

PRESS RELEASE

Newtown Arts Company
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For Immediate Release-(4/1/09)

“Little Women” the Broadway Musical opens April 17

Saga of the March sisters is fine family fare

Opening April 17 at 8 p.m. at the Newtown Theatre, 120 N. State Street, Newtown, the Newtown Arts Company production of “LITTLE WOMEN THE Broadway MUSICAL” follows the saga of the March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy—as they grow up in Civil War America. With a book by Allan Knee, music by Jason Howland and lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, this show is sure to charm young and old alike.

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott, “Little Women” is full of action, adventure and music relaying the fantastic stories of Jo March and the more down to earth happenings of the March family in the 1860’s.

Directed by Mary Liz Ivins of Lawrenceville, New Jersey and with musical direction by Susan den Outer of Langhorne, the cast and crew have put together a historical gem.

“Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott is a timeless novel treasured by many readers,” said Nancy Pickering, producer of the Newtown Arts Company production. “We chose this musical as part of our second full year of live productions in the historic Newtown Theatre because it has beautiful music and a story that so many people can relate to.”

The cast includes Kristin E. Kauffman of Lower Makefield in the role of Jo March. Kauffman is a veteran of many productions, including shows at Bucks County Playhouse, Avalon Players, Step II Productions, Muhlenberg Summer Theatre and Pennsbury High School.

Playing the role of Marmee, mother of the four “Little Women,” is Dori McCrane of Newtown. McCrane’s credits include many professional, non-equity roles in the Philadelphia area, including Aldonza in “Man of LaMancha” at LaSalle Summer Music Theatre. She was a featured vocalist in “Rogers & Hammerstein – Tonight” and has sung with various local bands.

The rest of the March family includes sisters Meg, played by Cari Kassel of Lawrenceville, New Jersey; Beth, played by Amelia Arrigo of Levittown; and Amy,

played by Elizabeth Calabro of Langhorne, a senior at Neshaminy High School. Marcia Wittmann of Washington Crossing takes on the role of the acerbic Aunt March. Kyle Cochran of Levittown plays Theodore Laurence, the boy next door, also known as Laurie. Michael Bryant of Bensalem portrays Mr. Brooke, Laurie's tutor and Meg's suitor.

Jim Banar of Newtown plays Professor Bhaer, Jo's special friend from New York City who finds life with Jo March an enigma. Mark D'Zurilla of Titusville, New Jersey portrays Mr. Laurence, Laurie's grandfather who is exasperated by those "dreadful March sisters."

Rounding out the cast are Sandy Kitain of Yardley who plays Mrs. Kirk, owner of a New York City boarding house; Jodie den Outer of Langhorne who plays the Troll; and Violet Myles of Newtown who plays the Hag.

Set design is by George Pickering of Newtown. Costumes are by Jane DeKorte of Holland and Jane Landes of Newtown. Sound design is by Dave Riffert of New Hope. Susan Burnham of New Hope is Stage Manager.

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI), the Newtown Arts Company Production of "Little Women" will be performed Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 21 and Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. There is a preview show with discounted ticket prices on Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 for Reserved Seats; \$19 for General Admission (open seating); and \$35 for Special Reserved Seats in Row I with extra legroom.

Preview show tickets are: \$22 Reserved; \$17 General Admission; and \$30 Special Reserved. Group rates are available by calling 215-860-7058.

Tickets and information are available at www.newtownartscompany.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006 to use a credit card. (Surcharge applies). Tickets may also be purchased during regular box office hours at the Newtown Theatre, 120 N. State Street, Newtown PA 18940 or reserved at will call by calling 215-860-7058.

LITTLE WOMEN is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York NY 10019 Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com

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