

PLAYBILL®

JPCATHOLIC THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

LITTLE WOMEN

by Allan Knee



August 28–29, 2025
The Ritz Theater



**JOHN PAUL
THE GREAT**
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Dear Audience,

Thank you so much for joining us for the annual musical, *Little Women*.

Based on the classic book by Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* premiered on Broadway in 2005. Due to the style of the musical numbers, a contemporary quality is blended with the Civil War era.

My family first discovered this musical many years ago, and I have memories of listening to it on road trips, as well as seeing it performed live together. The characters in this musical often represent some universal archetype (such as the caring mother, the romantic young lover, or the passionate, driven artist) which then allows their specific desires and humanity to be most expressed through their individual songs.

While many musicals focus on spectacle, something unique about this style of musical is that its heart lies within simplicity. There's the simplicity of family life; suffering; loss; love; marriage; babies. As the play comes to a close, Jo shares with us, *"Sometimes when you dream, your dreams come true in extraordinary ways. Suddenly a day can be so amazing. And sometimes when you yearn you burn the air. And then you are not the same..."*

Her desires to be "astonishing" and great are fulfilled in the paradox of the profound simplicity of love. I'm reminded of the words of author George Elliot, "The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts: and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life..."

Thank you for joining us on this paradoxical journey.

Prof. Katelyn Slater

Director



proudly presents

LITTLE WOMEN

Book by
Allan Knee

Music by
Jason Howland

Lyrics by
Mindi Dickstein

with

Therese Boucher Connor Hankel Lisa Ruiter Sophia Ortiz
Emily Ranschaert Mary Leskowicz Matthew Rechen
Caleb Schantz Louisa McCarthy

Associate Director
Mary Wenner

Musical Director
Robert Giracello

Costume Design
Vera Miller
Zoe Voelker
Isaak Michel

Set Design
Christy Reid

Scenic Associates
Maria Fennell
Sofia Carbonell

Lighting Director
Helen Daoust

Stage Manager
Helen Daoust

Sound Design
Carlos Chavez

Director of Photography
Andrew Koltuniuk

Choreographed by
Megan Geier

Directed by
Katelyn Slater



Little Women: The Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.co.uk

www.mtishows.com

www.mtishows.com.au

MEET THE CAST

Josephine “Jo” March	Therese Boucher
Professor Friedrich “Fritz” Bhaer.....	Connor Hankel
Margaret “Meg” March	Lisa Ruiter
Elizabeth “Beth” March.....	Sophia Ortiz
Amy March.....	Emily Ranschaert
Marmee March	Mary Leskowitz
Theodore “Laurie” Laurence.....	Matthew Rechen
Mr. Laurence	Caleb Schantz
Aunt Josephine March.....	Louisa McCarthy
Mr. John Brooke.....	Philip Neri Morris
Mrs. Kirk	Catherine McDonald
Clarissa	Grace Taylor
Braxton Prendergast	Luke Luna
Rodrigo	Christian Watkins
Hag	Tessa Haubert
Troll	Meghan Mullaney
Knight.....	Christopher Parra
Rodrigo II	Mia Meza

PRODUCTION/CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Katelyn Slater
Associate Director/Props Master	Mary Wenner
Musical Director	Robert Giracello
Choreographer	Megan Geier
Set Designer and Builder	Christy Reid
Scenic Associates	Maria Fennell, Sofia Carbonell
Costume Crew Manager	Vera Miller
Costume Designers	Zoe Voelker, Isaak Michel
Costume Team	Reyann Perez, Madalyn O'Campo, Gianna Alarcon, Alex Aguirre, Tim Diaz, Rosaleen Faleiro, Joseph Jachec
Head of Hair	Isabella Eagan
Head of Makeup	Maria Hernandez
Lighting Designer/Stage Manager	Helen Daoust
Prop Builder	Moirra Godfrey
Stagehand	Regine Modina, Julia Sengenberger

SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBER

Act One

Overture	Orchestra
An Operatic Tragedy	Jo, Bhaer, Clarissa, Braxton, Rodrigo
Better	Jo
Our Finest Dreams	Jo, Meg, Beth, Amy
Transition to March Parlor	Orchestra
Letter Underscore	Marmee
Here Alone	Orchestra
Transition to Aunt March	Orchestra
Could You	Aunt March, Jo
Could You - Playoff/Transition	Marmee, Meg, Jo, Beth
Delighted	Orchestra
Delighted - Reprise	Orchestra
Moffat Underscore	Orchestra
Take a Chance On Me	Laurie
Take a Chance On Me - Transition	Laurie
Better - Reprise	Jo
Concord Transition	Orchestra
Off to Massachusetts	Beth, Mr. Laurence
Five Forever	Jo, Laurie, Meg, Beth, Amy
Transition	Orchestra
More Than I Am	Brooke, Meg
Transition to Attic	Orchestra
Take a Chance On Me - Reprise	Laurie
Astonishing	Jo

SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBER

Act Two

Entr'acte	Orchestra
The Weekly Volcano Press	Jo, Bhaer, Mrs. Kirk, Clarissa, Braxton, Rodrigo, Hag, Troll, Knight, Rodrigo 2
NYC To Concord - Transition	Orchestra
Beth Plays Piano	Orchestra
Off to Massachusetts - Reprise	Mr. Laurence, Beth, Marmee, Meg, Brooke
Jo To Professor Bhaer	Orchestra
How I Am	Bhaer
To The Beach	Orchestra
Some Things Are Meant To Be	Beth, Jo
The Most Amazing Thing	Amy Laurie
To The Attic	Orchestra
Days of Plenty	Marmee
The Fire Within Me	Jo
After Fire Within Me	Orchestra
Professor Bhaer Entrance	Orchestra
Small Umbrella in the Rain	Bhaer, Jo
Volcano Reprise	Jo
Bows	Orchestra
Exit Music	Orchestra

There will be one 15 minute intermission

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

THERESE BOUCHER (*Josephine "Jo" March*). A senior at John Paul the Great Catholic University. She is super excited for everyone to see all of the work everyone has put into this show. She has been in a number of productions here and is very excited to be playing Jo March in *Little Women*. She would like to thank Katelyn Slater for this opportunity, her family and friends for all of their support, and everyone in the cast and crew for all of their hard work.

CONNOR HANKEL (*Prof. "Fritz" Bhaer*). A graduating Senior at JPCatholic. He's been in many past shows such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Connor is a crafty and loving soul who enjoys acting, video games, storytelling, time in Adoration, and finding a way to bring the dinosaurs back with blood from a mosquito to make his own dino-theme park. He hopes you enjoy this production of *Little Women*.

LISA RUITER (*Margaret "Meg" March*). An acting student here at JPCatholic, where she has had the privilege to spend the last two years developing her acting skills and techniques. She is so grateful to have worked with such a wonderful cast and crew to bring the beautiful story of *Little Women* to life, especially all the seniors who are graduating soon. Much love to all of you, and may God bless you & keep you, wherever you go!

SOPHIA ORTIZ (*Elizabeth "Beth" March*). Past roles include Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*) and *Lady Bird* in a recreation of selected scenes from Greta Gerwig's 2017 film. As Sophia completes her senior year at JPCatholic, she thanks God for her family, her professors Lee Eskey and Katelyn Slater, and her incredible acting peers with whom she got to share the stage.

EMILY RANSCHAERT (*Amy March*). A junior acting student at JPCatholic. Besides performing both onstage and in front of a camera, she is a dedicated writer, an avid crafter of various projects, and a big fan of farm animals in general. She would like to thank her family for all they do for her and Gabe for always being so supportive.

MARY LESKOWICZ (*Marmee March*). A musician and current junior at John Paul the Great Catholic University. With recent credits in the pit orchestra of *Mary Poppins* and *HONK*, as well as ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast*. When she is not in rehearsals, Mary can be found at the beach, in a mall, writing music, and/or writing music. She is

very excited to be part of this show and looks forward to whatever may come in the future. Mary wants to thank her loving boyfriend, Diego, for supporting her throughout this entire endeavor and her parents, Paul and Olivia, for encouraging her to pursue music and follow her dreams.

MATTHEW RECHEN (*Theodore "Laurie" Laurence*). Super excited to participate in this production as Laurie! He would like to give a huge thanks to the creative team that made it all possible.

CALEB SCHANTZ (*Mr. Laurence*). A first-year film Producing student at JPCatholic. He has been in a few musicals in the past, including *Les Misérables* and *Newsies*. Caleb spends most of his waking moments focusing on film and, occasionally, theater.

LOUISA MCCARTHY (*Aunt March*). Currently a junior acting student at JPCatholic. Recent credits include Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the Duke in *The Comedy of Errors*, and Henry in *Newsies*. She would like to give a shoutout to all the cast and crew for being such lovely people to work with, and she looks forward to more adventures to come.

PHILIP NERI MORRIS (*Mr. Brooke*). A senior, who is studying film producing with a minor in business and in digital music. In his downtime he enjoys hanging out with his friends, playing soccer and the piano, listening to music, and working out. He thanks his family, friends, and, most importantly, God for this awesome opportunity!

CATHERINE MCDONALD (*Mrs. Kirk*). A Sophomore at JPCatholic. When she isn't working on musicals, she loves to work on voice acting and to help make student films. She would love to thank God and her wonderful family who has supported her and helped her grow as an actor and a vocalist.

GRACE TAYLOR (*Clarissa*) is a business student at JPCatholic with a lifelong love for performing. Some of her favorite past roles include Katherine in *Newsies* and Miss Sandra in *All Shook Up*. She's also sung at events like the Del Mar Fair and North County State of the Union, but finds the most joy leading worship at her church. Grace is grateful to her family and to God for the opportunity to be part of *Little Women*.

LUKE LUNA (*Braxton Prendergast*). A Junior Game Development student at JPCatholic with a penchant for oration and acting. In high school, he played roles such as Mr. Collins in *Pride and*

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Prejudice and Benedick in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Outside of acting, he enjoys playing strategy games as well as political and philosophical debate. Luke is grateful to his parents for always supporting him as well as his Middle and High school teachers who instilled in him a love for great, classical literature.

CHRISTIAN WATKINS (Rodrigo). Beyond thrilled to make this two-time-only stage debut as the extremely-handsome-magnificent Rodrigo. When not appearing in magnificent splendor, Christian enjoys being alive. He would like to thank Meghan Mullaney (his endlessly supportive girlfriend) for laughing too hard during rehearsals, and his family for loving him for more than his extremely-handsome-magnificent face. May this performance be as unforgettable for you as it will be for him. Enjoy the show!

TESSA HAUBERT (Hag). Thrilled to be in her first show at JPCatholic! This is her eleventh show overall. Her recent credits include Queen Gertrude (*Hamlet*), Grandma (*The Addams Family*) and Prospero (*The Tempest*). When she is not onstage, she is spending time with her friends, singing, or being a Shakespeare nerd. She would like to thank Katelyn for giving her this opportunity to be a part of *Little Women* and helping her grow as an actor and human being.

MEGHAN MULLANEY (Troll). A senior acting student and is excited to be in her first musical as her dream role, the troll. She has been in several JPCatholic Productions, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Uncle Vanya*. She would like to thank Mary Wenner and Katelyn Slater for their friendship and guidance during her time at JPCatholic as well as the Watkins family for all their support.

MIA MEZA (Rodrigo II). Currently an Acting and Directing student at JPCatholic. When not acting onstage, Mia sings in her hometown's parish choir alongside her dad, works on her own or classmate's short films, and works on mastering her passion for acting. She thanks her family for fully supporting her on her artistic journey and God for providing her with countless blessings in her everyday life.

KATELYN SLATER (Director). Past directing credits at JPCatholic include *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other directing credits include various shows through Words Players

Theatre in MN, and assistant directing at Open Window Theatre in Minneapolis. She loves collaborating with various artists to find many expressions of the human condition and is so grateful to work alongside these artists on *Little Women*.

MARY WENNER (Associate Director). An actor and alum of JPCatholic. When not stage managing the university's theatre productions or TA-ing classes, she spends time auditioning, studying her craft, and overanalyzing Shakespeare's plays. She thanks God for being able to work with spirited actors both at JPCatholic and the West Kortricht Centre's Shakespeare in the Valley (NY).

ROBERT GIRACELLO (Music Director). An award winning composer, performer, and educator. He received his PhD from the University of California, Riverside where he specialized in the theatrical works of Stephen Sondheim, the compositions and writings of Arthur Farwell, and electronic music composition using ChuckK music programming. He has recorded six studio albums and written two novels, most notably *Three Landscapes*, for which he received a MACRO award.

MEGAN GEIER (Choreographer). Graduated from JPCatholic in 2018. She spends her time choreographing musicals, teaching dance classes, acting in LA, and running her own small business. She is so grateful for all the opportunities God has granted to her, and loves to share her love for the arts with everyone she comes into contact with- especially this talented cast and crew!

CHRISTY REID (Set Designer & Builder). Also did the sets for *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* for JPCatholic. In addition to doing the sets for JPCatholic she also does sets at Patio Playhouse and the Escondido Bethlehem Walk. When she isn't building and painting sets she enjoys acting and spending time with her husband and 4 kids. See her on the stage this fall at PowPac as Barbara in *Social Security*.

VERA MILLER (Costume Crew Manager). An illustration student at JPCatholic. She delights in storytelling of many kinds, including art, sewing, and music. Her previous experience in stage productions has been in acting, so she's had so much fun instead applying her talents in sewing and costume design working on this show. Shoutout to the wonderful cast, crew, and professors!

ZOE VOELKER (Costume Designer). A fashion design student at JPCatholic. When Voelker isn't designing for productions, she spends her time

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

crafting patterns, creating original garments for clients, and modeling.

ISAAK MICHEL (*Costume Designer*). A passionate student with an emphasis on creative entrepreneurship and a minor in costume design. He had a major role in creating character charts, assisting with designing costumes, creating costume designs, and sparking several ideas for our play, as well as several other roles in coordination.

REYANN PEREZ (*Costumer*). A current illustration student at JPCatholic. Aside from being involved with the costuming team, she continues to develop her artistic skills and her own unique art style alongside other intellectual studies. She is immensely thankful for the continued support of her family and to God for the opportunity to partake in this production alongside the other students at JPCatholic.

MADALYN O'CAMPO (*Costumes and Hair*). A philosophy and theology student who loves Jesus, deep conversations, and spontaneous adventures!

GIANNA ALARCON (*Costumer*). Currently pursuing a degree in Illustration at JPCatholic and uses her skills in visual storytelling to guide her work. *Little Women* is Gianna's first experience in theatrical costuming.

ALEX AGUIRRE (*Costumer*). A student within the Visual Arts program at JPCatholic, emphasizing on Graphic Design and Animation. While honing the skills of the craft, he also enjoys world-building and storytelling through screenwriting, character design, and music.

TIM DIAZ (*Costumer*). A bold and imaginative visual artist, soon to graduate from JPCatholic with a BFA in Visual Arts and Graphic Design. His artistry extends far beyond the digital canvas—Tim is also an illustrator and tattoo artist whose heart beats for Chicano Art, a passion that infuses his work with cultural pride and vibrant storytelling.

ROSALEEN FALEIRO (*Costumer*). A third-year agnology student turned *Little Women* costume design enthusiast. Her roots are in hand-sewing 17th-century colonial attire for taxidermy squirrels (ask her about pricing after the show), and in her free time practices her Michael Cera impression in the mirror (don't ask her about that after the show).

ISABELLA EAGAN (*Hair and Makeup*). Her last theater work includes Head of Hair for *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She studied Anima-

tion but always found joy in being the glam girl of many JPCatholic film sets. As she graduates this year, *Little Women* marks her final time as Hair & Makeup for a JPCatholic production.

MARIA HERNANDEZ (*Head of Makeup*). A member of the Class of 2025, majoring in Communications Media with a minor in Marketing. She is passionate about storytelling and is deeply grateful to her family, loved ones, and everyone she's had the pleasure of working with as she continues to grow and pursue her path.

HELEN DAOUST (*Lighting Design & Stage Manager*). A student at John Paul the Great Catholic University studying Acting and Producing. She has helped with theater lighting before in JPCatholic's production of *Comedy of Errors* and Open Window Theater's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. When not obsessing over theater and film lighting, she spends time with her roommates and friends messing around and coming up with new ideas to produce and act in. She thanks God every day for the wonderful experience JPCatholic has given her so far and hopes that the wonderful adventure only gets better.

MOIRA GODFREY (*Prop Builder*). A sophomore production student at JPCatholic with a focus on production design. Moira lives and breathes backstage crew and is delighted to be able to participate in this wonderful show. When not behind the curtain or making props, she can be found plotting Renaissance faire costumes and crafting.

JULIA SENGENBERGER (*Stagehand*). A sophomore at JPCatholic with a deep love for all things musical and historical. She last played the Major General in *The Pirates of Penzance* and Mush in *Newsies*, and has helped behind the scenes on nearly half a dozen theatre productions (and counting).

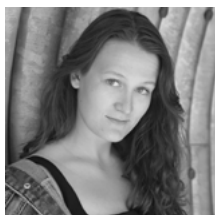
REGINE MODINA (*Stagehand*). A Junior at JPCatholic currently studying Digital Music. Participating in musical theatre since an early age, some of her favorite shows she's ever been in include *Newsies* and *The Little Mermaid*. She's been working as a stagehand for the first time during her internship at STAR Repertory Theatre, helping behind the scenes on *James and the Giant Peach* and *13: the Musical*. She is honored to be helping backstage for *Little Women* and is excited to see her friends and fellow classmate's hard work and dedication pay off.



THERESE BOUCHER



CONNOR HANKEL



LISA RUITER



SOPHIA ORTIZ



EMILY RANSCHAERT



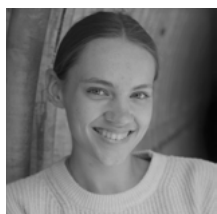
MARY LESKOWICZ



MATTHEW RECHEN



CALEB SCHANTZ



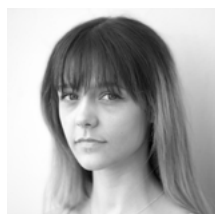
LOUISA MCCARTHY



PHILIP NERI MORRIS



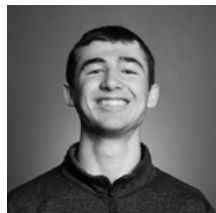
CATHERINE MCDONALD



GRACE TAYLOR



LUKE LUNA



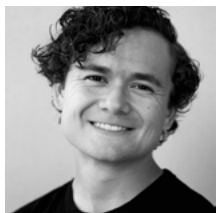
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CHRISTOPHER PARRA



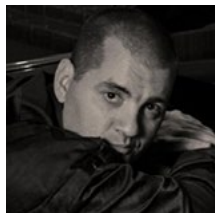
MIA MEZA



KATELYN SLATER



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MEGAN GEIER



CHRISTY REID



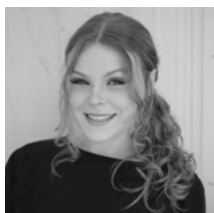
MARIA FENNELL



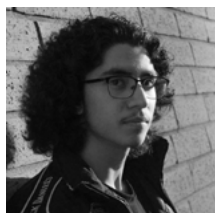
SOFIA CARBONELL



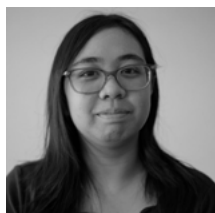
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ZOE VOELKER



ISAAQ MICHEL



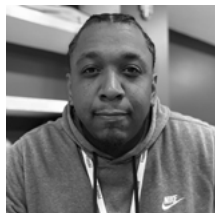
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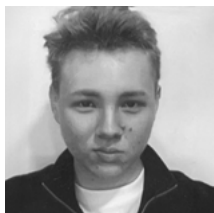
ALEX AGUIRRE



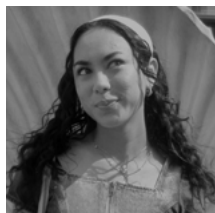
TIM DIAZ



ROSALEEN FALEIRO



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COMING THIS FALL

Wit

JUDITH LIGHT

the REVLON GIRL

NEIL ANTHONY DOCKING

SEE BEHIND
THE SCENES



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