

Virtual Show Program

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

 SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Little Women...Now

A modern adaptation of the Louisa May Alcott Classic.

Written By: Donna Hoke

Directed By: Dave Rzeszutek



Wednesday – Saturday
April 15 – 18 @ 7:30 PM

&

Sunday
April 19 @ 3:00 PM

Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

Tickets: \$15



FREE for SVSU Students

Little Women...Now is produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners. (www.yourstagepartners.com)

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Little Women...Now

Written by Donna Hoke

Stage Manager

Paige Tuckerman*

Director

Dave Rzeszutek

Fight & Intimacy Coordinator

Jen Pan

Scenic Designer

Alex Dubowski*

Lighting Designer

Rem Ferguson*

Media Designer

Eric Durette*

Sound Designer

Elliott Bell

Properties Designers

Cooper Sawyer & AJ Triantaflos*

Costume Designer

Olivia Greanias

Hair & Makeup Designer

Brook Treynor



Logo Designer

Paige Tuckerman*

***Denotes SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient**

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

Content Warning: *This production includes the use of flashing light sequences and discussions of mental health.*

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Little Women...Now

A modern adaptation of the Louisa May Alcott classic.

Associate Stage Managers

Emma Koch & Chayse Mulka

Assistant Director

Lily Oddo*

Lead Electrician

Derek Bauer*

Assistant Lighting Designers

Kalinah Dunn & Zoe Piotrowski*

Assistant Costume Designer

Samantha Hand

Media Associates

Emma Koch & Evelyn Wollesen

Light Board Operator

Lauryn Rousseau

Sound Board Operator

Veronica Vozniak

Media Board Operator

Venti Phipps

Prop Run Crew

Alayna Foster

Live Mix

Elliott Bell

Production Assistant

Drea Brown

Stagehands

Conner Wieland & Drea Brown

Hair & Makeup Crew

Rebekah Faber

Wardrobe Crew

Samantha Hand & Faye Randall

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Little Women...Now

Presented by the SVSU Department of Theatre

Scene Shop Assistant

Alex Dubowski*

Associate Production Manager

Conner Wieland

Dept. of Theatre Office Worker

Paige Tuckerman*

Costume Shop Supervisor

Olivia Greanias

Assistant Production Manager

Alex Dubowski*

Audio Manager

Eric Durette*

**Mentor to Student Designers
& Crew**

Peggy Mead-Finizio

**Mentor to Student Properties
Designers & Publicity**

Dave Rzeszutek

**Mentor to Student Theatre
Management**

Tommy Wedge

Publicity Manager

Lydia Bolzman



House Manager

Zoe Kikstra

SVSU Department of Theatre Publicity Team: Elliott Bell, Kalinah Dunn, Samantha Hand, Ella Koenigsnecht*, Isabel Losa*, Zoe Piotrowski*, Faye Randall, Brook Treynor, Paige Tuckerman*

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Cast

Mom

Ann Russell-Lutenske

Meg

Addi Williams

Jo

Stephanie Crachiolo

Beth

Isabel Losa*

Amy

Ella Koenigsknecht*

Laurie

Jaiden Gardner*

John Brooke

Leo Schynk



A Note from the Director

When *Little Women* was first published in 1868, Louisa May Alcott was not writing a story about nostalgia or domestic simplicity. She was writing about ambition, autonomy, and the struggle to define one's life in a world shaped by limited choices—especially for women. Those questions remain strikingly relevant today. Donna Hoke's modern adaptation, *Little Women...Now*, invites us to see the March sisters not as figures of the past, but as reflections of our present moment.

Many people today face the pressure of navigating identity, success, and belonging in uncertain times. By blending historical roots with contemporary sensibilities, this production asks how we define fulfillment, whose dreams are encouraged, and what it truly means to choose oneself. *Little Women...Now* reminds us that growing up is a radical act of imagination, courage, and care—and that the pursuit of love, whether romantic, artistic, or familial, along with the courage to define happiness for oneself, remains a radical act, then and now.

I hope that you enjoy the show,

Dave Rzeszutek



Production Spotlights



Elliott Bell:

Elliott Bell, a third-year student at SVSU, is working towards a secondary education for social studies major and a minor in theatre. They have worked on 16 shows, including playing Pilar in SVSU's *Legally Blonde*, playing Elderly Woman in SVSU's *Mountain Language*, and sound designing SVSU's *Soundscapes*. Elliott is thrilled to be sound designing *Little Women...Now!* They would like to thank their friends, family, and boyfriend for all of their support. Enjoy the show!



Lydia Bolzman:

Lydia is a fifth-year communication major with a theatre minor. She has been on the publicity team for two years, and her management credits include Tommy Wedge's *R.U.R.*, *An Evening of One-Act Plays* (*Soundscapes*; Dana Samalik & *Mountain Language*; Eric Durette), and most recently Peggy Mead-Finizio's *When She Had Wings*. Beyond her publicity involvement, she has been credited with Prop Design (*Legally Blonde*, *The Night Witches*, *Top Girls*). She would like to thank her Mama for her unwavering support, her boyfriend Thomas for all of his support/help in pursuing her passions, and all of her theatre friends for making her work worth it!



Stephanie Crachiolo:

Stephanie Crachiolo is a fourth-year theatre major and music minor here at SVSU, and she is thrilled to be bringing Jo March to life! She has recently been onstage as B in *When She Had Wings*, Monet/Mr. Pointy Star in *Soundscapes*, Helena Glory in *R.U.R.*, and Vivienne Kensington in *Legally Blonde*; and backstage as Props Designer for *Mountain Language* and, Vocal Director for *Little Women: The Musical*. In addition to theatre, Stephanie works as a vocalist, a private piano/voice teacher, and is an avid writer. She thanks her friends and family for their support and gives a big shout out this cast and crew for making this show an unforgettable experience!



Alex Dubowski*:

[Alex Dubowski](#) is a fourth-year theatre major with a minor in psychology and a focus on lighting design and technologies. This is his second position as a Scenic Designer at SVSU, but his first on the mainstage! He has previously designed lighting at SVSU on the productions of *Soundscapes*, *Legally Blonde*, *Women Who Weave*, *columbinus*, and *Burning Bluebeard*. He is excited to jump back into scenic design after his previous design for *The Night Witches*. He is very honored to be the first student to lead a scenic design for the mainstage in over 20 years! He would like to thank Jerry Dennis for his support.



Eric Durette*:

Eric Durette is a fourth-year pre-law major. Some of Eric's past theatrical experience has been directing *Mountain Language*, sound designing *Noises Off!*, and projections designing for *Women Who Weave*; Eric has had some design or acting role in every show since 2022. Eric would also like to thank his family who has been working with him through a challenging final semester! Finally, Eric would like to thank his team Evelyn Wollesen and Emma Koch for dealing with him over the past couple weeks!

Production Spotlights



Rem Ferguson*:

Rem Ferguson (They/Them) is a second-year theatre major with a minor in management who is extremely excited to be the Lighting Designer for *Little Women...Now!* Their previous roles in the SVSU theatre department include Associate Stage Manager for *When She Had Wings*, Stage Manager for *Soundscapes*, Associate Stage Manager for *R.U.R.*, Associate Lighting Designer for *Legally Blonde*, Dramaturg for *Women Who Weave*, Lighting Designer for *The Night Witches*, and Co-Props Designer for *The Miser*. They want to thank their friends and family for their continued support throughout this process!



Jaiden Gardner*:

Jaiden Gardner is a first-year theatre major and musical theatre minor. He is excited to play Laurie in *Little Women...Now*. He has previously acted at SVSU as Hermeus in *R.U.R* and Dad/Attendant/Man in *When She Had Wings*. Other notable roles are Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, Wadsworth in *Clue*, and Adam in *Freaky Friday*. Jaiden is also a performer with The Impromptu Crew, an improv troupe based in Metamora, Michigan. He would like to thank his cast, crew, friends, and family for their love and support!



Olivia Greanias:

Olivia is a freelance Costume Designer and currently acts as the costume shop coordinator at Midland Center for the Arts. An alumni of SVSU, she is excited to be back managing the costume shop for this school year. Some of her favorite past designs include *Frozen Jr.* (MCFTA), *Steel Magnolias* (MCFTA), and *Sense and Sensibility* (MCFTA)



Zoe Kikstra:

Zoe is a third-year elementary education major with a minor in theater, and she is very excited to be the house manager for *Little Women...Now!* Zoe has been involved in many SVSU productions before, but this is her first time as house manager. Previous roles with SVSU theater include Messenger/Phaedra/Procne (*Women Who Weave*), Chutney/Ensemble (*Legally Blonde*), Psychologist/Color Chorus (*Soundscapes*), Props Designer (*R.U.R.*), and Assistant Costume Designer (*The Night Witches*, *When She Had Wings*). She hopes you enjoy the show!



Emma Koch:

Emma (she/her) is a fourth-year theatre major with minors in management and sociology. Prior to this production, she has been involved as the Stage Manager for *The Miser* and *Mountain Language*, Assistant Director for *The Night Witches*, and as the Associate Stage Manager for *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. She would like to thank this amazing cast and crew that have worked so hard to make this production as amazing as it is! Additionally, she would like to thank everyone she has met throughout these last four years that have truly shaped the person and professional she is today.

Production Spotlights



Ella Koenigsknecht*:

Ella Koenigsknecht is a first-year English language arts for secondary education Major with a minor in theatre. She is beyond excited to participate in *Little Women...Now*, bring the character of Amy March to life. She has previously acted at SVSU as Iris in *Soundscapes* and the Prisoner in *Mountain Language*. She is especially excited for this production and has loved working with all of these amazing people. Ella is beyond excited to share this wonderful story with the world, and she thanks her friends and family for their constant support.



Isabel Losa*:

Isabel Losa is a fourth-year theatre major with sociology and communication minors. She has been backstage with recent roles as Co-Hair and Makeup Designer for *Women Who Weave* and Associate Stage Manager for *When She Had Wings*. She has been on stage with recent roles as Gaelen/Delta Nu in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Pr1mus in *R.U.R.*, Mariel/Young Woman in *An Evening of One Act Plays*, and U/S for Ma in *Very Berry Dead*. Isabel thanks the SVSU Theatre Department for giving her the opportunity to learn and grow throughout her years here, and her parents for always showing their support in the audience every night.



Chayse Mulka:

Chayse Mulka is a third-year accounting major. *Little Women... Now* is her third show at SVSU and second show as Associate Stage Manager! Her most recent roles and productions include stage managing *Stone Point* and *Miracle on 34th Street* at Pit & Balcony Theatre, and sound board operation for *Legally Blonde* here at SVSU. Chayse started acting in middle school and quickly started to love working behind the scenes in high school. She would like to thank all the amazing people who put their hard work into this production! Enjoy the show!



Lily Oddo*:

Lily Oddo is a second-year theatre and nursing double major. She is very excited about being the Assistant Director for *Little Woman...Now*. Her previous roles have been Associate Stage Manager (*Night Witches*, *Woman Who Weave*, and *Legally Blonde*), Stage Manager (*R.U.R.*), Technical Liaison (*An Evening of One Act Plays*), and Hair and Makeup Designer (*Mountain Language* and *When She Had Wings*). She is very excited to be able to direct for the first time at SVSU! She would also love to thank her family and friends for all of the support and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Jen Pan:

Jen Pan (she/they) is a Michigan-based fight and intimacy director, movement teaching artist, actor, and stunt performer. Recent credits include Seattle Children's Theatre, Detroit Public Theatre, Obsidian Theatre Festival, University of Michigan SMTD, Oakland University, The Dio, and Croswell Opera House. They're a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), co-founder and lead instructor of Theatrica Gladiatoria (www.fightglad.com), and co-coordinator of the annual Mitten Mayhem Stage Combat Workshop. Jen is thrilled to be a part of this SVSU production! IG [@itsjenpan](https://www.instagram.com/itsjenpan)

Production Spotlights



Ann Russell-Lutenske:

Ann graduated from SVSU, way back before it earned its university status, with a BA in English and Speech/Theatre. Professional credits include four seasons touring the US and Japan with The Prince Street Players, Cornwell's Dinner Theater, and several contracts with Big POW Enterprises.

She has also enjoyed many, many years filling her creative cup with local community theaters; very recently playing Diana in *Next To Normal* at MCFTA under the direction of SVSU's own Tommy Wedge. Ann is grateful to Dave for this wonderful learning opportunity, and to Paul and Grace for putting up with her nonsense.



Dave Rzesutek:

Dave has taught at SVSU since 2009. He was the Saginaw coordinator of NYC's The Public Theater: Mobile Unit National - Sweat project. This community project involved many local partners exploring art through: identity, race, economy, and humanity. It culminated with a professional production by The Public Theater of the Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Sweat*, with playwright Lynn Nottage in attendance. He is affiliated with the American College Theater Festival and the Michigan Educational Theatre Association. He studied Circus Techniques/Movement in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Commedia Dell'Arte with Maestro Antonio Fava in Reggio Emilia, Italy. He earned his MFA from Ohio University's Professional Actor Training Program.



Cooper Sawyer:

Cooper Sawyer (he/him) is a second-year communication major with minors in theatre and sociology, and he is excited to co-design props for *Little Women...Now*. He's previously acted at SVSU as in *Women Who Weave*, *R.U.R.: An AI Musical Melodrama*, and most notably as Tony in *Soundscapes*; he's also been The Cat in the Hat in *Seussical*, and Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. Cooper also had a designer role in *Mountain Language* and *When She Had Wings*. He would like to thank all of his family and friends, as well as everyone on the cast and crew.



Leo Schynk:

Leo is a first-year theatre major and communication minor, and he is excited to be portraying John Brooke in *Little Women...Now!* In previous SVSU productions he could be seen as Hor1zon in *R.U.R.* and as the Prison Guard in *Mountain Language*. He has also played Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Zach Smith and Frenchie in *Puffs*, and Claire in *The Visit*. He recently also had the opportunity to actor-coach, co-direct, and design lighting for the Elizabeth Ann Johnson High School production of *Winter Break*. He'd like to thank all of his friends for the love and support!



Brook Treynor:

Brook Treynor (they/she) is a second-year theatre major with a minor in art. This is their second time designing hair and makeup for SVSU, but their first time on the main stage in the Malcolm Field Theatre. Brook loves performance as well as backstage roles, as she just ended SVSU Theatre's, *When She had Wings* as A. Brook is also the Vice President of SVSU's improv club, Back 'n Progress. Her next show is hopefully *Grease* with the Flat River Community Players.

Brook wants to thank her friends and family for the support, enjoy the show!

Production Spotlights



AJ Triantaflos:

AJ Triantaflos is a first-year theatre major with a creative writing minor. She is happy to finish her first year at SVSU with *Little Women...Now*. She most recently worked on *When She Had Wings* as an electrician and prop run crew, and she is excited to design props this time. She previously did scenic design at SVSU for Studio XP: *An Evening of One Act Plays*. AJ would like to thank the cast and crew as well as her friends and loved ones for all of their support and encouragement.



Paige Tuckerman*:

Paige is a fourth-year theatre major working towards her teaching certification in early childhood education. Paige is elated to be Stage Managing one final time at SVSU! Her previous Stage Management credits include *Legally Blonde*, in which she received a Certificate of Merit for her work, and *Burning Bluebeard*, in which she received the Honorable Mention at the ACTF Stage Management Fellowship. Alongside her theatrical projects, Paige works as an assistant preschool teacher and is excited to be pursuing the teaching field after graduation. Paige would like to thank the entire production team for putting so much love into this show.



Addi Williams:

Addi Williams (she/her) is a fourth-year cell biology, molecular biology, and biomedical sciences major on a pre-veterinary track. She is very excited to portray Meg in *Little Women...Now*. This is her third show at SVSU, she could previously be seen as Genesis in *R.U.R.: An AI Musical Melodrama*, and Wingman in *When She Had Wings*. Addi is looking forward to sharing this adaptation of the March family's story, she would like to thank her own little sister as well as the cast and crew for the love and support in bringing this show together.



Meet the Playwright

Donna Hoke:

A playwright and screenwriter, Donna has had work seen in 48 states (damn those Dakotas--somebody help!) and on five continents, including at Barrington Stage, Barrow Group, Celebration Theatre, Gulfshore Theatre, Queens Theatre, Lake Dillon Theatre Company, Theatre Aspen, The Road, Phoenix Theatre, Atlantic Stage, Purple Rose, Skylight, Pride Films and Plays, New Jersey Rep, Hens and Chickens (London), The Galway Fringe Festival, and Actors Repertory Theatre of Luxembourg. Her first produced play, THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR, ran for ten years in Romania.

Though she is produced across the country and around the world, she has had--since 2022--at least one production in her beloved home city of Buffalo every year and, to date, has worked with thirteen different theater companies there! She is currently prepping a new solo show and a commissioned fringe show for production, a musical collaboration with a planned 2027 world premiere, a screenplay, and a two-play YA commission.

Donna's plays have won multiple awards; twice been on the Kilroys List of best unproduced plays by women; and been finalists for the O'Neill, Austin Film Festival, and Princess Grace Fellowship Princess Grace. She has been nominated for the Primus, Blackburn, and Laura Pels prizes, and is a three-time winner of the Emanuel Fried Award for Outstanding New Play (SEEDS, SONS & LOVERS, ONCE IN MY LIFETIME). She has also twice received Individual Artist Awards from the New York State Council on the Arts to develop HEARTS OF STONE and CANALSIDE, and, in its final three years, Artvoice named her Buffalo's Best Writer—the only woman to ever receive the designation.

During COVID, Donna went after a bucket-list item to have a TV movie produced and she's since had two! Deadly Wives Club in 2024 and An Antique Christmas in 2026. Stay tuned for news on more screenwriting news to come!

Donna also has been serving the Dramatists Guild in various capacities since 2012, is an ensemble playwright at Road Less Traveled Productions, blogger, former moderator of the 13,500+-member Official Playwrights of Facebook, New York Times-published crossword puzzle constructor; children's and trivia book author; and founder/co-curator of BUA Takes 10: GLBT Short Stories. Speaking engagements include Citywrights, Kenyon Playwrights Conference, the Dramatists Guild National Conference, Chicago Dramatists, the Austin Film Festival, and Dramatists Guild webinars. Her commentary has been seen on #2amt, howlround, The Dramatist, the Official Playwrights of Facebook, Workshopping the New Play (Applause, 2017), and at donnahoke.com.



Acknowledgements

At Saginaw Valley State University, we recognize that we are located on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Wyandot, and Sauk. We specifically acknowledge the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and the land ceded in the Saginaw Treaty of 1819, on which we reside. We appreciate the importance of preserving and honoring the traditions of Indigenous People who are an integral part of our shared history. As we pledge to serve as responsible stewards of the land, we endeavor for this history to inform our teaching, scholarship, and our commitment to community.

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

Full Time Faculty

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA

David Rzeszutek, MFA

Tommy Wedge, MFA

Adjunct Faculty

Melanie Frasca, MFA

Paige Heidrich, MFA

Glecia Tatum, MFA

Staff

Jerry Dennis, Scene Shop Supervisor

Kelly J. Helmreich, Administrative Secretary

Olivia Greanias, Costume Shop Supervisor

Acknowledgements

The Office of Dr. George Grant,
President of Saginaw Valley State University

The Office of Dr. Lisa Krissoff Boehm,
Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs

The Office of Dr. Brandon Haskett,
Dean College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences

The Office of University Communications

Special Thanks

SVSU Foundation - For continued support in student success

Office of University Communications - Michael Randolph, Marketing Specialist for Videography and Photography & Ryan Stinson, University Photographer

Mike Holiday and The SVSU ITS Department - For technical support and resources

Campus Facilities - For technical support

Vectorworks - For the donation of software to support SVSU productions and classrooms

Andy Sharrow and The SVSU Conference Center - For overall support and collaboration

Facility Operations - For assistance with HVAC

Midland Center for the Arts Costume Department - For help with costume rentals

Alpha Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega - For overall departmental support

Stephanie Crachiolo, Jerry Dennis, Ella Koenigsknecht, Peggy Mead-Finizio, Lily Oddo, Dave Rzeszutek, Paige Tuckerman, & Tommy Wedge - For props support

FIM Whiting Auditorium - For loan of lighting equipment

Michael Karpinski - For projections technical support

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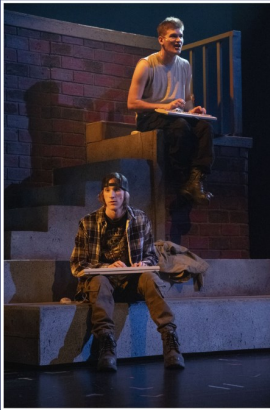
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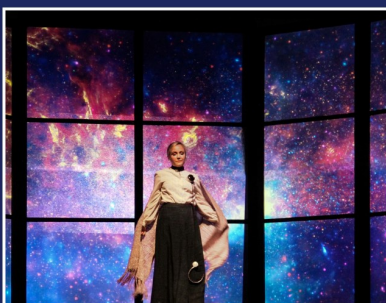
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(pmtucker@svsu.edu)



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Alpha Psi Omega is a National Theatre Honors Society for participants in collegiate theatre with the aim of encouraging dramatic production at every step in a person's academic career.

The Alpha Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega presents...

Magic Minute

ft. CAN Council

During the intermission of *Little Women...Now*, APO will be raising money for CAN Council - a Michigan-based non-profit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect through advocacy, education, and intervention.



50% of proceeds will be donated directly to CAN Council, and the remainder will be put towards APO's mission to support theatre excellence at SVSU.





american college theatre festival

This production is entered in the **American College Theatre Festival (ACTF)**, a national educational network founded in 1969 to identify, promote, and celebrate college and university theatre production and training.

ACTF seeks to:

- Encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theatre programs;
- Provide opportunities for participants to develop their theatre skills and insight, and achieve professionalism;
- Improve the quality of college and university theatre in the United States; and
- Encourage colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students; the classics, revitalized or newly conceived; and experimental works.

Through ACTF participation, each production is eligible for a response by a regional ACTF representative. Selected students and faculty may also be invited to participate in regional and national ACTF programs, including scholarships, awards, professional development opportunities, and educational initiatives for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers, critics, and arts leadership.

Productions entered at the Participating level are eligible for invitation to a regional ACTF festival and may be considered for regional or national recognition for outstanding achievement in production, design, direction, and performance, in accordance with current program guidelines.

Each year, ACTF engages hundreds of productions and thousands of students nationwide. By entering this production, our theatre department joins a national community committed to artistic rigor, educational excellence, access, and professional development in collegiate theatre.

Additional support for the American College Theatre Festival is provided through national and regional partners committed to advancing excellence in collegiate theatre education.