

'Little Women' musical opens Feb. 24 in Pendleton

By Trish Yerges
Go! Magazine

PENDLETON — The musical version of the beloved historical romance "Little Women" will be performed at Blue Mountain Community College's Bob Clapp Theatre in partnership with Friends of the Elgin Opera House.

The show runs Feb. 24-26 and March 3-5. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and available at www.elginopera-house.com, by calling 541-663-6324 or at the BMCC box office before the show.

"Little Women: The Broadway Musical" is directed and choreographed by Caitlin Marshall, a veteran collaborative director at the Elgin Opera House. Her recent projects include "Matilda: The Musical," "Mamma Mia," "High School Musical" and "Tuck Everlasting" with artistic director Terry Hale.

Based on Louisa May



Jennifer Colton/Contributed image
Playing the March sisters are, from left, Abby Foust, Carly Elder, Jordan Uhlman and Emily Carman in "Little Women: The Broadway Musical," presented Feb. 24-26 and March 3-5 at Blue Mountain Community College.

Alcott's life, the plot takes place in Civil War America and follows the lives of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March. The drama is faithful to the movie storyline, and the musical score with its singing and dancing soars with the emotion of struggle, loss, self-discovery and everlasting love.

The story centers on the aspiring writer Jo March, who goes to New York to try to publish her novel.

"That's where the show begins," Marshall said. "Jo is reading the story she's written, and it takes her back in time, remembering when she lived in Concord with her family and how she came to New York."

When Jo meets Professor Bhaer in New York, she is struggling to sell her stories for publication. She is discouraged that the editors don't seem interested in her work, and Bhaer reminds her to write what

LITTLE WOMEN

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2411 NW Carden, Pendleton
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she knows, write from the heart — and this sincere critique blossoms into one of Jo's best literary works, "Little Women."

Playing Jo March is Carly Elder, the choir director at Sunridge Middle School in Pendleton; Meg March is played by Jordan Uhlman, who played Fiona in "Shrek" in Pendleton; Amy March is played by Abby Foust, a Pendleton High School student; and Beth March is played by Emily Carman of La Grande, a familiar actress with the Elgin Opera House.

Supporting actors include

Karen Taylor as the March girls' mother, Marmee; Hunter Adams as Theodore "Laurie" Laurence; Cheryl Carlson as Aunt March; Even O'Grady as John Brooke; Chris Dennett as Mr. Laurence; Audrey O'Grady as Mrs. Kirk; and Dutch Meerdink as Professor Bhaer.

Joining Marshall on the creative team are Dr. Margaret Mayer (musical director), Maureen O'Brien (costume designer), Terry Hale (scenic designer), Nathan Harris (lighting designer and technical director) and Anna Curry (stage manager).

Marshall's theater career started at the Elgin Opera House in the fall of 2009 stage managing "The Sound of Music" and working into choreography. She was trained in directing in "Mary Poppins" at the Opera House, and "Little Women" is her first show directing solo.

"I've always wanted to direct this show myself one day," Marshall said. "I'm so excited, and I warmly invite the public to attend."



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