMint Media

~ SHOW INFORMATION ~

TIME AND PLACE: Concord, Massachusetts and New York City, 1860s

Act One

- Overture
- 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
- 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

(10 Minute Intermission)

Act Two

- Entr'acte
- The Weekly Volcano Press - Jo, Professor Bhaer, Mrs. Kirk, Clarissa, Braxton, Rodrigo, Witches, Troll, Enchanted Princes, and Company
- Off To Massachusetts (Reprise) - Mr. Laurence, Beth, Laurie, 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
- The Weekly Volcano Press (Reprise) - Jo
- Finale—Company

Nominated for two Tony Awards and a Drama Desk Award, the original Broadway production of *Little Women* opened at the Virginia Theatre on January 23, 2005.

~ MEET THE CAST ~



★ Lauren Jobe, '21 (Josephine "Jo" March)

Lauren would like to dedicate her performance to her grandparents. Lauren's previous stage roles at FA include "Romeo" in *Newsies*, "Charlene" in *The Blue and the Grey*, "Ronnette" in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and "Lindsay" in *The Blueberry Hill Accord*. Lauren was a Duo Interpretation State Finalist in the GISA Literary Meet in 2020. An NHS Student and 3-Star Thespians President, Lauren is active in Varsity Volleyball, World Languages Club, Health and Wellness Club, Cultural Awareness Club, and an FA Ambassador. She has studied piano and Irish dance. Next year, Lauren matriculates to SCAD in Film Studies.



★ Virginia Anne Tennant, '21 (Grown Amy March)

A classical dancer since a very young age, Virginia Anne was a Principal Dancer with the Golden Isles Ballet, including the role of "Clara" in *The Nutcracker*. At FA, she played "Bunsen" in *Newsies*, "Ana" in the *Blue and the Grey*, and "Shirelle" in *Little Shop of Horrors*. She was the student director of the film, *The Blueberry Hill Accord*. Virginia Anne is Vice-President of the Thespians, with 3 Stars to her credit. She is an NHS student, and also a member of Cross Country team, Tennis team, STEM Club, Math Team, Business and Innovation Club, Ambassadors Club, Service Council, Creative Writing Club, 707 Group, and FCA. She serves on the United Community Bank Jr. Board. Virginia Anne will attend Georgia Tech in the fall.



★ Jacob Triplett, '21 (Professor Fritz Bhaer)

A multi-instrumentalist, Jacob plays percussion, accordion, and clarinet. At his former high school, he played "Phantom" in *Phantom of the Opera*. At FA, Jacob is the lead drummer in the Popular Music Ensemble, and has been a Drum Major and featured percussionist in previous high school bands. Avid in sports, Jacob plays football for FA. This spring, Jacob will be inducted into Thespians Troupe #8989. Jacob matriculates to Valdosta State University, where he plans to study Computer Science.



★ Annika Clark '22 (Aunt March)

A dancer and singer who studied ballet and jazz at Christina's Dance World, Annika has a background in show dancing and has performed several times at Disney World. A talented digital artist, Annika recently won a Silver Medal for her character designs in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition. Previously, Annika played "Audrey II" in *Little Shop of Horrors* and designed the set for the student short film, *The Blueberry Hill Accord*. With many performances across several genres, Annika is now a 3-Star Thespian.

~ MEET THE CAST ~



★ Sophia Holloway '22 (Marmee March)

Trained in classical ballet, jazz, piano and voice, Sophia is just as comfortable under the stage spotlights as she is in the dressage riding ring. She made her Upper School vocal debut at First Fridays at The Ritz, and also played the role of "Hannah" in the short film, *The Blueberry Hill Accord*, which premiered at the Georgia State High School Film Festival. Sophia retains her membership in USDF (United State Dressage Federation) but seeks more onstage roles for her vocal and acting abilities. She will be inducted into Thespians Troupe #8989 this April.



★ Greta Johnston, '22 (Enchanted Princess / Costume Mistress)

Singer/Songwriter, Music Theater artist, and instrumentalist Greta Johnston is pleased to return to the Hamilton Hall Stage. She played "Katherine" in *Newsies*, "Audrey" in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and "Mrs E." in *The Blue and the Grey*. Greta is an NHS student. An avid tennis player, she plays for the FA Tennis Team, as well as a league team. Additionally, she is a member of the Ambassadors Club. Over the years, Greta has attended a summer camp where she has moved into the position of Jr. Counselor. With her onstage performances and theater technical design talents, Greta is now a 3-Star Thespian.



★ Madison Morgan '22 (Margaret 'Meg' March)

Maddie is highly involved in FA performing arts as a member of the Popular Music Ensemble and a peer mentor in the MS/US Orchestra Ensemble. A soprano vocalist, musical theater actress, and cellist with GIYO (Golden Isles Symphony Youth Orchestra), Maddie displays a myriad of musical talent as well as stage management talent. A 4-Star Thespian, Maddie serves as the secretary for Troupe #8989. Outside of school, Maddie has also performed with the Island Youth Players and in Theater programs at The Ritz. She is a NHS student and participates on the volleyball team.



★ Evan Moitoso, '22 (Theodore 'Laurie' Laurence)

Evan has been seen on Hamilton Hall Stage as "Oscar Delancy" in *Newsies* and "Uncle Walt" in *The Blue and the Grey*. He also played "Mr. Mushnik" in *Little Shop of Horrors*. A multi-instrumentalist, Evan plays saxophone in the Popular Music Ensemble. As a 2-Star Thespian, Evan's leadership position is the role of Liaison between Theater and Music programs. Evan is interested in Music Industry and Music Production. Last summer, he attended Georgia Tech's Music Industry Summer Program. His electronic music compositions were also featured at the GMEA High School State Music Festival. Evan is an NHS student, member of Student Council, Model UN, Cultural Awareness Club, and serves with Youth Glynn Leadership. Evan dedicates this performance to his family friends, and Thomas, his rescue kitty.

~ MEET THE CAST ~



★Lottie Snyder, '22 (Stage Manager)

From her dual role as Stage Manager to "Audrey II" puppeteer in *Little Shop of Horrors*, to her current position as Stage Manager for *Little Women*, Lottie has taken on a variety of stage and technical design roles for theater. She is involved with the GA Players and works in community theater throughout the Golden Isles area.



★Sydney Carroll, '23 (Stage Manager)

An all-around arts student, Sydney is comfortable on stage, off stage, and behind the camera. As a digital artist, she recently won a Silver Medal for photography in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition. A member of the Debate team, her specialty is Informative Speech and Declamation events. She plays tennis for FA and is a member of the FCA. Sydney is looking forward to her induction in the Thespians Honor Society this April.



★Case Harrison, '23 (Mr. John Brooke)

Singer, actor and guitarist, Case previously appeared in the Island Players production of *Mulan* in the role of *Magyar* and also had a role of "Language Arts Teacher" in *Harmony High*. In 2019, Case played "Uncle Walt" in *The Blue and the Grey* at FA. Case studies digital video production and audio recording. In the spring, Case plays baseball for the Knights. Additionally, he enjoys tennis, biking, and outdoor activities. As a new inductee to Thespian Troupe #8989, Case would like to dedicate his performance to his mom and dad.



★Wyatt Whitlow, '24 (Mr. Laurence)

As a character actor, Wyatt has played numerous roles, often taking on more than one role in any given play. On the Hamilton Hall Stage, he has been seen in *Newsies*, and played several characters in the short play *Hoodie*. He also covered the role of "Narrator" and "Mr. Bernstein" in *Little Shop of Horrors*. His creativity has earned him induction into Thespian Troupe #8989. Wyatt also participates in the Upper School Science Bowl, and, outside of school, he is taking flight lessons. Wyatt dedicates this performance to his parents.

~ MEET THE CAST ~



Brooke Lewis '25 (Helga; Debutante)

A vocalist and actress, Brook performs in FA's Middle School Chorus and Popular Music Ensemble. She was a featured actor in *Willy Wonka, Jr.* This past year, Brooke has also been a member of the cheer and tennis teams. She also served on Model UN. Brooke is excited to dedicate today's performance to her family.



Aubreon Smith, '25 (Troll; Debutante)

Aubre is a member of Popular Music Ensemble. Previously on the Hamilton Hall stage, she played "Mrs. Beauregard" in *Willy Wonka, Jr.* Aubre is active in soccer and cheerleading. Aubre enjoys helping others and participating in community service is very important to her. She dedicates her *Little Women* performance to her mother and father.



Lea Maye Smith, '25 (Beth)

As a singer and instrumentalist, Lea Maye is a member of the Popular Music Ensemble, the Middle School Chorus, and the Chamber Orchestra. Last year, she played "Lynda" in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Lea Maye is very active in school and community programs, including Model UN, cheerleading, swim team, Community Service Club, and Student Council. Currently, she is also rehearsing for the Penguin Project production of *High School Musical*. Lea Maye would like to dedicate this performance to her mother and father.



Emily Wywick, '25 (Mrs. Kirk; Debutante)

Emily loves singing with the Popular Music Ensemble and the Middle School Chorus. Her previous stage roles include "Mrs. Luce" in *Little Shop of Horrors* and "Veruca" in *Willy Wonka*. Emily has also performed with the Island Players. She is Student Council Vice President, member of the Model UN, and plays on the tennis and swim teams. Emily studied voice and piano. Today, Emily would like to dedicate her performance to her family.



Laila Gilbert, '26 (Clarissa; Debutante)

A vocal soloist, Laila has previously performed at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. Her vocal repertoire includes all genres of music, from Broadway, to classical, to pop. At FA, Laila sings in Middle School Chorus and is a violinist in the Chamber Orchestra. Laila dedicates her work in this show to her family.

~ MEET THE CAST ~



Elizabeth Temple '26 (Young Amy March)

Singer and pianist, Elizabeth Temple often performs as a soloist at the school's Open Mic Nights, and is a lead singer at Christ Church's Youth Choir. She was last seen on the Hamilton Hall Stage as "Mulan" in the lead role. Elizabeth and her writing partner recently won the Price / Blackburn Young Playwrights' Contest for their One Act Play, *Game of Witches and Rubies*, will be performed at The Ritz Theatre in April. In sports, Elizabeth is a member of the volleyball and basketball teams.

Elizabeth would like to dedicate her performance to her family.



Gemma Johnston, '27 (Braxton; Debutante)

Gemma is a musical theater actress who also plays violin in FA's Chamber Orchestra. Last year, Gemma was a featured actor in *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* She is a member of Model UN. Gemma is also an avid equestrienne and rides at Frederica Stables. Today, Gemma is pleased to dedicate her performance to her mother and father.



Olivia Helms, '27 (Rodrigo; Debutante)

Singer and pianist Olivia Helms was recently seen on the Hamilton Hall stage as "Sebastian" in *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* She is soprano vocalist in the Middle School Chorus. In sports, Olivia plays on the volleyball and basketball teams. As an advocate for community service, Olivia enjoys volunteering and helping others. Olivia lovingly dedicates today's performance to her family.



Kyler Alexander, '27 (Witch, Debutante)

A dancer and artist with an interest in costume design, Kyler was last seen on the Hamilton Hall stage in *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* Kyler also plays basketball and volleyball at FA. She is a member of the Model UN and Middle School Chorus, and would like to dedicate this performance to her family.



Ava Wyrick, '27 (Witch; Debutante)

A vocalist with talents in Music Theater and Popular song, Ava appeared as one of Arial's sisters in *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* As a presenter and speaker, Ava is a member of Model UN. Her sports are basketball and cheer. She is also a presenter in the Science Bowl. Outside of school, Ava plays tennis. She would like to dedicate her performance to her parents.

~ DIRECTOR'S NOTES ~

When the FA Thespians first envisioned *Little Women* as our Spring '21 musical, way back in May 2020, little did we know that The Covid-19 pandemic would still rage on as the curtain opened. After the heartbreak of shutting *Little Shop* last year, we chose *Little Women* to reflect on, and to try and understand, what we were living through: A brutal pandemic, a bitterly divided country, an economy in turmoil, and a modern culture that seemed to stretch the norms for free speech, immigration, and equity.

Louisa May Alcott's story *Little Women* is timeless – and timely. Written in 1868, it is the fictionalized account of its author's young life with her sisters. While certain aspects of the story have been altered in this musical adaptation, the heart of Jo's story is still relevant today. Set during the Civil War (1860's), the four March sisters come of age while their mother, "Marmee," and their "Aunt March" encourage the girls (and their male suitors) to achieve their dreams.

With the backdrop of war and the Scarlet Fever pandemic, young men and women of the Victorian age were expected to live up to their elders' expectations in order to earn a favorable economic and social position. Young men were considered honorable when they chose to join the army, or to follow their family's businesses. A woman who chose to earn her own living, and not to marry, was considered un-ladylike. But what if a young Victoria person felt compelled to choose another life path? These themes seem to resonate with today's students.

As the cast began to work on the production (back in October 2020), new themes emerged. The story seemed to take on another meaning. Notice how Jo, her sisters, and the men, all have transformational moments. They change, become aware, and grow. Writing is a major theme for each character's expression. Jo is, quite obviously, a writer, but so is Marmee. John Brook and Professor Bhaer are writers and scholars. Notes, letters, telegrams, newspapers, and novels express how the characters communicate. Jo is always rewriting her story – and the story of her life – to make it "better."

What is interesting for teenagers and young people today is becoming aware of who you really are. Awareness happens for most every character in *Little Women*. Marmee, the emotional heart of the family, deepens her capacity to love and accept. Mr. Laurence and Aunt March learn to give their wreath and time away in order to support the next generation.

Overall, live theater is the most collaborative art form. With Bruce Post (Assistant Director), Kathleen Turner (Pianist), the wonderful cast and crew, and so many teachers and parents as supporters, there have been many who contributed to the re-telling of Louisa May Alcott's beloved American novel. In the end, I endeavored to capture the students' playfulness and creativity. Rather than dwell on dramatic and romantic plot points, I often gave the actors a note to be just as playful on stage as they were offstage. In my observation, the cast members were really behaving more like brothers, sisters, and family friends.

Just like the March family, disease, cultural change, and economic and political turmoil have been a part of our lives this past year. However, we centered on the loving relationships to get us through. This is what we wanted to highlight in our production of *Little Women*.

Enjoy the show!

Tess Nielsen, DMA

~ International Thespians Society ~



The International Thespian Society (ITS), founded in 1929, is an honorary organization for high school theatre students. The mission of ITS is to honor student achievement in the theatre arts. ITS is a division of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). To become a Thespian, a student must earn and initial 10 points, or the equivalent of 100 hours of high quality theater work either on or off stage. Thespians continue to grow in the program by earning stars and bars.

★ Indicates Thespian since 2020

☆ Indicates New Inductee in 2021



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**To help us run safe and fun
rehearsals, we would like to thank**

The Parent Association

The Helms Family

The Wyrick Family

**To help us create the 1860s
with special props and effects,
we would like to thank**

The Harrison Family

The Holloway Family

The Johnston Family

Brunswick Theatre

Glynn Academy Players

Golden Isles Ballet

Victorian Place Antiques

Laura Edenfield, Artist

Jason Snyder, Builder



Fine Arts Upcoming Events

Monday March 29: Upper School Photography Show at Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw University

Monday April 19: Glynn Visual Arts High School Students Art Show

Wednesday April 21: Spring Concert on Sea Island Green
Fine Arts Alumni Hall of Fame Dedication;
Thespian Inductions, and
Visiting Artist's Art Installation

Wednesday April 28: Price/Blackburn Foundation Young Playwrights Presentation, The Ritz Theater

Thank You

Scott Hutchinson
John Pope
Michael Temple
Leigh Toomey
Rebecca Pruitt
Carl Nash

Helen Rentz
Brad Hutcherson
Dr. Jordan Taylor
Phoebe Rolland
Rachael Lee
Catherine Holt

and
Friends and Family of our Cast and Crew

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE FINE ARTS AT FREDERICA ACADEMY