



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

CONTACT: Patrick Finlon, Marketing Director

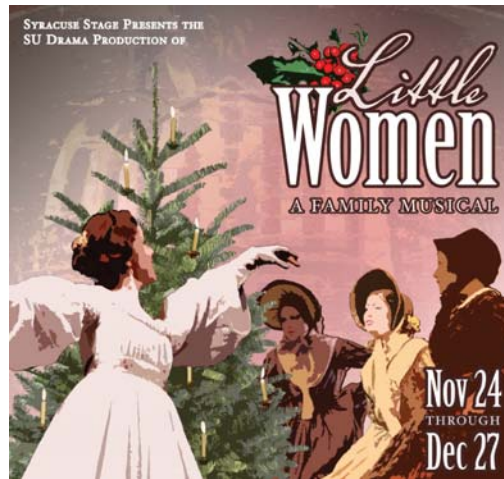
315-443-2636 or [pjfinlon@syr.edu](mailto:pjfinlon@syr.edu)

*Syracuse Stage Presents the SU Drama Production of:*

## *Little Women*

Celebrate Your Holiday with Stage's Annual Family Musical

*The Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Family Holiday Series*



Music by Kim Oler

Lyrics by Alison Hubbard

Book by Sean Hartley

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed and Choreographed by Anthony Salatino

Music Direction by Dianne Adams McDowell

**ARCHBOLD THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE**

**Running Dates: Nov 24 - Dec 27**

**Press Opening: Saturday, Nov 28 at 7:30 p.m.**

(Syracuse, NY)— What we cherish most—family, sacrifice, determination, hope and love—never goes out of style. All of Louisa May Alcott's classic characters are here: warm and loving Marmee, vivacious Amy, sweet and dreamy Meg, tender-hearted Beth, handsome and charming Laurie, Aunt March, Professor Bhaer and of course the passionate and funny Jo. Brimming with 20 beautiful songs, this new musical captures all the struggle, romance and deep emotions of Alcott's beloved tale. Celebrate your holidays with the March family.

Presented by Syracuse Stage and the Department of Drama in Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), *Little Women* runs November 24-December 27 at Syracuse Stage. *Recommended for ages 8 and up.* Tickets can be purchased online at [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org), by phone at 315-443-3275 or in person at 820 East Genesee Street.

The exclusive sponsor is Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. Media sponsors are Eagle Newspapers, WCNY and Syracuse.com. Syracuse Stage season sponsors are *The Post-Standard* and Time Warner Cable.

"I chose this piece for the holidays because the music is lush and beautiful, because it begins at Christmas, and because it shows how love and family and home can transcend even the most difficult times," said Producing Artistic Director Timothy Bond.

"It's about extraordinary desires to personalize our lives," adds director and choreographer Anthony Salatino. "You see this reflected in the set design, which is open and airy. The space and light give you the feeling of openness, of no limitations, a sense that change is possible."

Winner of the 1998 Richard Rodgers Award for Best Musical Score, *Little Women* is alive with soaring melodies and dance while staying true to the spirit of Alcott's original story and characters.

"It's about family, about war, it's about marriage, it's about children, it's about a writer who has a dream and is out of place in her own world and still succeeds and dreams," said lyricist Alison Hubbard. "And there's a little bit of the romance of everybody banding together in a time of troubles, turmoil."

Alcott wrote *Little Women* in response to her publisher's suggestion that she write a book for girls. Penned over two and half months, the work is based on her own experiences growing up in a family with three sisters. "The characters start to feel like family members," notes Sean Hartley, the musical's book writer. "It starts to feel a little bit like this really happened."

Alcott's book was an immediate success, selling over 2,000 copies shortly after being released in 1868. The second volume, released a year later, sold over 13,000 copies. "She [Alcott] connects us with really deep currents of desire to create in our children a better world," said composer Kim Oler.

The local connection to this adaptation is strong. In 2007, the work was presented by SU Drama's New Play Workshop Program, spearheaded by assistant professor Marie Kemp. In preparation for this winter's full-scale production, the writers made final edits with the assistance of Syracuse Staff staff.

"Bringing new work to the stage is a very intense and exciting process," said Kyle Bass, Syracuse Stage Dramaturg. "Alison, Kim and Sean have worked with Tony, Dianne and myself since this summer—and through the rehearsal process—discussing changes to the script and the music. They are wonderful artists who care deeply about their musical. They want the audience to care deeply about it too. This drives all of us to get it right."

Timothy Bond believes the effort was a success. "This version of *Little Women* will fulfill with its depth of emotion, finely crafted story, and beauty of music."

#### LOCAL CONNECTIONS

- **SU Drama's New Play Workshop Program** - In 2007 *Little Women* received a workshop performance by SU Drama students and faculty. The workshop was integral in developing the piece that is to receive a full production this holiday season at Syracuse Stage.

- **CNY Reads** - Now reading *March*, the 2005 Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Geraldine Brooks about Mr. March of the March family in *Little Women*.
- **Onondaga Historical Association** - An OHA photo exhibit in Stage's lobby will depict period Civil War images, and historic CNY scenes relating to the experiences of the Alcott Family when in Syracuse.
- **Friends of the Central Library Rosamond Gifford Lecture Series** - Presenting Geraldine Brooks, author of *March*, on November 10. Brooks will be introduced by Stage's Producing Artistic Director Timothy Bond.
- **May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society** - Named after Louisa May Alcott's beloved uncle, Samuel Joseph May, a well-known abolitionist and reformer.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- **November 19 - The Third Thursday (TH3)**  
*Syracuse's Citywide Arts Open*  
Showing an exhibit relating to *Little Women*, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **November 24 - LGBT Pride Night Series**  
*Get IN with the OUT crowd*  
Pre-show party and refreshments.
- **November 27 - LIVE in the Sutton**  
*Come for the show, stay for the music*  
Post-show music by ESP jazz quartet.
- **November 29 - Actor Talkback**  
A Q&A with the cast of *Little Women*, after the 7 p.m. performance.
- **December 5 - Welch Allyn Signed Interpreted Performance**  
*In Memory of Susan Thompson*  
Signed matinee at 3 p.m.
- **December 9 - Wednesday @ 1 Lecture Series**  
*Pre-show discussion, before the 2 p.m. matinee*  
Featuring Dennis J. Connors, Curator of History at Onondaga Historical Association. Lecture will focus on Louisa May Alcott's connection to Central New York through her beloved uncle, Samuel Joseph May, a well-known abolitionist and reformer.

*\*Special event programs are additionally funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the National Organization for the American Theatre.*

## TICKETS

**Single Tickets:** \$24-\$48

**Children (under 18):** \$16

**Under 40:** \$20 all tickets, all performances.

**Rush:** \$20-\$25 general public, \$9 with valid student ID, subject to availability

*\*Rush tickets available by phone (\$5 fee) or in person (no fee)*

*\*Discounts available for seniors, students, groups and subscribers*

Online: [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org)

Call: 315-443-3275

In person: 820 East Genesee Street

Groups (10 or more): 315-443-9844

## LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Born November 29, 1832 in Germantown, Pennsylvania, Louisa May Alcott was a best-selling novelist of the late 1800s. She was taught by her father, Amos Bronson Alcott, and studied informally with family friends such as Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker. Residing in Boston and Concord, she worked as a domestic servant, a teacher, and other jobs to help support her family from 1850 to 1862. During the Civil War, Alcott went to Washington, D.C. to serve as a nurse.

Starting in 1851, Louisa May Alcott had published poems, short stories, thrillers and children's stories under the pen name Flora Fairfield. In 1862 she also adopted the pen name A. M. Barnard, and some of her melodramas were produced on Boston stages. But it was her account of her Civil War experiences, *Hospital Sketches* (1863) that confirmed her desire to be a serious writer. She began to publish stories under her real name in *Atlantic Monthly* and *Lady's Companion*, and took a brief trip to Europe in 1865 before becoming editor of a girls' magazine, *Merry's Museum* (1868).

Prompted by her publisher, Alcott wrote *Little Women* over two and a half months, basing it on her own experiences growing up with three young sisters. Published in September of 1868, it was an instant success and immediately sold more than 2,000 copies. The second volume, released in 1969, sold over 13,000 copies.

The great success of *Little Women* (1869-70) gave Louisa May Alcott financial independence and also created a demand for more books. For the rest of her life she turned out a steady stream of novels and short stories, mostly for young people, and drawn directly from her own family life. Other books include *Little Men* (1871), *Eight Cousins* (1875), *Jo's Boys* (1886), *Work* (1873), and *A Modern Mephistopheles* (1877). She died on March 6, 1888.

## WRITERS

**Kim Oler (Composer).** *Little Women, The Enchanted Cottage, Buddy's Tavern, The Secret Garden, Harriet the Spy, Class Clown, Little Women* (a play with music), *Babes in Toyland*, and *Pets!* Television: *The Tracey Ullman Show, As the World Turns, Guiding Light*, and *All My Children* (Emmy Awards 2002 and 2003). Choral: *Missa Gaia* (Paul Winter Consort); original works published by Boosey & Hawkes, Hal Leonard, Carl Fischer, et. al. Awards: New Harmony Project 2007, 2003 Jerry Bock Award, 2002 BMI Jerry Harrington Award, and 1998 Richard Rodgers Award. Member: Dramatists Guild, BMI, Local 802. APPROVED

**Alison Louise Hubbard (Lyricist).** Credits include *Buddy's Tavern* and *The Enchanted Cottage* (Spirit of Broadway Theatre), *Little Women* (Village Theatre, Spirit of Broadway Theatre, The Waterman Center, published by Theatrical Rights Worldwide). Tours with Theatreworks/USA: *The Secret Garden, Harriet the Spy, Little Women* (play with music), *Tom Sawyer, Class Clown* (also produced by Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera), and *Babes in Toyland*. Revues: *PETS!* (Leahy Productions, published by Dramatic Publishing), *When the Cookie Crumbles* (Theatreworks/USA, published by Musical Theatre International), *The Cop and the Anthem*

(Lake George Opera and NYU Opera Theatre). Alison's songs have been published by Boosey & Hawkes and recorded with Parachute Express and Jamie de Roy & Friends, and she was a New Harmony Project Artist-in-Residence in 2007. Awards: 2006 Kleban Award for Most Promising Lyricist, 2003 Jerry Bock Award for *The Enchanted Cottage*, 2002 BMI Jerry Harrington Award for Outstanding Creative Achievement, and the 1998 Richard Rodgers Award for *Little Women*. Alison is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America and BMI.

**Sean Hartley** (*Book*) is director of the Theatre Wing at the Kaufman Center in New York, where he produces the concert series *Broadway Close Up* and *Broadway Playhouse*. His musical, *Cupid And Psyche*, written with composer Jihwan Kim, was produced off-Broadway, earning a Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Lyrics. Subsequent productions include Oregon Cabaret, New Jersey Repertory Company and Chicago's Jedlicka Performing Arts Center (JPAC). TV credits include Disney Channel's *Book of Pooh* and *Bear in the Big Blue House*. Children's musicals include *Number the Stars*, *Sunshine* and *Holy Moses*, all published by Dramatic Publishing Co. He is currently writing book, music and lyrics for *Snow*, for which he won the 2007 ASCAP Harold Arlen Award.

## DIRECTOR

**Anthony Salatino** (*Director, Choreographer*). A graduate of The Juilliard School, Tony has choreographed for many opera and dance companies throughout the United States. He choreographed the New York City Opera premiere of *Margaret Garner*, music by Richard Danielpour, libretto by Toni Morrison (based on her novel *Beloved*) and directed by Tazewell Thompson. For Syracuse Stage he choreographed *A Christmas Carol*; directed and choreographed *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music*, *West Side Story*, *Peter Pan*, and choreographed *The Wizard of Oz*, *Big River* and *My Fair Lady*. He also created movement for *M. Butterfly*, designed the fights for *Bug* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and set the dances and fight scenes for *Romeo and Juliet*. At Connecticut's Westport Country Playhouse he choreographed the world premiere of *Jam and Spice*, a revue of the music of Kurt Weill. An associate professor at Syracuse University's Drama Department, Tony directed *Sweeney Todd*; and he conceived, directed and choreographed three original productions: *Bravo Piaf!*, *The Table (Der Tisch)* and *The Clowns*. He co-directed and choreographed *The Wind in the Willows* for the Drama Department and New York's New Victory Theatre. Anthony also has directed and choreographed for the Fort Worth, Connecticut, Pittsburgh and Syracuse Opera Companies. He was Artistic Director of the Fort Worth (TX) Ballet Company, and associate artistic director of the Hartford (CT) Ballet. He has performed with dance companies throughout the United States and Europe, and performed with the (New York) City Center Company at the White House.

## MUSICAL DIRECTOR

**Dianne Adams McDowell** (*Musical Director*) returns again to Syracuse Stage, where she has taken part in the following productions: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Butterfingers Angel*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, *The Dragonslayers*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *Peter Pan*, *Oliver!*, *West Side Story*, *Constant Star*, *The Wizard of Oz*, the 1999-2005 Hospice Benefits, *Big River*, *The Sound of Music*, *Putting It Together* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Dianne has served as composer/lyricist, arranger, and musical director in a variety of mediums. Her award-winning musical, *The Wind in the Willows* (adaptation by Gerardine Clark), had its NYC premiere at The New Victory Theatre, and was written with long-time husband/collaborator, James McDowell. Their most recent musical, *Bookends*, co-authored with Katharine Houghton, recently premiered at NJ Repertory Theatre to great critical acclaim. Dianne has composed for Radio City Music Hall, was musical arranger/supervisor for the world premiere of *Jam and Spice*, and served as associate conductor/vocal arranger of Broadway's Tony-nominated *Starmites*. Dianne's vocal arrangements have been performed at regional theatres and on

stages throughout the country, including Avery Fischer Hall, Lincoln Center, Hartford Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Cleveland Play House, and TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, among others. She was nominated for the 2002 Helen Hayes Award in the category of Outstanding Musical Direction for the production of Tazewell Thompson's *Constant Star* at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. Dianne was also the recipient of the 2004 Barrymore Award (Philadelphia) and the 2006 Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP award.

#### VPA AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

VPA is committed to the education of cultural leaders who will engage and inspire audiences through performance, visual art, design, scholarship and commentary. It provides the tools for self-discovery and risk-taking in an environment that thrives on critical thought and action.

#### SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded in 1974, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 36 seasons including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Each season 90,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and musicals featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. A solid core of subscribers and supporters helps keep Syracuse Stage a vibrant artistic presence in Central New York. Additional support comes from the government, foundations, corporations and Syracuse University. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

Fact Sheet:

## *Little Women*

Celebrate Your Holiday with Stage's Annual Family Musical

*The Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Family Holiday Series*

Music by Kim Oler

Lyrics by Alison Hubbard

Book by Sean Hartley

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed and Choreographed by Anthony Salatino

Music Direction by Dianne Adams McDowell

**ARCHBOLD THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE**

**Running Dates: Nov 24 - Dec 27**

**Press Opening: Saturday, Nov 28 at 7:30 p.m.**

EXCLUSIVE SPONSOR:

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield

MEDIA SPONSORS:

Eagle Newspapers

WCNY

Syracuse.com

SYRACUSE STAGE SEASON SPONSORS:

*The Post-Standard*

Time Warner Cable

ARTISTIC

Frederick Willard (*Associate Music Director*)

Kyle Bass (*Dramaturg*)

Kim Hale (*Assistant to the Director*)

DESIGNERS

Troy Hourie (*Scenic Designer*)

Tracy Dorman (*Costume Designer*)

Dawn Chiang (*Lighting Designer*)

Jonathan R. Herter (*Sound Designer*)

STAGE MANAGER

Stuart Plymessa (*Production Stage Manager*)

CAST

Ross Baum (*Policeman, Russian, Ensemble*)

LilyAnn Carlson (*Sally Harper, Ensemble*)

Lauren Devine (*Ensemble*)

Chris Dwan (*Paperboy, Freddy, Ensemble*)

Aisling Halpin (*Amy*)

Jenaha McLearn (*Beth*)

Malcolm Ingram (*Mr. Laurence, Ensemble*)  
 Sandra Karas (*Aunt March*)  
 Marie Kemp (*Marmee*)  
 Benjamin Michael (*John*)  
 Mary Kate Morrissey (*Meg*)  
 Leslie Noble (*Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Kirke, Ensemble*)  
 Marcelo Pereira (*New Yorker, Spaniard, Ensemble*)  
 John Shuler Quertermous (*Beggar, Badge-Wheedle, Ensemble*)  
 Sarah Shahinian (*Jo*)  
 Dominique Stasiulis (*Laurie, Ensemble*)  
 David Studwell (*Professor Fritz Bhaer*)  
 Angela Travins (*Mrs. Hawthorne, NY Passerby, Ensemble*)  
 Amanda Varcelotti (*Apple Seller, Ensemble*)  
 Joseph Whelan (*Father, Mr. Harper, Ensemble*)

The names in bold are actors and stage managers who are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

TICKETS:

Single Tickets: \$24-\$48

Children (under 18): \$16

Under 40: \$20 all tickets, all performances.

Rush: \$20-\$25 general public, \$9 with valid student ID, subject to availability

*\*Rush tickets available by phone (\$5 fee) or in person (no fee)*

*\*Discounts available for seniors, students, groups and subscribers*

Online: [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org)

Call: 315-443-3275

In person: 820 East Genesee Street

Groups (10 or more): 315-443-9844

SHOW CALENDAR: November/December

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		24 7:30 P	25	26	27 7:30 O	28 3:00 7:30 PO
29 2:00 7:00 D	30	1	2	3 7:30	4 7:30	5 3:00 S 7:30
6 2:00	7	8	9 2:00 7:30	10 7:30	11 7:30	12 3:00 7:30
13 2:00	14	15	16	17 7:30	18 7:30	19 3:00 7:30

20 2:00	21 7:30	22 7:30	23 7:30	24	25	26 3:00 7:30
27 2:00 7:00						

P=Preview O=Opening PO=Press Opening S=Signed D=Discussion

###

Syracuse Stage | Producing Artistic Director: Timothy Bond | Managing Director: Jeffrey Woodward  
 820 E. Genesee St. | Main: 315-443-4008 | Box Office: 315-443-3275 | [www.syracusestage.org](http://www.syracusestage.org)