

# Little Women

Directed by  
Elizabeth Havican



Live Radio Show!



## *Little Women, A Radio Play*

Presented by the

## Village Playhouse

December 10-31, online

Enjoy a heartwarming, inspiring evening as our talented cast bring this classic tale to life.

To watch, visit [villageplayhouse.org/little-women](http://villageplayhouse.org/little-women) between December 10 and 31st. Tickets will be a suggested donation of \$10/per person viewing.

Visit [www.facebook.com/VillagePlayhouse](http://www.facebook.com/VillagePlayhouse) to find postings about the show, and the wonderful cast!



Filmed at:  
Inspiration Studios  
1500 South 73rd Street  
West Allis, WI 53214

**Village Playhouse**

[www.villageplayhouse.org](http://www.villageplayhouse.org)

*Original Novel Written by Louisa May Alcott  
Adapted for Radio by Elizabeth M. Havican*

## *From the Director*

*Little Women* is a project that is near to my heart. This novel, along with its sequels *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys*, have been favorites since childhood. When I was about 10 years old, I decided to adapt *Little Men* for the stage. I was extremely excited about the idea – until I realized how much work goes into writing an entire play. Since I did not have the patience for hand-writing each line, the project was quickly abandoned.

Luckily, I had the help of a computer and a text file of the novel to create this adaptation of *Little Women*. I kept as much of the book intact as possible while keeping the script a reasonable length. This meant reading and rereading the novel to decide what subplots and chapters could be cut and keep the core story (Sorry, Demi and Daisy!). In rehearsal, I shared the cuts with the cast so they could use it to build their performances.

*Little Women* was originally written as two separate novels, published in 1868 and 1869. The two volumes did not appear together until 1880. For our show, Act 1 is drawn from the first volume, following the March sisters over one year in their early to mid-teens. Act 2 is the second volume, jumping ahead three years and takes place over a five-year timeframe as the girls begin their adult lives.

It would be remiss not to mention how the pandemic shaped this production. The show and format were chosen specifically for the ability to limit contact between the actors. Luckily, the radio show format fits this story well. Most rehearsals were done via Zoom and the actors did not meet in person until three days before taping. There are no shared props and actors put on costumes and makeup at home instead of the theater. You will notice the actors on stage are six feet apart at all time and wear masks as they leave the stage. We acknowledge the pandemic is happening but worked hard to not let it hijack the show.

Heartfelt thanks to the cast for being flexible and patient. This show would not have been possible without their hard work. Special thanks to Amy Wickland (Foley artist) and Geoff Schuelke (pianist) for their creativity and hard work enhancing the show through sound.

I hope the March sisters inspire you this holiday season to care more; to give without expectation of receiving, and to find joy in the little things every day.

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**FESTIVAL**  
  
**PHASE 3**

*The Interview*

by Carol Ratliff Drury

*Old Friends*

by Jon Kolb

Virtually Live January 12, 2021

**CAST (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

Rainy Armstrong..... Narrator, Marmee  
Rita Bates ..... Narrator, Aunt Carrol, Mrs. Kirke  
Annie Bradford ..... Adult Amy, Annie Moffat  
Christina Hoehn ..... Beth, Sallie Gardiner  
Cory Klein..... Narrator, Mr. Laurence, Professor Baehr  
Hannah Kubiak ..... Jo  
Brooke Lister..... Young Amy  
Savannah Miracle..... Meg  
Vivian Moller ..... Hannah, Aunt March  
..... Mrs. Hummel, Mrs. Moffat  
Clayton Mortl ..... John Brooke  
Joe Nolan..... Narrator, Mr. March,  
..... Mr. Davis, Mr. Dashwood  
Brad Skonecki ..... Laurie  
Amy Wickland ..... Foley Artist  
Geoff Schuelke..... Pianist

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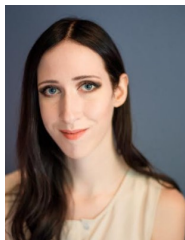
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## WHO'S WHO?



**Rainy Armstrong** (Marmee, Narrator) Rainy is delighted, in these dark times, to be a part of telling such a warm story about love and finding joy despite life's hardships (especially at Christmastime). She loves and misses theater which she studied at Portland State and Utah Valley Universities. Some of her other passions are nature, art, poetry, and a daily practice of existential crises. Most of all she loves Dave, Rowan, November, and Mochi.



**Rita Bates** (Narrator, Aunt Carrol, Mrs. Kirke) This is Rita's seventh year and fourth main stage production with Village Playhouse. The part of narrator redeems a childhood disappointment of not being cast as narrator in her fourth-grade spring play. She thanks Elizabeth Havican, her favorite person in the world, for entrusting her with the telling of this story and challenging her to play other small character roles.



**Annie Bradford** (Adult Amy) Annie is simply delighted to be making her Village Playhouse debut in *Little Women: A Radio Play*. Annie originally hails from Lexington, KY, and moved to Milwaukee just over a year ago. She is currently a graduate student earning a Master's of Social Work at UWM, working toward becoming a therapist. In her free time, Annie likes traveling, cooking, reading, and fantasizing about the dogs she'll adopt someday.



**Elizabeth M. Havican** (Director) is thrilled to be part of this production. Directing credits include *Forty Carats*, *Waiting for Godot* and *Beyond Therapy*, all for Village Playhouse. In the ten years she has worked with this group, Elizabeth has done just about every job possible, including producing, stage managing and lighting design. Elizabeth currently serves on the Village Playhouse board as treasurer. She also enjoys acting and has performed with many different theaters in the Milwaukee area. Elizabeth lives in West Allis with her husband, Patrick, and their cats, Deadly and Windom Earle.



**Christina Hoehn** (Beth) Christina is thrilled to be a part of this incredible cast and bringing one of her favorite stories to life. She would like to thank the amazing director, cast, and crew as well as her family for their support. Christina currently works as a speech pathologist for Milwaukee Public Schools and looks forward to getting more involved with community theater in the Milwaukee area.

## WHO'S WHO?



**Cory Klein** (Narrator, Mr. Laurence, Professor Baehr) Cory is happy to appear for the first time with Village Playhouse. He has been active locally with many different groups, most recently in Sunset Playhouse's *Comedy of Tenors* as Max; *The Curious Savage* as Dr. Emmett; *A Murder is Announced* as Inspector Craddock and with West Allis Players in *Jekyll and Hyde* as Simon Stride.



**Hannah Kubiak** (Jo) Hannah Kubiak hails from the Chicago area and works at a funeral home to support her theater habit. Her hobbies include reading, writing, sketching, marathon TV watching, and complaining about what these sedentary activities do to her back.



**Brooke Lister** (Young Amy) Brooke is excited for her pandemic debut as Young Amy March in Village Playhouse's *Little Women: A Radio Play*. Brooke lives in Middleton where she is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Kromrey Middle School. Acting has interested her from a young age, and after attending drama club and summer acting camps she is honored to have her first onstage role.



**Savannah Miracle** (Meg) Savannah is thrilled to be a part of her first show with Village Playhouse as Meg! She is currently a student at the University of Notre Dame where she has performed with the Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company (*Julius Caesar*, *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and the Pasquerilla East Musical Company (*The Adams Family*, *Guys and Dolls*). She thanks the cast and production team for being so welcoming and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Vivian Moller** (Hannah, Aunt March, Mrs. Hummel, Mrs. Moffat) So great to be creative again! Past experience includes multiple shows in the Aberdeen, SD area and two appearances in Village Playhouse's one-act festival several years ago. She also appeared in *Lilies of the Field* and *But I'm Not Really in Love With It* as part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual One Act Festival being streamed online. Enjoy the show!

## WHO'S WHO?



**Clayton Mortl** (John Brooke) Hello there, folks! My name is Clayton Mortl, and I am playing the role of John Brooke. This is my fifth production at Village Playhouse. I have also appeared at three other community theaters in the Milwaukee area plus five productions at New Berlin West Middle/High School. I hope you enjoy the show!



**Joe Nolan** (Narrator, Mr. March) For the past quarter century Joe has appeared in professional and community theaters in Wisconsin and the Midwest. His very first production was Village Playhouse's *Godspell* as followed by Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* a year later, both in the mid-90's. Other favorite lead roles include *Next to Normal*, *The Secret Garden*, *Guys and Dolls* and *A Little Night Music*. Joe is also co-owner of Good Harvest Market in Waukesha.



**Geoff Schuelke** (Pianist) Jeff comes to Village Playhouse having directed or performed in over a dozen orchestras with Imagination Theater of Germantown and Patio Players, including *Oliver*, *Hairspray* and *Music Man*. He is the co-writer, and co-producer of the Jazz/Fusion project Fibonacci Sequence. Jeff has a BFA in Music Education from UW-Milwaukee and is very thankful and proud to be able to add a little musical color to this already wonderful show.



**Brad Skonecki** (Laurie) Brad is very excited for his first production with Village Playhouse. Some of his favorite roles are Corny Collins (*Hairspray*), Franz (*Rock of Ages*), French Taunter/Not Dead Fred (*Spamalot*), and Robertson Aye (*Mary Poppins*). Brad would like to thank his friends and family who have been very supportive of his work in theater.

## *PRODUCTION TEAM*

Director	Elizabeth M. Havican
Producer	Dawn Molly Dewane
Stage Manager	Beth Bland
Costume Design	Dawn Molly Dewane
Set Construction	Derek Jacobs, Casey Paszkiewicz Scott Sorensen, Tom Zuehlke
Light Board Operator	Beth Bland
Publicity	Elizabeth M. Havican, Amy Wickland Dawn Molly Dewane
Graphics / Poster Design	Derek Jacobs

## **Acknowledgements and Gratitude**

Keith Barber	Larry Beckley
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Dewane	Goody Goody Girl Jewels
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Lake Country Playhouse	Vivian Moller
Joe Nolan	Erico Ortiz
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Amy Wickland	

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