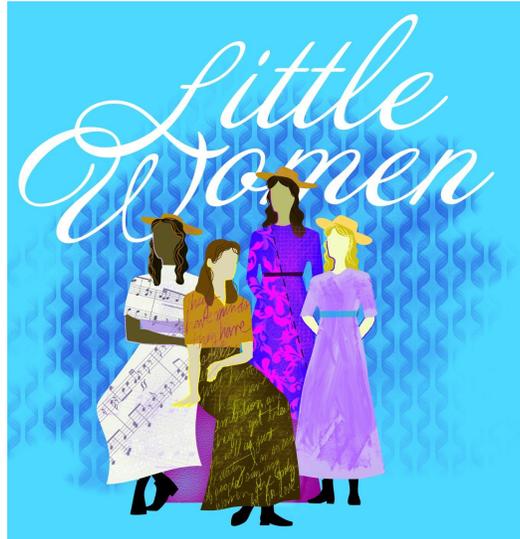


**Center Stage Theatre Presents:**



**By KATE HAMILL**

**Adapted from Louisa May Alcott's American classic novel**

**Director: Sarah Smith**

**Stage Manager: Amber Heal**

**Assistant Director and Stage Manager: Melly Bornemann**

**Auditions:**

Monday August 15 from 6-9pm in Rehearsal Room B

Tuesday August 16 from 6-9pm in Rehearsal Room B

**Callbacks:**

Thursday August 18 from 6-10pm in Rehearsal Room B. By Invitation only.

**Please enter through the Rehearsal Entrance door on the side of the Auditorium (use sidewalk around the Center's south side towards Dow Gardens), and follow signs downstairs to the Rehearsal Room B.**

*Thank you for your interest in Center Stage Theatre's Production of*

## ***LITTLE WOMEN***

Jo March isn't your typical Victorian lady. She's indecorous and headstrong, and one day she's going to be a great American novelist. As she and her sisters grow up under the cloud of the Civil War, they strive to be brave, intelligent, and imaginative young women. But as adulthood approaches, each sister must reconcile her private ambitions with society's expectations. In a war-torn world defined by gender, class, and personal tragedy, Jo gives us her greatest story: that of the March sisters, four dreamers destined to be imperfect little women. Based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel, this timeless story is given new life in this captivating, fresh adaptation filled with personal discovery, heartache, hope, and everlasting love.

### A note from Director, Sarah Smith:

The story of the young March women has captivated so many people over the generations. As a modern woman who enjoys the benefits attained by our feminist forebearers, I find this fresh adaptation to be a beautiful exploration of gender norms while still retaining foundational and charming aspects of the original work.

On an anecdotal level, I hope to use this play to channel my feminist rage towards creativity rather than a terrible haircut. (I have made some sketchy aesthetic decisions in the past based on feminist rage). More importantly, I hope we can create together some beautiful discussions around gender, societal norms, and what it means to create an authentic life.

*Those who would like to read the full play before auditions may do so by contacting Travis Kendrick, Manager Of Produced Theatre & Theatre Education, at [kendrick@midlandcenter.org](mailto:kendrick@midlandcenter.org).*

## AUDITIONS: What to Prepare/Expect?

1. Fill Out: the [Audition Form](#) before attending auditions  
*\*\*\*List any and all conflicts that you have with the [Tentative Rehearsal Schedule](#) in your audition form*
2. Email For Audition Appointment Time: Please email Programming Coordinator, Anna Rudnitsky, at [rudnitsky@midlandcenter.org](mailto:rudnitsky@midlandcenter.org) to receive your appointment time. When Anna emails an appointment time to you, you must respond to that email to confirm the audition slot.
3. Please Prepare: either prepare a **one-minute monologue** of your own choosing, or select and prepare one of the monologue options found here: [LITTLE WOMEN audition monologues](#).
4. Please Note: Actors will be considered for multiple roles, as appropriate, and may be asked to read additional acting sides at the audition. Physical copies of the Audition Sides will be available at the audition.

## REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES:

Please look over the [Tentative Rehearsal Schedule](#) (subject to change) to note any conflicts to put on your audition form.

*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Performers MUST be available for all technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances. NO exceptions.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Vaccination Policy-

All Center Stage Theatre volunteers are required to be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination upon the start of each production process.

### Mask Policy-

Masks are required at all times while inside Midland Center For The Arts facilities. Actors will be allowed to remove masks if rehearsing outdoors or during tech, dress, and performances.

### Build/Strike-

Center Stage Theatre asks that actors donate a minimum of four hours to the scenic or costume shop in some capacity, or assist with strike.

### Costume/Make-up Policies-

Center Stage Theatre asks that the actor provide shoes, dance tights, undergarments, and standard make-up (base, eyeliner, blush, powder, lipstick, etc.).

*\*More information regarding Center Stage Theatre and the policies please view the [Volunteer Relations Manual](#).*

## **CHARACTERS:**

**Little women: Cast with approximate doubling.**

### **Actor 1:**

**MARMEE MARCH.** The strong and faithful matriarch of the March family. Intelligent and warm, generous and kind, and necessarily practical. Good sense of humor and strong leadership qualities. Protective and nurturing, but also trusting and empowering towards those she loves (which is... everyone).

**AUNT MARCH.** The most unpleasant old woman ever. Has lots of money and privilege, along with judgmental political and personal opinions. Has an intermittent, hacking, disgusting cough. People endure her primarily because of her wealth.

### **Actor 2:**

**MEG MARCH.** The oldest March daughter. Wears glasses. Acts as Marmee's second in the house. A romantic at heart--likes to dress up and have little luxuries in life. Though she appears to fit neatly into societal gender expectations, she has her own struggles with finding happiness there.

### **Actor 3:**

**JO MARCH.** The second-oldest March. Does not fit comfortably within the parameters of her given gender role. A deep fire within her and a deep desire to change the world. Extremely ambitious and impatient, and well ahead of her time. She isn't always likeable, having a stubborn streak and a hot temper not becoming to a lady. Has a serious soft spot for her sister, Beth.

### **Actor 4:**

**BETH MARCH.** The third March. Very sweet but paralytically shy; had to be removed from school because of her severe social anxiety. Lovingly sheltered by her family. What we might call an empath: feels everything so deeply that it hurts. Understands much more than anyone realizes. Brave and sensitive and clearly a very special person.

### **Actor 5:**

**AMY MARCH.** The youngest March. Opinionated and spunky; the popular girl type and quite focused on style. Not the most tolerant of differing viewpoints, but socially intelligent— knows how and why to play the game to her advantage. A perfect little lady—except for her temper, and her not-so-great command of "vocabiblary." Grows up to be quite beautiful and elegant. Madly in love with Laurie, around whom she is never composed.

### **Actor 6:**

**HANNAH.** Irish with the temper and spice to match. The March family's longtime housekeeper, cook, and de facto babysitter. A treasure; a terror; a traditionalist. Takes no nonsense and is a practical.

**MRS. MINGOTT.** A very rich, stylish woman. Vanderbilt-esque, condescending, not terribly pleasant; fancies herself charitable.

**MESSENGER.** A female messenger.

**Actor 7:**

THEODORE "LAURIE" LAURENCE. A sweet and handsome young man. Sensitive—perhaps too sensitive for his gender. Funny, charming, and caring. A natural musician and a renaissance man. Mirrors some of the gender-defiance of Jo, because he too finds that he doesn't desire to fit neatly into societal expectations of being a his assigned gender. Longs for something far more interesting than becoming a tedious man of business. Finds a loving family in the Marches.

**Actor 8:**

JOHN BROOKS. Laurie's sometimes stiff and awkward tutor. A rule follower. A poor man, but well educated. Has a very noticeable limp— probably served in the war and was sent home, or may have been disqualified from service altogether. Feels deeply, particularly with regards to his deep affection for the eldest March daughter.

PARROT. Aunt March's parrot: pure evil. A musty, disgusting bird. Probably an actual demon in parrot form.

MR. DASHWOOD. A publisher of cheap newspapers and novels. A businessman, working in a man's world. Fancies himself a lot of things but in reality is a creepy and conniving businessman.

**Actor 9:**

MR. LAURENCE. Laurie's grandfather, responsible for Lauries upbringing— a responsibility he takes seriously. A wealthy man and a gentleman in the strictest sense. Not comfortable with emotional language and therefore bad at expressing himself. Has a rigid sense of what is appropriate behavior, especially for a man. Tends towards gruffness or temper. Probably quite unintentionally frightening. Complex and layered and difficult to reach.

ROBERT MARCH. Father to the March girls. Never speaks, but his presence looms large. Wounded in the war; never quite recovers. A significant limp. This actor will have his work cut out for him— we need to be interested in this character and understand how important he is, but he has no lines.

*Actor 8 or Actor 9 will also double the part of: DOCTOR (nonspeaking)*

*Midland Center For The Arts is committed to diversity and promoting a positive model of inclusion, and encourages performers of all races, ethnicities, ages, genders identities, gender expressions, disabilities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, and other diverse backgrounds to audition.*