

Gordon College Theatre Arts Presents

LITTLE WOMEN



by **Kate Hamill**

Adapted from the novel by **Louisa May Alcott**

Directed by **Kimberly LaCroix**

Nov 3, 7-10 at 7:30pm

Nov 4 & 11 at 3pm & 7:30pm

The Margaret Jensen Theatre

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Run Time: Approx. 135 min

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It's been years, and we've never had peace. We're too different. We should give up, and go our separate ways... Let the war be over.

- Jo, II.viii

Did you think about war today?

It seems ever more difficult to pass a day without doing so. Yet, recorded history has always been chronicled through conflicts and uprisings. Battles are advertised as turning points, inevitabilities, the securing of justice for all. Until the next one.

Which is why Jesus, Prince of Peace, was such an unlikely leader, riding a borrowed donkey, preaching a message of service. Jesus did not position himself in the halls of power. He walked with those discarded innocents, ones so often the uncounted bystanders of war. Jesus called the peacemakers blessed- He called them children of God (Matthew 5:9).

Little Women is about war. This rendition, anyway. It takes place in a country at war with itself and Jo, our protagonist, is a woman at war with herself. She does not fit neatly into the culture around her, so she believes her very personhood is wrong. No matter how many times her dearest confidants tell her she has permission to exist, just as she is, she persists in her state of conflict.

I do not know how to end violence on a mass scale. Some days my own miniscule battles feel insurmountable. Perhaps Hamill's *Little Women* suggests that one meager step is to stop perceiving monsters of ourselves and others- to respond in love, as we strive for peace.

-Kimberly LaCroix

CAST

JO MARCH	Bianca Russo
BETH MARCH	Kate Coburn
AMY MARCH	Jocelyn Hoffman
MEG MARCH	Gail Maxwell
MARMEE MARCH	Sony Del Valle
HANNAH/AUNT MARCH	Maervis Small
THEODORE "LAURIE" LAURENCE	Dan Young
JOHN BROOKS	Malachi Dowdell
DOCTOR/DASHWOOD/ PARROT	Drew Scott
MR. LAURENCE	Brian Jason Lewis
MRS. MINGOTT/MESSENGER	Grace Willett
MR. MARCH	Michael Tandilyan

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR	Kimberly LaCroix
SET DESIGNER	Jess Algard
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Anna Fenton
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Jared Rosselli
COSTUME DESIGNER	Joy Jordan
PIANIST	Wendy Betts
PROP MASTER	Grace Willett
SOUND DESIGNER	Drew Scott
FINE ARTS MANAGER	Rachel Bovee
STAGE MANAGER	Kat Haley
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Caroline Judd
FLY OPERATOR	Jerica Knickerbocker
LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR	Hannah Jennings
HAIR SUPERVISOR	Jordan Rukstela
PARROT FABRICATOR	Jeffrey Kiser
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Jess Algard
BOX OFFICE MANAGER	Bronwyn Rowton Abigail Eisner
HOUSE MANAGER	Viktoryia Dobkina
CARPENTRY RESIDENT	Anna Fenton
CARPENTRY APPRENTICE	Kat Haley
LIGHTING APPRENTICE	Crisana Speer
STAGE MANAGEMENT APPRENTICE	Bianca Russo
COSTUME RESIDENT	Susannah Burch
COSTUME APPRENTICE	Chloe Agyare
MARKETING APPRENTICE	Noelle Ledford
PROP APPRENTICE	Grace Willett
SOUND APPRENTICE	Drew Scott
DIRECTING APPRENTICE	Maevis Small

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

KATE COBURN '27 (BETH MARCH)

Major: Deciding

Gordon Theatre: 24 Hour Play Festival

SONYANGELIE DEL VALLE '26 (MARMEE MARCH)

Major: Music Education

Gordon Theatre: Debut

MALACHI DOWELL '26 (JOHN BROOKS)

Major: Communication Arts

Minor: Theatre Arts

Gordon Theatre: Fall Shorts '22, The Fantasticks, Medea

JOCELYN HOFFMAN '25 (AMY MARCH)

Major: Theatre Arts, Pre-Law

Gordon Theatre: Fall Shorts '22, The Miser, Fall Shorts '21

BRIAN JASON LEWIS '26 (MR. LAURENCE)

Major: Theatre Arts

Minor: Psychology

Gordon Theatre: 24 Hour Play Festival, Last Scot Standing

GAIL MAXWELL '24 (MEG MARCH)

Major: English & Theater Arts

Gordon Theatre: The Tempest, Men on Boats, The Fantasticks, Senior Showcase '23

BIANCA RUSSO '25 (JO MARCH)

Majors: Theatre Arts, Psychology

Gordon Theatre: Men On Boats, Hitler's Tasters, Fall Shorts, My Favorite Year

DREW SCOTT '25 (DASHWOOD/PARROT/DOCTOR)

Major: Theatre Arts

Minor: Musical Theatre

Gordon Theatre: 24 Hour Play Festival '21, Fall Shorts '21, My Favorite Year, The Tempest, Fall Shorts '22, The Fantasticks, 24 Hour Theater Festival '23

MAEVIS SMALL '24 (HANNAH/AUNT MARCH)

Major: Theatre Arts

Gordon Theatre: The Miser, My Favorite Year, The Tempest,
Men on Boats, 24 Hour Play Festival '23

MICHAEL TANDILYAN '26 (MR. MARCH)

Major: Communication Arts, Theatre Arts

Gordon Theatre: 24 Hour Play Festival

GRACE WILLETT '24 (MRS. MINGOTT/MESSENGER)

Major: Theater Arts, Psychology

Gordon Theatre: Fall Shorts, The Tempest, The Fantasticks,
Medea

DAN YOUNG '27 (LAURIE LAURENCE)

Major: Theater Arts, Psychology

Gordon Theatre: 24 Hour Play Festival

CREW BIOGRAPHIES

CHLOE AGYARE '24 (COSTUME APPRENTICE)

Major: Theater Arts, Kinesiology

Gordon Theatre: The Miser, Steel Magnolias, Fall Shorts 2021,
The Tempest, Men on Boats, Fall Shorts 2023, The Fantasticks,
Medea

SUSANNAH BURCH '24 (COSTUME RESIDENT)

Major: Theatre Arts, Music Performance

Gordon Theatre: Fall Shorts, Senior Showcase, My Favorite Year
Men on Boats, Fall Shorts '22, The Fantasticks

ANNA FENTON '23 (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

Major: Christian Ministries, Theatre Arts

Minor: Biblical Studies

Gordon Theatre: Gordon Fringe Festival, The Fantasticks,
Men on Boats, The Tempest, Steel Magnolias, The Miser,
Fall Shorts '20, '21, '22, Senior Showcases '21, '22, '23

KATHERINE HALEY '25 (STAGE MANAGER)

Major: Christian Ministries, Theatre Arts,

Minor: Spanish and Biblical Studies

Gordon Theatre: The Claim, The Fantasticks, Fall Shorts

CAROLINE JUDD '24 (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)

Major: Theatre Arts

Minor: History

Gordon Theatre: 24 Hour Play Festival

JERICA KNICKERBOCKER '25 (FLY OPERATOR)

Major: Theatre Arts

Gordon Theatre: Men On Boats, Medea, Tempest, Fall Shorts, Hitler's Tasters, The Fantasticks

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

KIMBERLY LACROIX (DIRECTOR)

Kimberly credits much of her professional trajectory to the mentorship she received as a Gordon student. She graduated from Gordon in 2008 with a B.A. in English and Theatre. Then, as Performing Arts Director for the YMCA of the North Shore, Kimberly designed and implemented what has grown into a regional theatre program serving thousands. Kimberly achieved an M.A. in Applied Theatre from Emerson College and served as Senior Director of Fine and Performing Arts for the South Shore YMCA, before returning to teach in Gordon's theatre department in 2016. Kimberly has directed musical casts of 75 people, devised works exploring themes from adolescence to modern sex slavery, and performed her one-woman show, *Mzungu Memoirs*, for eight years. Her recent directing credits include Gordon's productions of *The Fantasticks* (2023) and *Antigone* (2019). Kimberly also serves on the nonprofit boards of Wiffletree Works, Inc. and History Alive, Inc. Yet, Kimberly's most inspired work is alongside her husband, Jacob, as they raise Alice, Margot, Teddy, and Arden together on their homestead, Steady Acre Farm.

JESS ALGARD (SET DESIGNER/PRODUCTION MANAGER)

Jessica is excited to be in her fifth year teaching and building at Gordon! After graduating from Gordon in 2016, she worked with Gloucester Stage Company, Fresh Ink Theatre, Jean's Playhouse, Soap and Rope, and Apollinaire Theatre. She also spent two years as the Boston Troupe Director of American Immersion Theatre, training actors and performing interactive shows all over New England. She would like to thank her parents and husband for being ever-supportive and endlessly loving.

JARED ROSSELLI (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

Jared is a recent Gordon College graduate. He graduated in 2023 with a degree in Mathematics and a minor in Theatre Arts. Jared is pursuing a career in Light design and production. Recent credits include: *Hitler's Tasters* (Spring 23') and *Men on Boats* (Fall 22'). He is absolutely overjoyed at the opportunity to be back at Gordon College designing lights for this fantastic production of *Little Women*!!

JOY JORDAN (COSTUME DESIGNER)

Joy is a multi-medium artist in unconventional reimagining. The heart of her approach is curiosity, innovation, and economy...and lots of seam ripping and redesign. Rather than building from new materials, she takes pride in transforming pieces that already exist. From high fantasy to period realism: her work will look and function like real, lived-in clothing...because that is exactly what they are. Whenever possible, she prefers to include actors in the process so they form a relationship with their character's clothing. In daily life, our clothes and how we wear them convey a lot about us. A costume or prop is an extension of the actor's instrument. She lives for the creative hunt and being part of bringing life to characters on stage and film. Joy is pleased as punch to be working with Gordon's Theatre Department for the first time with *Little Women*.

WENDY BETTS (PIANISTS)

Wendy is excited to be sharing the piano music of Chopin and Mendelssohn and Handel in our *Little Women* performances! She is Organist/Director of Music Arts at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Topsfield and is a teacher/coach of organ, voice, and piano in her independent studio in Rockport. She was formerly the Director of the Cape Ann Symphony Chorus, and founder/director of Share the Music for 19 years, which performed fund-raising programs of the American Songbook composers in the North Shore and Boston areas. Last year she was delighted to serve as music director with daughter Brittany in *The Fantasticks* productions here at Gordon College. She adores working with our very creative director Kim LaCroix! Wendy's grandchildren live in nearby Beverly, which makes her a very blessed lady!

ABOUT THE THEATRE

The Margaret Jensen Theatre, affectionately known as The Black Box, was designed by Iain Mackintosh, one of the world's preeminent designers of theatres. Some of his notable theatre designs are The Cottesloe Theatre for The Royal National Theatre of Great Britain, The Tina Packer Theatre for Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, Massachusetts, and the Tricycle Theatre in London. He has remodeled many other theatres, including The Edinburgh Festival Theatre and London's Royal Court Theatre. He is a graduate of Worcester College, Oxford, and is the author of *Architecture, Actor and Audience*.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW

The Gordon College Department of Theatre Arts is thrilled to share that The Princeton Review recently named Gordon in its top 20 Best College Theater list, based on the rankings of fellow students. We share this honor with all of you who made these productions possible by your participation and attendance. Thank you!



A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON THE ARTS

As a Christian liberal arts college, Gordon College is committed to producing a wide variety of plays that assess the human condition, raise moral questions and acquaint students with the history of theatre. The words and views expressed in the plays do not necessarily represent the positions or opinions of Gordon College, its faculty, staff or student body. They are, however, carefully vetted for their power to engage the imagination, challenge assumptions, reflect culture, encourage dialogue, raise questions and affirm truth.

GORDON THEATRE ARTS MISSION STATEMENT

Everyone tells stories: to understand and be understood, to reflect, praise, question. Theatre uniquely develops empathy and community by embodying diverse stories. Gordon Theatre approaches learning holistically, helping students discover new passions and cultivate skills which benefit all aspects of life. Whether onstage, backstage, or in the classroom, our students thrive in an environment defined by collaboration and curiosity.

Graduate with the courage to explore and experiment, and the ability to flourish as an artist and Christian.

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE ARTS?

Thank you for coming to see *Little Women*! We are grateful for your support. If you would like to further support the Theatre Arts program and Fine Arts here at Gordon, please visit www.gordon.edu/giving to make a gift.

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

LAST SCOTT STANDING

November 29, 2023 | 7 p.m.

Gordon Communication Arts and Theatre Arts

ADVANCED ACTING AND DIRECTING SHOWCASE

December 7-8, 2023 | 7 p.m.

The Margaret Jensen Theatre

GODSPELL

March 15-23, 2023 | 7:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.

The Margaret Jensen Theatre

SENIOR SHOWCASES

April 25-27, 2024 | 7 p.m.

The Margaret Jensen Theatre

Learn about upcoming productions by visiting:

gordon.edu/theatreschedule



Special thanks to:

*Micah Algard, Leo Cleary, Kelly Foster,
Jacob LaCroix, Corey Sullivan, and
Technical Production II Class*

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