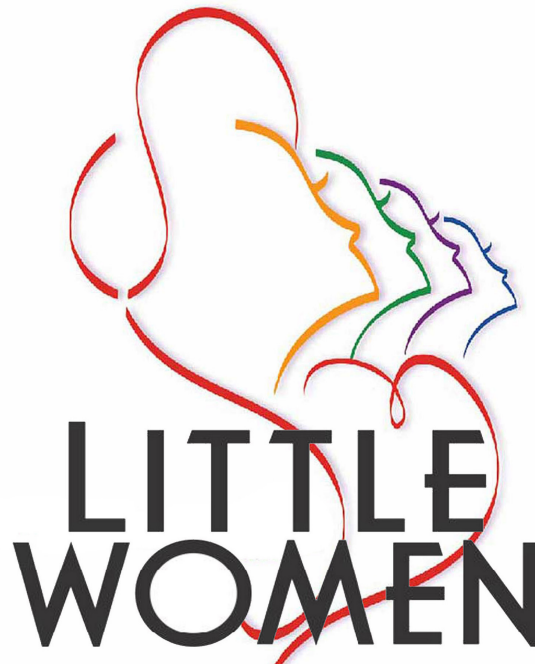


Shire Music Theatre's Production of



The Broadway Musical

Book By
Allan
Knee

Music By
Jason
Howland

Lyrics By
Mindi
Dickstein

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Sutherland Memorial School of Arts

11-20 October 2019

AUDITION PACK

Production Team

Meg Day — Director

Adam Foster — Musical Director

Michael Astill — Choreographer

Bradley Facey — Assistant Director

Orientation

Thursday, May 30

7.30pm

Miranda Youth Centre

Auditions

Sunday, June 23

9.30am - 3.00pm

Miranda Youth Centre

Call Backs: Monday, June 24.

Key Dates

Rehearsals for *Little Women* will commence on July 1 at 7.30pm at the Miranda Youth Centre (2 Central Rd Miranda) . Rehearsals will then take place every Monday and Thursdays evenings, as well as some Sundays. A rehearsal schedule will be provided at the first rehearsal, however, please look at the rehearsal dates below.

Week	Monday	Thursday	Sunday
Week One	July 1	July 4	
Week Two	July 8	July 11	
Week Three	July 15	July 18	
Week Four	July 22	July 25	July 28
Week Five	July 29	August 1	
Week Six	August 5	August 8	
Week Seven	August 12	August 15	August 18
Week Eight	August 19	August 22	
Week Nine	August 26	August 29	
Week Ten	September 2	September 5	
Week Eleven	September 9	September 12	September 15
Week Twelve	September 16	September 19	September 22 (?)
Week Thirteen	September 23	September 26	
Week Fourteen	September 30	October 3	October 6 (TECH)
TECH WEEK	October 6 - October 10		

PERFORMANCE DATES

Friday, October 11 @ 8pm
 Saturday, October 12 @ 2pm and 8pm
 Sunday, October 13 @ 2pm
 Wednesday, October 16 @ 8pm
 Friday, October 18 @ 8pm
 Saturday, October 19 @ 2pm and 8pm
 Sunday, October 20 @ 2pm

BUMP IN

Saturday, October 5*

BUMP OUT

Sunday, October 20*

TECH/DRESS REHEARSALS

Sunday, October 6 @ 10am - 10pm
 Monday, October 7 @ TBC
 Tuesday, October 8 @ 7.30pm
 Wednesday, October 9 @ 7.30pm

*Cast are expected to help at both bump in and bump out.

About Little Women

Based on the semi-autobiographical 1869 novel of the same name, *Little Women* is a story of family, hope and incredible strength. The musical pieces together vignettes which honestly portray moments from the novel to tell the story of Jo March and her sisters as they bind together to overcome the gamut of life's challenges.

Through the four March sisters and their Mother, the audience witness the power of the human spirit and recognise how love and imagination fuel resilience in the face of adversity.

The show's poignancy derives from its delicate balance of comedy and drama, melodrama and realism, which all work together to capture the aspirations, struggles and sufferings of the March family.

Character Breakdown

The Sisters		
<p>An important note about the casting of the March Sisters. There are a few important things to note in casting of the March sisters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While the youngest, Amy, is said to be 13 years of age, we will not be casting younger than 15. It is important to remember that the character playing Amy will be required to marry Laurie in the end of Act 2. Whilst Amy is 12 at the beginning of the novel, modern day audiences will not accept a 12 year old marrying in an 18 year old man. 2. The role of Jo is incredibly demanding and needs to be played by a female performer who has experience and is vocally mature. With this in mind, we anticipate that the role of Jo will be played by someone in their mid twenties. 3. The casting of Jo will affect the casting of the other girls. We need the girls to look older/younger than each other, while also appearing similar in age. We also need them to look somewhat related. 		
Characters	Description	Vocal Range
Jo March	<p>“Jo’s ambition was to do something very splendid; what it was she had no idea; but left it for time to tell her; and, meanwhile found her greatest affliction in the fact that she couldn’t read, run, and ride as much as she liked. A quick temper, sharp tongue and restless spirit were always getting her into scrapes...”</p> <p>Introduce to the audience as an “impassioned girl of 19,” almost everything that Jo does is filled with fervour and enthusiasm. Her mother’s daughter, Jo is strong willed and determined. She is her own person and resolved to not submit to the expectations of society. Described in the novel as quick tempered, Jo does have bursts of almost irrational anger, however, this is trait forgiven because of her vivaciousness and zeal. While Jo comes across as stoic and defiant, she is also very vulnerable and fearful of change. The actress playing Jo will need to deliver a nuanced performance that confidently and naturally portrays Jo’s energy and zest for life, while also subtly conveying her inner fears, doubts and grief.</p> <p>Casting Age: 20+</p>	E3-A5

<p>Meg March</p>	<p>“Meg was found of luxury and her chief trouble in life was poverty. She found it harder to bear because she could remember a time when home was beautiful, life full of ease and pleasure, and want of any kind unknown... Poor Meg seldom complained, but a sense of injustice made her feel bitter toward everyone sometimes...”</p> <p>The oldest, most romantic and beautiful of the March sisters. Meg works as a governess and is constantly reminded of the affluent life her family used to have. She longs to be part of ‘Society’ and struggles with the fact that she will not get the “pretty things” that other girls have. Despite this longing, it is important to recognise that Meg is not vain, nor is she selfish. She is incredibly supportive of her family. Furthermore, when Meg is given the opportunity to ‘mix with Society’ she has a crisis of confidence and self-worth because “every girl in Concord [her] age has been to a ball. And this is the very first time [she’s] even worn a dress like this.” The actress playing Meg needs to bring a grace and charm to the role. She has the air of class and society without having the snobbery.</p> <p>Casting Age: 20+</p>	<p>A#3-Gb5</p>
<p>Beth March</p>	<p>“Her father called her Little Tranquility, and the name suited her excellently; for she seemed to live in a happy world of her own, only venturing out to meet the few who she trusted and loved.”</p> <p>Beth is shy, timid but always peaceful in the comfort and security of the March home. She lives for her family, music and dolls. While she seems quite weak and innocent, she is wise (possibly beyond her years). Beth is an incredibly difficult role to play well. The actress performing Beth needs to make the audience fall in love with her without saying a word. Like Jo, the audience needs to want to protect her forever.</p> <p>Casting Age: 18+</p>	<p>A3-G5</p>
<p>Amy March</p>	<p>“Amy, though the youngest, was a most important person, in her own opinion at least”</p> <p>The youngest of the March sisters and naturally the least mature. Like her older sister, Meg, Amy longs for the fashion, riches and life of the high society and feels robbed for not having it. Moreover, she does not understand why Jo does not want to act like a lady and be part of society, and this is a regular source of tension for the two sisters. Unlike Meg, Amy is yet to learn grace and elegance. Her skills in empathy a not fully developed, and like most 13 year olds (her age at the beginning of the story), she is quite involved in her own problems and vexations.</p> <p>Casting Age: 15+</p>	<p>Cb4-Gb5</p>
<p>Other Characters</p>		
<p>Marmee March</p>	<p>“The girls thought the gray cloak and unfashionable bonnet covered the most splendid woman in the world.”</p> <p>A stoic woman, Marmee is the backbone of the March family and a source of wisdom, strength and courage for the girls. Like many mothers, Marmee puts on a brave face for her girls, however, the audience is allowed glimpses of her own vulnerability, pain and grief during the show. The actress playing Marmee needs to portray her as strong, but full of love; she must have a warm fortitude and never appear cold.</p> <p>Casting Age: 40+</p>	<p>Eb3-Eb5</p>

<p>Laurie</p>	<p>“He looked so wistful as he went away, hearing the frolic, and evidently having none of his own.”</p> <p>When the audience and the March sisters first meet Laurie he is a bashful and lonely young man who longs for fun and company. As the musical progresses, his confidence grows especially as he finds joy and comfort in Jo and the other sisters' company. The actor playing Laurie must be able to capture Laurie's shy and resistant tendencies with his inner energy and love of life and adventure.</p> <p>Casting Age: 20+</p>	<p>Bb2-Bb4</p>
<p>Aunt March</p>	<p>A fierce and formidable matron, Aunt March wishes for the March girls to maintain their status in society and is determined to ensure that they have the right manners and etiquette. Aunt March provides audiences with a clear juxtaposition to Jo who hates society and the idea of marriage. She serves an important function to remind us of the society that Jo lives in.</p> <p>Having said this, Aunt March should not be presented as a malicious figure. While, her attitudes and values differ to Jo's (and arguably the audience) her wish for the girls (and in particular, Jo), to marry well comes from a good place.</p> <p><i>The actress playing Aunt March will also play Mrs Kirk. Mrs Kirk is soft, kind and enthusiastic about Jo's writing.</i></p> <p>Casting Age: 50+</p>	<p>E3-F5</p>
<p>Professor Bhaer</p>	<p>A German professor in his mid to late 30s. He is proper and a worrier, but he has authority and confidence in his craft. He is not shy to share his opinions when it comes to work and literature, however, when it comes to his own feelings he struggles. Bhaer is the opposite of Jo. He is reserved, a thinker and slow to form his opinions. Importantly, he is a strong supporter of Jo; he loves and accepts her for who she is.</p> <p>Casting Age: 30+</p>	<p>G2-F#4</p>
<p>John Brooke</p>	<p>A young, handsome and intelligent man. Mr Brooke is the charming tutor of Laurie who almost instantly steals Meg's heart. His manners and persona must ooze class without a sense arrogance. The only time he loses his words, is when he is dumbstruck by Meg. The audience must immediately warm to him.</p> <p>Casting Age: Mid 20s.</p>	<p>C#3-F#4</p>
<p>Mr Laurence</p>	<p>Perceived originally to be an old and bitter man, Mr Laurence proves himself as a kind and compassionate gentleman. Mr Laurence bonds particularly with Beth. The actor playing Mr Laurence needs to portray Mr Laurence as stern at the outset and then show his softer side without seeming naff.</p> <p>Casting Age: 50+</p>	<p>D3-E4</p>

Please Note:

All characters except Ms Kirk, Professor Bhaer and Jo will double as characters in Jo's, An Operatic Tragedy. They will be required to perform in melodramatic style for the production. Please be aware that you may be required to perform a small piece from the show. This will be cold reading.

Auditions

Auditions are by **appointment only** and will be held at the **Miranda Youth Centre on Sunday, June 23**. To book an audition please contact info@shiremusictheatre.org.au.

Every individual auditioning for the show will be required to complete a singing and acting audition. Auditions are closed and will be approximately 5 minutes in length.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your allocated time. You will be required to submit a completed application form as well as a resume which outlines your theatrical experiences and any relevant training.

The panel is: Meg Day (Director), Brad Facey (Assistant Director), Adam Foster (Musical Director) and Michael Astill (Choreographer), a representative of the SMT Committee and a non-member industry specialist.

Audition Requirements

SINGING AUDITION

All Auditionee's must prepare the pieces associated with the character they wish to audition for (**see table on page 7**). There will be an accompanist for all performers and music auditions may be workshopped. **PLEASE NOTE**, persons auditioning for a role that has more than ONE piece listed may be required to perform both songs. The casting panel will advise which music piece to perform at the time of your audition.

Auditionee's may also be required to perform a voice range check. This will be confirmed after your music audition piece(s).

If you are requested for a callback, you may be required to prepare an additional song. This will be provided to you at the time of notification and will be briefly workshopped prior to your performance.

READING AUDITION

Everyone auditioning for *Little Women* will be required to perform a scene from the show (**see table on page 7**). These will be available in digital form and will be given to all auditionees when their booking is made. While performers are not required to memorise the script, it is expected that performers have prepared the piece and carefully considered/developed the character they are auditioning for.

All auditionees should be prepared to receive some direction during their audition. This may mean that some readings will be cut short. Please also be prepared to perform one line of dialogue in the style of Melodrama.

AUDITION MATERIAL		
Character(s)	Singing Audition	Reading Audition
Jo March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Our Finest Dreams</i> (Bar 4 - 11) • <i>Astonishing</i> (Bar 66-End) • <i>The Fire Within Me</i> (Bar 1-34) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo Reading • Jo and Laurie Reading • Jo and Meg Reading • Jo and Marmee <p>You will be required to perform at least two of these readings.</p>
Meg March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More Than I Am</i> (Bar 28 - End) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meg and Brooke • Meg and Jo
Beth March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some Things Are Meant To Be</i> (Bar 5 - 28 both lines and 49 - 63) • <i>Off to Massachusetts</i> (Bar 36 - End) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth Reading • Beth and Mr Laurence Reading
Amy March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Most Amazing Thing</i> (Bar 1 - 40 both lines) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Reading One • Amy Reading Two
Marmee March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Here Alone</i> (Bar 13 - 30 and 62 - End) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marmee Reading One • Marmee and Jo Reading
Laurie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Five Forever</i> (Bar 49 - 55) • <i>Take a Chance on Me</i> (all) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurie Reading One • Laurie and Jo Reading
Aunt March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Could You</i> (Bar 23 - 75, 97- 102, 142 - 152) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aunt March Reading • Mrs Kirk Reading
Professor Bhaer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How I Am</i> (Bar 2 - 35, 70 - End) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Bhaer Reading One • Professor Bhaer Reading Two
John Brooke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More than I Am</i> (all) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Brooke Reading
Mr Laurence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Off to Massachusetts</i> (Bar 25 - 45) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth and Mr Laurence Reading

Please note: Call backs will be held on Monday, June 24. People invited to the callback will be expected to prepare additional music from the show. The readings will remain the same. A member of the production team will call you on Sunday evening if you are required for call backs.

Cast Announcement

The successful auditionees will be called on or before Wednesday, June 26, and casting will be posted on the SMT website on Thursday, June 27.

If you are not cast in *Little Women* it is not necessarily a reflection on your performance but you may not fit the overall vision of this particular production.

Your Commitment As A Cast Member

All cast members MUST be or become a member of SMT and remain financial until the completion of the season.

All rehearsals will take place at the Miranda Youth Centre. Cast will be provided with a rehearsal schedule at the rehearsal. This schedule will be subject to change and cast are expected to notify the Production Team of their unavailabilities with ample notice. It is imperative that all auditionees indicate which rehearsals they will be unable to attend at the time of auditions.

All cast are expected to participate in set building, publicity, fundraising and bump in and bump out.

Fees

MEMBERSHIP

If you are cast in *Little Women* and are not a current financial member you will be required to apply for membership.

Membership has an annual fee of \$30.

Membership is a condition of performing for SMT and is inclusive of insurance protection in the event of an injury sustained at rehearsal or during performance, therefore must be paid within two weeks of starting rehearsal. If you are not a financial member after this date your activity at rehearsal will be restricted and if you are not financial after one month you will be replaced.

SHOW FEE

In addition to membership, all cast members are required to pay a show fee of \$70.

Payments can be made online:

Shire Music Theatre

BSB: 062186

Acc: 10128767



Audition Form



Personal Information

Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Mobile Ph: _____

How did you hear about our auditions? _____

Casting Information

Role/s: _____

Will you accept another role if offered? Y/N

Voice Type (*eg. Tenor, Soprano*)

Are you committed to any other productions?

Do you have any known unavailability?
