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*Thank you for supporting the arts in Brookfield!*

# The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

November 2008

Greetings and welcome to **The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts!** With three very successful runs already under our belt this year, this evening we are very pleased to welcome you all to our final production of the 2008 season, *Little Women*.

Much hard work both on- and off-stage has contributed to the success of this production, and the cast and crew are to be commended for their dedication and enthusiasm. Thanks to their efforts, we are all in for a wonderful evening of entertainment tonight, and we send our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to everyone involved!

TBTA has reached a milestone that few community theatres ever achieve: In 2008 we will embark on our 51st year as one of our community's premier theatres. As a valued patron of the arts, you are here tonight to support and recognize how valuable the arts are within our community. As the new leadership within TBTA, we ask that each of you think of your first experience with theatre and the memories that resulted. TBTA has become a second family for us and the friendships that we have made will last a lifetime. Community theatre has become a meaningful part of our lives, as we imagine it is as meaningful a part in yours.

Over the last several years, it has become increasingly more difficult for community theatres to produce quality performances. The fact is that things simply cost more money today than they used to. Heating the building, production costs, and the general bottom-line expenses can no longer be covered by ticket sales alone, so we must then rely on the support of patrons like you. Please give generously, and when you are completing that membership form or writing that donation check, think very hard about everything that TBTA and the theatre have given to you, your family, and your community over the past 50 years!

The arts are invaluable and an important part of every community, and would not be so without the support of its patrons. On behalf of the Board of Directors and of all those whose lives have been enriched and enhanced by their involvement at TBTA, we beseech your support. By becoming a member, subscriber, or generous donor, you directly influence our ability to make the financial decisions that then perpetuate TBTA's presence in our community. A commitment like this not only expresses your fondness and support of the arts in your community, but also demonstrates that you believe in our mission and want to insure TBTA's future.

With our 2008 season now coming to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to graciously thank you for your support of TBTA this year. We hope that it has been an enjoyable experience for you, and that we can count on your patronage next year as well. We wish you a wonderful evening of theatre tonight, and a very happy and healthy holiday season this year!

All the best,

Stephanie Skrok  
President, TBTA

Lori Mele  
Vice-President, TBTA

***For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, the use of flash photography is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off all phones, pagers, computer games, and other distractions. Please unwrap candies before the show begins and respect each other. This is live theatre.***

# LITTLE WOMEN

the broadway musical

## **Cast**

Lori Mele . . . . . Jo March  
Jude Calligos . . . . . Marmee  
Caitlin Kuhfeldt . . . . . Meg March  
Zoe DeStories . . . . . Beth March  
Jillian Wipfler . . . . . Amy March  
Eleanor “Elie” Finkelstein . . . . . Aunt March  
Billy Hicks . . . . . Laurie  
Mark Chisholm . . . . . John Brooke  
William Lamoureux . . . . . Mr. Laurence  
Keith Johnson . . . . . Professor Bhaer

## **Musicians**

Mark Campbell • John Pokorny • Joanne F. Archibald

## **Production Staff**

*Director* . . . . . Alicia Dempster  
*Producers* . . . . . Stephanie Skrok & Sammy Panzarino  
*Musical Director* . . . . . Joanne F. Archibald  
*Stage Manager* . . . . . Amanda Steinmetz  
*Technical Director* . . . . . Brian Casella  
*Set Design* . . . . . Alicia Dempster  
*Master Carpenter* . . . . . T.C. Burt, Jr.  
*Costume Design* . . . . . Meg Jones  
*Lighting & Sound Design* . . . . . Brian Casella, Josh White  
*Lighting Execution* . . . . . Diana Piekarski  
*Set Construction* . . . . . Alicia Dempster, T.C. Burt, Jr.,  
Keith Johnson, Bill Lamoureux, Mark Chisholm,  
Caitlin Kuhfeldt, Stephanie Skrok  
*Opening Night Party* . . . . . Kristin Hoose

## **Special Thanks**

Michael O’Dell, The Warner Theatre,  
Private Eye Vision & Hearing, Brookfield Cleaners

## Biographies, cont'd.

**Jillian Wipfler** (AMY MARCH) is pleased to be making her debut performance at TBTA. Her past credits include *Seven Little Foys*, *Ragtime*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Jillian is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School where she studies voice, dance and piano. She would like to thank Alicia and the production staff for this great experience. *Break a leg!*

### TBTA Members 2008

Joanne F. Archibald, Robert & Jane Brown, Maureen & Mike Burnett,  
Michael Burnett, Mark Campbell, Brian Casella, Susan Chapin,  
Stephen Cihaneck, Alicia & Billy Dempster, Rebecca Dobson, Jo & Rick Dubois,  
Peg & Norm Ellis, Richard B. Fischer DDS, Lori Franzese,  
Susan & Bill Gabrielle, Trish Haldin, Clare Haney, Robyn Hicks,  
The Hicks Family, Carol & Steve Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Nancy Hutchinson,  
Jean & Victor Jackson, Meg Jones, Sheridan Jones, Mary Jonker, Alison Kron,  
Carla Kron, Tom Kron, Barbara Kessler, Suzanne & Larry Kinnear, Alison Kron,  
Judi Martinez, Paul Mayer, Catherine McCollian, Lee Mele, Lori Mele,  
Peter & Barbara Mele, Diane & Gary Millar, Emma Okell, Ed O'Lena,  
Donna Panzarino, Jim Panzarino, Sammy Panzarino, Connie Priftis,  
James Ryan, Julie Scanlon, John Scanlon, Billy Shields, Zachary Shields,  
Stephanie Skrok, Bill Streaman, Lori Streaman, The Streaman Family,  
David Tuttle, Alexis M. Vournazos, Joan & Fred Weisman, Evelyn Williams,  
Steve Wright, Joan Wyner

### TBTA Lifetime Members

Bart Geissinger, Gloria Laposka, Barbara Locke,  
Wendell MacNeal, Imelda O'Gara Roth,  
Bill Possidento, Larry Stewart

### Season Subscribers

*Thank you to our 2008 Season Subscribers*

Jeffrey Bliven, Maureen & Mike Burnett, Susan Chapin, Alicia & Billy Dempster,  
Jo & Rick Dubois, Carolyn Goodrich, Kathi Fitzherbert, The Jonker Family,  
Duane Langenwalter, Judi Martinez, Paul Mayer, John Milne,  
Anne & David Montgomery, The Okell Family, Georgeanne Shields,  
William Shields, Maureen Trotto, Steve Wright

## Scenes & Musical Numbers

### ACT ONE

**January 1865:** Mrs. Kirk's Boarding House—New York City  
*An Operatic Tragedy* ..... Jo, Clarissa, Braxton & Rodrigo  
*Better* ..... Jo

#### The Day Before Christmas 1863:

The March Attic—Concord, Massachusetts  
*Our Finest Dreams* ..... Jo, Meg, Beth, Amy  
The March Parlor  
*Here Alone* ..... Marmee

#### January 1864: Aunt March's House

*Could You?* ..... Aunt March & Jo

#### February 14, 1864:

The March Parlor  
*Delighted* ..... Marmee, Meg, Jo & Beth  
The Atrium in Annie Moffat's House  
*Take A Chance On Me* ..... Laurie  
The March House  
*Better* (Reprise) ..... Jo

#### Near The End of Winter 1864: The March Parlor

*Off To Massachusetts* ..... Beth & Mr. Laurence  
*Five Forever* ..... Jo, Laurie, Amy, Meg & Beth

#### Spring 1865: The Sun Porch outside the March House

*More Than I Am* ..... John Brooke & Meg

#### May 1865: The March Attic

*Take A Chance On Me* (Reprise) ..... Laurie  
*Astonishing* ..... Jo

### ACT TWO

#### June 1865: The Parlor of Mrs. Kirk's Boarding House

*The Weekly Volcano Press* ..... Company

#### Summer 1865:

The March Parlor  
*Off To Massachusetts* (Reprise) ..... Mr. Laurence, Beth,  
Marmee, John Brooke, & Meg

#### Mrs. Kirk's Boarding House

*How I Am* ..... Professor Bhaer

#### September 1865: A Beach and Pavilion in Falmouth on Cape Cod

*Some Things Are Meant To Be* ..... Beth & Jo

#### Winter 1865:

The March Parlor  
*The Most Amazing Thing* ..... Amy & Laurie  
The Attic  
*Days Of Plenty* ..... Marmee  
*The Fire Within Me* ..... Jo

#### Spring 1866: Outside the March House

*Small Umbrella In The Rain* ..... Professor Bhaer & Jo  
*Volcano* (Reprise) ..... Jo

## Biographies

**Joanne F. Archibald** (*Musical Director*) is delighted to be working at TBTA again! She has been involved with this theater since the late 1970's and has always enjoyed working with the talented people here. Joanne has accompanied and been the musical director for many venues in the area including Immanuel Lutheran Players, Sherman Theater, Musicals at Richter, Crime and Merriment Mystery Dinner Theater, Ridgefield Theater, Brewster and Danbury High Schools, Opera at Western Connecticut State University and the NATS and NYSSMA vocal competitions in Connecticut and New York. Presently, Joanne is the Organist/Music Director at St. James' Episcopal Church in Danbury and she also teaches piano, organ and keyboard. Joanne is a hand bell soloist and has performed in several states along the Eastern seaboard. She received her BS in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University and is currently working on a Masters in Ministry. She is grateful to God for the many blessings in her life, especially her son Daniel and her daughter Heather.

**Jude Callirgos** (*MARMEE*) is thrilled to be back on the stage after a long hiatus and to be sharing it with such a wonderfully talented cast and crew! She has appeared in the TBTA productions of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Ritz*, and *House of Blue Leaves* and is delighted to be back. Jude was recently seen as Maria in *Twelfth Night* at Sacred Heart University and as Sally Bowles in Theaterworks' *Cabaret*. Jude has produced, directed, and worked in all facets of the theater and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. She is grateful to friends and family for reviving and encouraging her theater gene, is especially grateful for the love and support of Mr. Robinson.

**Mark Chisholm** (*JOHN BROOKE*) is very happy to be making his debut performance at TBTA. Mark is a lifelong resident of the Greater Danbury area. A 1992 graduate of Villanova University, he currently owns and operates C&D Moving and Storage in Brookfield. Mark would like to thank TBTA for this opportunity and also his family and friends for their support over the past year.

**Alicia P. Dempster** (*Director*) is thrilled to return to the director's chair with the final production of TBTA's 51st Season. Other directing credits include: *Peter Pan* and *The Diviners* (TBTA), *Richter Rising Stars* (Richter), *When Pigs Fly* (Triangle Community Center), *How I Learned to Drive* (Theatreworks), *A Few Good Men* (Sherman Playhouse), *Life with Father* (Wilton Playshop) and *Pippin* (ONU). A "jack-of-all-trades," Alicia's theatre career spans directing, choreography, design, stage management and performance, with a bit of backstage work thrown in for good measure. Alicia is currently developing the original musical *Harvest Home*, for which she is writing the book and lyrics, and has plans to begin workshops in 2009. She is a proud member of the TBTA Board of Directors and would like to thank Stephanie, Lori and the wonderful people at TBTA for this opportunity. Alicia would also like to thank her husband Billy for his continuous love and support and Sabine, Isabelle and Delaney, her own "little women," who constantly inspire and remind her how astonishing life can be.

**Zoe DeStories** (*BETH MARCH*) is a veteran performer at TBTA, and appeared as a Bluebird Girl in last season's production of *Carnival*. Her other credits include *Seussical*, *Scrooge* and *The Sound of Music*. Zoe is a junior at Newtown High School, is an accomplished equestrian, and enjoys reading and photography. Zoe would like to thank Alicia for this incredible opportunity and Joanne for the piano lessons. To the cast and crew: *Break a leg!*

**Elie Finkelstein** (*AUNT MARCH*) is a veteran performer at TBTA. Her past credits include *Our Town*, *Fifth of July*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *Isn't It Romantic*. Elie has been a part of 65 productions throughout CT and NY in the past 30 years. A resident of Danbury, Elie recently retired from a career in sales and is currently enjoying her "life of leisure."

## Biographies, cont'd.

She would like to thank Alicia for the opportunity to return the TBTA stage and her granddaughter Kyra for telling her about the audition.

**Billy Hicks** (*LAURIE*) is overjoyed to be back at TBTA after appearing as the title role in this past summer's production of *Peter Pan*. Billy is currently a junior at NMHS, works at Robertson's Jewelers, and is active in other theatres in the area. He studies voice with John Shackelford and takes dance classes at FineLine Theatre Arts. Thanks to Alicia for another great opportunity and to every one else who made this production possible.

**Keith Johnson** (*PROFESSOR BHAER*) is happy to be making his debut on the TBTA stage. Performing regularly in the greater Hartford area, he has been seen in such roles as Charley in *Merrily We Roll Along*, Jasper in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and Samuel in *The Pirates of Penzance*. He is a member of the CT Opera chorus and has been seen frequently on the stage of the Opera Theatre of CT. Most recently Keith was seen as The Minister in *A New Brain* with Montage Theatre and on the CT Opera stage in *Tosca* and *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

**Caitlin Kuhfeldt** (*MEG*) recently graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and currently works in Manhattan at Random House. Her most recent roles include Vibrata in *A Funny Thing...Forum*, Nancy D in *A New Brain*, Ayah in *The Secret Garden*, and Liesl in *The Sound of Music*. She has also performed the National Anthem for UNC and UCONN basketball games, UNC's track team, and as the opener for Mercy Me and Blake Sheldon's concerts. In her senior year, she won the Penny Award for Best Comedic Performance by an Actress. She would like to thank her mom for being the best non-crazy stage-mom there is!

**William Lamoureux** (*MR. LAURENCE*) is a past President of Troupers Light Opera Company where he has performed in the Gilbert & Sullivan operettas *Trial by Jury*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Ruddigore*, *The Sorcerer*, *The Mikado*, *Iolanthe*, *Princess Ida* and *The Yeomen of the Guard*. In recent years he sang and acted the role of Arturo dos Santos in *The Miracle of Fatima*. Since the summer of 2005 Bill has performed in *Phantom*, *The King and I*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and as a salesman in *The Music Man* in Danbury, CT.

**Lori Mele** (*JO MARCH*) is thrilled to be back on the TBTA stage in *Little Women* and to be sharing it with such a talented cast and crew! Lori's past TBTA credits include: *Seussical* (Mrs. Mayor), *Carnival* (Rosalie), and *Assassins* (Sarah Jane Moore), and she also performed in last season's *50th Anniversary Golden Cabaret*. Lori is a Spanish and ESL teacher at Westover School in Middlebury, and is very grateful to work in such a wonderful community of students and colleagues. Lori would like to thank Alicia for this opportunity, her friends and family for traveling such great distances to see this show, and most importantly her parents and brother for their undying love and support.

**Sammy Panzarino** (*Producer*) is thrilled to be returning to TBTA for the third season in a row. At TBTA, Sammy has been involved with the *50th Anniversary Golden Cabaret*, *Seussical*, *I Think I Can*, and *Assassins*. His other credits include *The Music Man*, *Wonderful Town*, *Oklahoma*, *The King and I*, *State Fair*, *Cinderella*, *Barnum*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Grease*. Sammy would like to thank Stephanie, Joanne, Alicia, and the spectacular cast of *Little Women!*

**Stephanie Skrok** (*Producer*) is thrilled to be part of another TBTA production. Her past credits include *Peter Pan*, *50th Anniversary Golden Cabaret*, *Seussical*, *Carnival* and *Assassins*. As President of the TBTA Board of Directors, she would like to thank the cast and crew for their dedication and tireless efforts toward this show! Alicia, Joanne and Sammy, you are amazing, and congratulations everyone. See you in 2009!