

LITTLE WOMEN



BIG SPRING
PRODUCTIONS

SHOW TIMES:

MAY 21ST: 7PM
MAY 22ND: 2PM

Big Spring Productions
Presents

Little Women

Music by **Jason Howland**
Lyrics by **Mindi Dickstein**
Book by **Allan Kee**

THEATER ETIQUETTE

In order to make the theater experience as enjoyable as possible for our entire audience, we ask that you please...

- TURN OFF all electronic devices. They interfere with the microphones, so even when they are on silent they can ruin a moment or make the sound system distracting to everyone.
- finish any food or drink in the lobby prior to the show or during intermission.
- be considerate of people around you. Even a whisper can be annoying.
- wait until intermission to use the restroom if at all possible. If you absolutely must go, please wait until there is a break for applause.
- wait until applause or intermission to open a cough drop or to open and close your program.
- respond to the actors appropriately. Applaud, laugh, cry...whatever you wish, but please never do anything that would take the attention away from the performers.

Big Spring School District Administration

Dr. Richard W. Fry	Superintendent
Dr. Kevin Roberts	Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Robyn Euker	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Bill August	High School Principal
Mr. Charles Smith	Assistant Principal
Mr. Joseph Sinkovich	Assistant Principal/Director of Athletics and Student Activities

Big Spring School Board

William A. Swanson, President	Alexis Blasco Hurley
Todd Deihl, Vice President	Frank Myers
David, Gusthall, Treasurer	Robert Over
William L. Piper, Secretary	Richard Roush
	John Wardle

The Big Spring School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of color, national origin, sex, age, religion and disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, or for information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact Kevin Roberts, Assistant Superintendent and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, 45 Mt. Rock Rd. Newville, Pa 17241, at (717) 776-2000

**Please turn off your
cellphone!**

It interferes with the microphones!

**Recording tonight's performance in any
form- photography, videotaping, or audio
recording is strictly prohibited!**

From the Artistic Director

“Sometimes when you yearn, you burn the air...”

In any year, I am astonished by the incredible amount of work, time, and dedication put forth by our students and staff. This year in particular, I have been blown away. We went from announcing the show during the final week of February, to auditions the first week of March, to the final show this Saturday. This is the shortest prep time we have ever had to create, learn, and perfect a show, and I couldn't be prouder of the final product you are about to experience.

There are countless people who must be thanked: the BSSD administration for their continued support of the musical program, and especially for their commitment to making musical happen in the most authentic form possible, even during this year of turmoil; the faculty and staff of the high school for encouraging all of the students involved in the musical while simultaneously holding them accountable for excellence in academics; all of the parents who ferry their children to and from rehearsals and volunteer their own time and talents; and the Big Spring community at large for their ongoing support of the musical program.

I am deeply grateful to every member of the production staff. Jen “Momma” Rhoads creates incredible costumes for each and every cast member. Haley Kruger and Catherine Rogers write choreography that fits our show and our students. We are also indebted to Catherine for her design work on our t-shirts, posters, and programs. Edward Wilson and Susan Travis spend countless hours rehearsing the cast and pit, including joint rehearsals so we are fully prepared to bring each song to the stage. Frank Heberlig stands in as the orchestra for two months as rehearsal pianist, playing as many notes as he possibly can. Adam Nobile and the Stage Crew design, build, and paint every set piece, and then the Technical Crew spends roughly 24 hours straight working through each lighting and

set change, happily fine-tuning each time I ask for a minute adjustment. Maura Manning designs our hair and makeup. Without these people, we would have nothing to present tonight.

I feel I've left someone out...oh yes, the students! The students are the reason we have a show this year at all. Before we announced anything, we asked the students if they wanted to put in all of this time and effort for a show that would be anything but normal. Within hours, we were overwhelmed by their response. Even with masks, even with temperature checks, even with a limited audience, they wanted a show. And what a show they've created. At our first rehearsal, we talked about how important every role in this show is, whether onstage or off. Especially with such a small cast and limited crew, every musical member has shouldered an immense amount of responsibility for this production. It has been my privilege and my great joy to work with these students. They have learned how to express emotion with half of their faces covered, built an incredible set with no planning time, mastered highly difficult music in two months, and done it all with positive attitudes and a willingness to be flexible in every situation. I have learned much more from them than they have from me, and I am forever grateful to them.

And now, please sit back, relax, and allow the students to share their fire with you.

Elise Nobile

Break A Leg Lines

Gavin - Congratulations on your 4th season in Pit! We are so proud of you.
Rock that upright bass!
Love, Mom & Dad

Gray - Congratulations on your first year in Pit! You should be very proud
that you learned a show on a new instrument. We are cheering for you!
Love, Mom & Dad

To my nephew, David Lynn, who is always a star in my heart. Break a leg!!
Love, Aunt Kelly

To my grandson, David Michael Lynn. You're the greatest!! I love you to
pieces!
Love, Grammy

Okay Mud Hog, you have seen plenty of us grumpy old men over the days.
So just act like the funniest of them.
Good luck, Papa

We *rise*
by lifting
others.

– Robert Ingersell

**IRON
VALLEY**
REAL ESTATE®

write your
own success
story

DO *your* THING

DO *your* THING

“

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. Explore. Dream. Discover.

”

**IRON
VALLEY**
REAL ESTATE®



Michael Reifsnnyder
REALTOR®
Cell/Text 717-961-9352
mwreifsnnyder@gmail.com
PA License #RS330756
USN, Retired

Sharon Reifsnnyder
REALTOR®
Cell/Text 717-961-9351
sharon@yourhomeinpa.com
PA License #RS312857
MRP® CNE® SRS®

Iron Valley Real Estate of Central PA
2260 Spring Road, Suite 1, Carlisle, PA 17013 | Office 717-344-5950

Technical Crew

Allison Drake – Assistant Stage Manager
Lindsey Wilson – Assistant Stage Manager
Hailee Stryker – Lighting Technician
Eli Reeder – Livestream Technician
Andrew Malick – Sound Technician

Stage Crew

Neveah Auxt
Addison Brough
Logan Engle
Christopher Fenicle
Rylee Hall
Reece Kane
Owen Minnick

Costume Crew

Christina Rhoads

Pit Orchestra

Skylar Diehl.....Flute, Piccolo
Gray Hunt.....Flute
Maggie Ni.....Clarinet
Tim Puglio.....Reed 2
Ella Stine.....OrchXtra
Austin Funkhouser.....Trumpet
William Meacok.....Trumpet
Mary Grace Friedell.....F Horn
Elise Eddy.....F Horn
Ethan Runyon.....Trombone/Euphonium
Gavin Hunt.....Bass
Frank Heberlig.....Keyboard

Production Staff

Artistic Director.....Mrs. Elise Nobile
Pit Orchestra Director.....Miss Susan Travis
Choreographers.....Miss Haley Kruger & Mrs. Catherine Rogers
Vocal Director.....Mr. Edward Wilson
Technical Director.....Mr. Adam Nobile
Costume Design.....Mrs. Jennifer Rhoads
Rehearsal Accompanist.....Mr. Frank Heberlig
Hair and Makeup Design.....Miss Maura Manning
Still Photography.....Mrs. Jen Kiner
Banquet Coordinator.....Mrs. Mary Hunt

The History of *Little Women*

Based on Louisa May Alcott's classic 1868-69 semi-autobiographical novel, *Little Women* focuses on the four March sisters – traditional Meg, wild, aspiring writer Jo, timid Beth and romantic Amy, – and their beloved Marmee, at home in Concord, Massachusetts while their father is away serving as a Union Army chaplain during the Civil War.

A workshop production was presented at Duke University in February 2001, directed by Nick Corley. This production followed a workshop reading in March–April 2000. The production next played another workshop at Duke University in October 2004. This version was directed by Susan H. Schulman.

After 55 previews, the Broadway production opened at the Virginia Theatre on January 23, 2005 and closed on May 22, 2005 after 137 performances. It was directed by Susan H. Schulman, with choreography by Michael Lichtefeld, set design by Derek McLane, costume design by Catherine Zuber, and lighting design by Kenneth Posner. Reviews were mixed, with praise for the performers and criticism for the pacing of the script and the set design choices.

The Broadway cast featured Sutton Foster as Jo, Maureen McGovern as Marmee/The Hag, Janet Carroll as Aunt March/Mrs. Kirk, Jenny Powers as Meg/Clarissa, Megan McGinnis as Beth/Rodrigo II, Amy McAlexander as Amy/The Troll, Danny Gurwin as Laurie/Rodrigo, Robert Stattel as Mr. Lawrence/ The Knight, Jim Weitzer as Mr. Brooke/Braxton, and John Hickok as Professor Bhaer.

A 30-city US tour, with McGovern as Marmee, Kate Fisher as Jo, Renee Brna as Meg, Autumn Hurlbert as Beth, and Gwen Hollander as Amy ran from August 2005 through July 2006.

The History of *Little Women*

Kookaburra produced the Australian premiere production, which ran at the Seymour Centre, Sydney, from November 2008 through December 2008. Opera Australia's Stuart Maunder directed, with musical direction by Peter Rutherford. The cast included Kate-Maree Hoolihan as Jo, Trisha Noble as Marmee, Judi Connelli as Aunt March, Erica Lovell as Amy, Octavia Barron-Martin as Meg, Jodie Harris as Beth, Hayden Tee as Professor Bhaer, Stephen Mahy as Laurie, David Harris as John, and Philip Hinton as Mr. Lawrence.

The show was first seen in Europe in an Austrian production billed as European Premiere by Theater im Neukloster in 2007 using the German title "Beth und ihre Schwestern" ("Beth and her sisters"). The German premiere using the same translation (but slightly different title "Betty und ihre Schwestern") was mounted in 2010 by Waldbühne Kloster Oesede. It was brought to the Hope Mill Theatre in Manchester in 2017, led by Amie Giselle-Ward in the role of Jo March. Bronagh Lagan directed with musical direction from Rickey Long in a production also billed as the European Premiere.

In July 2018, the show made its East Anglian debut (Great Britain) at Sheringham Little Theatre in North Norfolk. While the musical has yet to reach the level of popularity the original novel achieved, reviewers agree that Sutton Foster must be credited with creating the fervent following associated with the show.

The Story of *Little Women*

Our story begins in a New York City boarding house in 1866. Josephine March has just received a notice of rejection from yet another publisher, which she shares with Professor Bhaer, a fellow boarder. She asks his opinion on her manuscript, but is angered when he challenges her to “do better”. She wonders what could possibly be better as the scene transitions to three years earlier in Concord, where Jo sits in her office-attic, working on an Operatic Tragedy, to be performed by her sisters. Jo convinces her sisters that this play will be a hit and will make for the best Christmas there ever was. Marmee, their mother, comes in with a letter from Mr. March who is away as a Union Army chaplain in the American Civil War. As she writes a response, she reflects on how hard it is to be the pillar of strength in the March home.

The next day, Aunt March, the wealthy aunt of the March sisters, asks Jo to change from being a tomboy to a model lady of society. She tells Jo of an idle thought to bring her along to Europe. Jo begs to go with her, but Aunt March reasons that she will take her only if she changes. Later, Meg and Jo are invited to Annie Moffat's Valentine's Day Ball. Amy, who cares about society and fine things more than Jo, rushes down in Jo's old ball gown to join them in going to the ball, but Jo stops her, as she is not invited.

At the ball, Jo accidentally sits on Laurie, the grandson of the March's grumpy neighbor, Mr. Lawrence. As they chat, Laurie's tutor, Mr. John Brooke, rushes in and scolds Laurie for not meeting important people. Smitten at first sight, Mr. Brooke and Meg leave to dance. Laurie confesses to Jo his need for friends and asks Jo to dance with him, but ends up in a boxing match instead.

Back at the March's after the ball, Jo and Amy have a confrontation after it is revealed that a spiteful Amy had burned Jo's story manuscript in the fireplace. Afterwards, Jo then rushes up to her attic to rewrite her story. The scene transitions to a few weeks later, when Laurie invites Jo to a skating match. Amy wants to go with them but she has already outgrown her pair of skates. Beth, who intends to stay home, offers Amy her old skates.

Beth is sitting at the family's old piano when Mr. Lawrence comes in looking for Laurie, who is out with Jo and Amy. Mr. Lawrence discovers Beth's talent at the piano and they bond over the music. Jo, Laurie, and Amy burst in - Amy has fallen through the ice and nearly drowned. Jo and Amy reconcile, and Jo makes Laurie an honorary member of the March family.

The Story of *Little Women*

As the act draws to a close, lives change. Marmee rushes to Washington to care for her sick husband. After a confrontation with Jo, Aunt March chooses to take Amy to Europe instead of her. John Brooke asks Meg to marry him, and heads off to fight in the Union Army. Laurie proposes to Jo, and this final shift in the status quo pushes her to the edge. She determines she must leave Concord to find her true path in life.

Act 2 returns us to 1866, several months later than the beginning of Act 1. Jo interrupts Mrs. Kirk and the Professor with news of her first sale as an author! Her joy is short-lived, however, when Mrs. Kirk hands her a telegram containing the news that Beth has contracted scarlet fever. Jo immediately packs her bags and returns to Concord. After a few days, she sends a letter to Professor Bhaer, asking him what's new in New York. The Professor struggles to write a decent response as he realizes the depth of his feelings for Jo.

Back in Concord, at a nearby seashore, Beth says goodbye to Jo, telling her that she is not afraid to move on because she is loved by everyone, especially Jo, and that she is grateful to have them with her during her lifetime. Beth dies soon after. Amy and Laurie come home from Europe and struggle to tell Jo of their pending marriage because they do not wish for Jo to be upset.

Jo and the family grieve Beth's death. Marmee, being the strong one, tells Jo of how she copes with Beth's death: she tells Jo that she cannot be defeated by Beth's death, and that she must move on. Jo reminisces while her sisters are still with her. She finds that her family and friends are themselves astonishing and this encourages her to write her novel, *Little Women*.

On the day of Laurie and Amy's wedding, Professor Bhaer comes to Concord to see Jo. He tells Jo of his feelings for her saying "Though we are not at all alike, you make me feel alive." He also shares that he sent the manuscript of Jo's novel *Little Women* to the Weekly Volcano Press, the same publisher that accepted Jo's operatic tragedy. The book has been accepted for publication. As the show draws to a close, Jo marvels at all of the amazing things that have happened in her life, realizing that "the world is astonishing."

Act 1

Prologue – Mrs. Kirk’s Boardinghouse
Jan. 1866

“An Operatic Tragedy”
“Better”

Scene 1 – March Home – day before Christmas 1863

“Our Finest Dreams”
“Here Alone”

Scene 2 – Aunt March’s House – January 1864

“Could You”

Scene 3 – March Home/Annie Moffat’s House
February 14, 1864

“Delighted”
“Take a Chance On Me”
“Better Reprise”

Scene 4 – March Home – 3 weeks later

“Off to Massachusetts”
“Five Forever”

Scene 5 – March Home – Spring 1865

“More Than I Am”

Scene 6 – March Home – May 1866

“Take a Chance Reprise”
“Astonishing”

Act 2

Scene 1 – Mrs. Kirk’s Boardinghouse – June 1866

“The Weekly Volcano Press”

Scene 2 – March Home/Mrs. Kirk’s Boardinghouse
Summer 1866

“Off to Massachusetts Reprise
“How I Am”

Scene 3 – A Beach in Cape Code – September 1866

“Some Things Are Meant to Be”

Scene 4 – March Home – Winter 1866

“The Most Amazing Thing”
“Days of Plenty”
“The Fire Within Me”

Scene 5 – March House – Spring 1867

“Small Umbrella in the Rain”
“Volcano Reprise”

Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Professor Fritz Bhaer.....Tyler Hunt
Jo March.....Mara Pursley
Amy March.....Jane Patterson
Meg March.....Isabella Llaguno
Beth March.....Jerikah Fetterhoff
Marmee March.....Cheylene Graham
Mr. Laurence.....David Lynn
Laurie.....Brendon Morris-Dice
Aunt March/Mrs. Kirk.....Allison Stull
John Brooke.....Gabriel Nater Padro

Student Biographies

Alli Stull

Alli is playing the role of Aunt March. This is her first year in musical and her senior year. After graduation, she plans to attend Mount Saint Mary's University Los Angeles for History. Along with musical, Alli has been involved in Girl Scouts, marching band, indoor color guard, and student council.

Bella Llaguno

Bella Llaguno is a senior and has been a part of the theatre program for 5 years. She has performed in Les Miserables (ensemble) Phantom of The Opera (ensemble) Seussical the Musical (JoJo) Annie Get Your Gun (Winnie Tate) and now Little Women (Meg). Each year, she has enjoyed all the amazing company and support. She plans to continue acting at the University of North Texas. It was an amazing journey for Bella to be a part of and she will cherish the program forever. Enjoy the show!

David Lynn

David enjoyed being a cast member in the musical since his sophomore year in Seussical. David started as the gorilla in the Seussical ensemble. As a junior, he was cast as Mr. Wilson and Pawnee Bill in the Anne Get Your Gun show which was cancelled last year. This year he is playing Mr. Laurence in Little Women. After this year's show, David will be graduating and attending his college of choice, Pennsylvania College of Technology, majoring in Electrical Technology.

Ethan Runyon

Ethan has been involved in the musical program for five years. Starting in eighth grade with Les Miserables in ensemble, then ninth grade ensemble in The Phantom of The Opera to now being in pit for the past two years. In pit, Ethan plays the trombone (with an occasional baritone part here and there) as he has since fourth grade. After high school he plans to go to Temple University to major in chemistry. And after that, well, he'll figure it out.

Gabriel Nater Padro

Gabriel Nater Padro is a junior here at Big Spring High School. Throughout the years, Gabriel has participated in concert choir, concert band, and marching band. Gabriel also participated in last year's musical, playing the role of Tommy. This year Gabriel will be playing John Brooke and Braxton in Big Springs production of Little Women. Although Gabriel still feels new to the musical scene, he is very excited to be back on stage!

Jane Patterson

Jane Patterson (Amy March) is a freshman who is thrilled to be performing in her second musical at Big Spring. Jane's musical career began with Suessical (ensemble) as a 7th grader. Jane would like to thank her family and friends for their unconditional support. She would also like to thank the cast for being incredibly kind and welcoming.

Jerikah Fetterhoff

Jerikah, a sophomore, is playing Beth in this year's musical. She has also been in Seussical and was in the cast of Annie Get Your Gun. Although COVID got in the way last year, she is glad to be back on stage again this year. Aside from musical, Jerikah is in the student council, NHS, and loves anything to do with music. She also enjoys spending time with her friends.

Mara Pursley

Mara is a Junior at Big Spring High School. Her first musical was Seussical the Musical in 2019 where she played a Bird Girl and JoJo's Understudy and has been doing theatre every year since. She's in Big Spring's Theatre Club, Choir, and art programs. She's now playing Jo in Little Women and thanks her friends and family for supporting her every step of the way.

Rylee Hall

Rylee Hall is a junior attending Big Spring. She is on tech crew and has helped to paint the set. Rylee is heavily interested in the arts and hopes to find a way to incorporate it into her future.

Tyler Hunt

Tyler Hunt is a senior, and will be playing the role of Professor Fritz Bhaer. This is Tyler's 5th year of Musical - previously he was in the Ensemble for Les Mis, Piangi in Phantom of the Opera, Horton in Seussical the Musical, and Buffalo Bill in Annie Get Your Gun. Tyler is a very active member of his school's Music program, also being involved heavily in Band, Choir, and various music-based extracurriculars. After graduation, Tyler plans to attend American University in Washington D.C., where will major in Political Science, before attending Law School. Tyler would like to thank his family, especially his mother and father, Mary and Jerry Hunt, for being extremely supportive, and always helping him push through any challenge.

William Meacock

William joined the Orchestra his sophomore year and continued throughout his junior and senior year. William is also involved in other band activities such as Marching Band and Concert Band. After graduation William will be attending West Chester University to major in Accounting.

David Lynn – Class of 2021



David,
You have been making us laugh from your Donkey in the Church Christmas Program, to Mr. Lawrence in Little Women. Oh, how we wish we could have seen your Pawnee Bill on stage. Keep smiling Bub. We love you and are so proud of you!

Love,

Momma, Daddy, Steven
and Sarah



Miss Jane is all grown up! We are proud of you. Have a great performance!
Love, Mom, Dad, Grace, and Jack



Congratulations Tyler!



Horton—Seussical

We have loved watching you on stage since 8th grade.

We are ready for you to shine in your Senior performance as Professor Bhaer.



Piangi—The Phantom of the Opera



Les Misérables

Buffalo Bill—Annie Get Your Gun

We love you!

Love, Mom & Dad