SEASON KANSAS CITY 19 **ACTORS THEATRE** Adapted from the novel by Louisa May Alcott By Kate Hamill Momen

KANSAS CITY

ACTORS THEATRE

Great Actors. Smart Plays.

Kansas City Actors Theatre's mission is to produce thought-provoking plays that explore, celebrate, and share what it is to be human, with sensitivity, intelligence, and humor. We nurture our local artistic community by employing the finest talents of Kansas City's diverse professional theatre community, which in turn makes Kansas City a more vibrant, vital place to live and work. To that end:

- KCAT is artist-led and artist-driven. We are a collective of local theatre
 professionals who collaborate with a community Board to realize and advance
 our mission.
- KCAT employs Kansas City artists and artisans, pays them professional rates, and creates a physically and emotionally safe working environment that frees artists to take bold and brave risks.
- KCAT affirms that inclusive representation is essential to every aspect of our organization, from the stories on our stage, to the artists who tell those stories, to the Board and committee members who make operational and artistic decisions.

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KANSAS CITY ACTORS THEATRE PRESENTS

LITTLE WOMEN

By Kate Hamill Adapted from the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed by Darren Sextro

Scenic Designer Kelli Harrod

Sound Designer
Mary Louise Robinson

Assistant Stage Manager Barbara Nichols

Production/Stage Manager John Rensenhouse* Costume Designer Nancy Robinson

Properties Designer Eric Palmquist

Assistant Director Emily Shackelford **Lighting Designer**Zoe Spangler

Production Stage Manager Caroline B. Jackson*

> Technical Director Tyler Lindquist

House Manager Carolyn Russell

CAST

Carla Noack*

Christina Schafer Hillary Clemens* Teisha M. Bankston* Chioma Anyanwu* Karla Fennick

Jerry Mañan

Coleman Crenshaw Phil Fiorini* Marmee/Aunt March

Meg March Jo March Beth March Amy March

Hannah/Mrs. Mingott/Messenger

Laurie

John Brooks/Mr. Dashwood/Parrot

Mr. Laurence/Robert March

SETTING & TIME

The storytelling is set in the March Family Attic, where the actors represent locations in and around the March family home in Concord, Massachusetts, between December 1861 and Spring 1864.

Little Women is performed with one 15 minute intermission.

Little Women is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

LITTLE WOMEN was commissioned and originally produced by the Jungle Theater (Sarah Rasmussen, Artistic Director), Minneapolis, MN

New York City premiere at Primary Stages (Andrew Leynse, Artistic Director, Shane D. Hudson, Executive Director, Casey Childs, Founder), June 2019



Developed at the Colorado New Play Festival, Steamboat Springs, June 2018

*This individual appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

STAFF & CREW LITTLE WOMEN

ARTISTIC STAFF

DirectorDarren SextroScenic DesignerKelli Harrod

Costume Designer Nancy Robinson
Lighting Designer Zoe Spangler

Sound Designer Mary Louise Robinson

Properties Designer Eric Palmquist
Technical Director Tyler Lindquist
Production Manager/Stage Manager John Rensenhouse*

Assistant Director Emily Shackelford

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Production Stage Manager Caroline B. Jackson*
Assistant Stage Manager Barbara Nichols

RUNNING CREW

Wardrobe Supervisor Tinna Rivera

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The Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation
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CAST



Carla Noack* (Marmee/Aunt March) is a former KCAT Artistic Board Member, most recently appeared in KCAT's A Doll's House, The Realistic Joneses, The Collection and Night. Prior to moving to Kansas City from Minnesota, she was a co-artistic director of the Commonweal Theatre Company and a company member of the Great River Shakespeare Festival, as well as a collaborator with Theatre Latté Da and Ten Thousand Things. Other Kansas City credits

include Tiny, Beautiful Things, Bernhardt/Hamlet, Hir, Men on Boats, The Wolves, Time Stands Still, and Grounded (Unicorn Theatre); As You Like It and Richard III (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival); Lot's Wife and Borderland (KC Rep). Carla is a UMKC Conservatory faculty member.



Christina Schafer (Meg March) has adored Little Women and other Alcott stories for her whole life, and is so thrilled to be part of the incredible team on this production. Other KCAT work includes playing Clymene in The Pests, Kristine in A Doll's House, and Beth in A Lie of the Mind. She has performed most recently at the Wright Opera House in Ouray, Colorado, and has appeared with professional and community theatres across the Kansas City area. Christina

serves on KCAT's Board of Directors.



Hillary Clemens* (Jo March) is an Artistic Board Member with KCAT, where she's been seen as Clarissa in Spider's Web, Nora in A Doll's House, and Sally in A Lie of the Mind, and heard in several Radio Theatre episodes--including Sorry, Wrong Number, The Bickersons, and The Judge's House. She's also appeared locally with the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival as Viola in Shakespeare in Love and Ophelia in Hamlet. In Chicago and elsewhere, she's worked with

Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare, Court Theatre, Writers' Theatre, The Gift, Indiana Rep, Seattle Shakespeare, ACT Seattle, Asolo Rep, American Players Theatre, and the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. Hillary shares her life, two small children, and sometimes a stage with fellow KCAT member Matt Schwader. She is particularly grateful to collaborate again with Darren Sextro, and she's so happy that you are here.



Teisha M. Bankston* is so very happy to return to the KCAT stage following *Spider's Web.* She has also been heard on various episodes for KCAT's radio/podcast platform, KCART. Teisha has performed with many Kansas City theatres, including most recently in *Marys Seacole* at the Unicorn Theatre (American Son/Informed Consent/Eclipsed/An Octoroon/And Her Hair Went with Her/A House with No Walls), The Coterie (Freedom Sisters/Children of the Damned

Corn/A Star Ain't Nothin' but a Hole in Heaven/Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters), Theatre for Young America (Anansi/Africa's Daughters/Toughest Kid), and KC Rep (Jitney (u/s) ... Document from a Young Lady from Rwanda (u/s)). Teisha is featured in the documentary film, Barbara Johns: The Making of an Icon, was the host of SciTech Now on PBS/KCPT, and has performed with Neil Young in his Kansas City Tour at Starlight, choreographed by Russ Tamblyn. Teisha is a proud member of KCAT's Artistic Company, Board of Directors, and committees member. She has a BA in Theatre and a minor in Spanish from UMKC. Teisha extends gratitude and a warm heart to all, with special thanks and love to Pop. Enjoy!



Chioma Anyanwu* (Amy March) is thrilled to have to opportunity to play with KCAT again, this time in Little Women. Previous credits: Dot and The Pests (KCAT), Pipeline, Red Bike, The Wolves, The Revolutionists, Men on Boats, Heathers the Musical (Unicorn Theatre), The Ripple, The Wave That Carried Me Home, A Christmas Carol, Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time, The African Mean Girls Play, For Colored Girls (KC Rep), Hairspray, Godspell (Starlight Theatre),

Race (The Living Room), 1776, Evita (MTH). Thank you to everyone who has made it possible for theatre to make its long journey back into our lives. Let's keep going!



Karla M. Fennick (Hannah/Mrs. Mingott/Messenger) is overjoyed to return to the Kansas City Actors Theatre stage, where she previously appeared in A Streetcar Named Desire (Eunice) and staged readings of The Women and The Bad Seed. Past roles include Barb in Swimming in the Shallows (Whim Productions), Maggie in Dancing at Lughnasa (The White Theatre), and Mrs. Paddy in The Curious Savage (Olathe Civic Theatre Association). Heartfelt thanks to Darren

and this creative, kind, and insanely talented cast and crew. For my sister, Debbie.



Jerry Mañan (Laurie) is an acting and film graduate from Avila University. He was last seen in Refuge at The Unicorn Theatre. Other roles include - Heart of America Shakespeare's The Tempest, ShakesFear, Shakespeare in Love, Much Ado about Nothing; KCAT's Dot, The Pests; KC Public Theater's Miss Julie, Oedipus the King; Fishtank Theatre's Spilled Milk; What if Puppets' Animal Amigos!; The New Theatre's Sherwood. Radio credits - KCART's The Hitchhiker, KC: 1924, Mama

Knows the Game, The Voice from the Other Side, & more; KC Public Theatre's El Sueño Que Mueve el Sol.



Coleman Crenshaw (John Brooks/Mr. Dashwood/Parrot) is proud return to KCAT as part of this lovely cast. Previous KCAT productions include *Blithe Spirit* and *Crimes of the Heart*. He has performed in KC for the last 10 years in over 70 productions including work at The New Theatre, MTH, The Coterie, Forge Rep, Fishtank, The MET, Fringe Festival, and many others. He has two dogs, one partner, and a handful of nickels. He is content.



Phil Fiorini* (Mr. Laurence/Robert March) has been seen at KCAT in *Spider's Web* and *The Realistic Joneses*. A few other KC credits include: The New Theatre and Restaurant in *Sherwood, Chicago,* and *The Addams Family Musical,* Spinning Tree in *Finian's Rainbow,* Unicorn Theatre in *The Whale* and *Hir,* and *Twelfth Night* at the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. He spent three years on the National Broadway tour of *The Lion King* in the role of Pumbaa the warthog.

Phil was also on the National Tours of *Greater Tuna* and A *Tuna Christmas*. He would like to thank Darren Sextro and John Resenshouse for their friendship and professional support.

ARTISTIC STAFF & CREW



Darren Sextro (Director) has previously directed *Spider's Web*, A *Doll's House* (also adaptation), *Skylight, My Old Lady, Crimes of the Heart*, and *Old Times*, as well as eight radio theatre episodes for Kansas City Actors Theatre, where he serves on the Board of Directors and Artistic Committee. He has directed more than 40 productions regionally, including A *Doll's House Part 2*, *The Humans, Informed Consent, The Way We Get By*, and *Buyer & Cellar* for the

Unicorn Theatre; Lungs, (Against) Type, and Desire: An Evening of Plays Based on Six Stories by Tennessee Williams for UMKC's Graduate Theatre Program; The House of Yes for The Fishtank; Kindertransport and To Kill a Mockingbird for the White Theatre; Bus Stop for KCKCC; and Time Flies, Wonder of the World, God of Carnage, and ART for The Wright Opera House (Ouray, CO). He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for UMKC's Friends of the Conservatory.

Kelli Harrod (Scenic Designer) is delighted to be back designing at with Kansas City Actors Theatre! Some of her previous designs with KCAT include A Doll's House and Blithe Spirit. Other recent shows include Refuge, Pipeline, A Doll's House: Part 2, and Informed Consent (Unicorn Theatre), Freaky Friday (New Theatre Resturant), Sweeney Todd (Padgett Productions), and Only One Day A Year and Akeelah and the Bee (Coterie Theatre). kelliharrod.com; @setdes.kel

Nancy Robinson (Costume Desinger) has previously designed costumes from KCAT's production of Dot. Locally, she has had her work appear at Lyric Opera Kansas City, where she designed a project for life size puppets (a first!), MTH, KCKCC and The Living Room/Black Box theaters. She spent the majority of 2021 working on a film with director Martin Scorsese and starring Robert DeNiro and Leonardo DiCaprio. Her film work includes CSA, Jayhawkers, The Only Good Indian, Destination Planet Negro - these 4 projects with Oscar winner Kevin Willmott as director, Gone Girl, Last Ounce of Courage, and All Creatures Here Below. She worked on HBO's True Detective Season 3 for television. She has designed for scores of television commercials, including two that aired during Super Bowls. She won an award for costume design for the web series Redbird. She owns and operates a costume rental house in Kansas City.



Zoe Spangler (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer based out of Kansas City, Missouri. She is delighted to return to KCAT after designing *Four Children* two seasons ago. Her previous design work has been seen all over the metro area, including Unicorn Theatre, Music Theatre Heritage, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Kansas City Aerial Arts, Jewell Theatre Company, JoCo Theatre, and UMKC Theatre. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre

Lighting Design and Technology at University of Missouri-Kansas City in May 2022. Her full lighting design portfolio can be found at zmspangler.com.



Mary Louise Robinson (Sound Designer) is a composer and sound designer based out of St. Louis. Her love for sound and storytelling has allowed her to pursue music composition and sound design for a variety of mediums, including theatre, audio drama, and film. She is thrilled to be back with Kansas City Actors Theatre after working on their previous production of Spider's Web last summer. She has also had the privilege of designing for many other companies, including Heart of America Shakespeare, Missouri State University, the Coterie,

and Webster University. Her work in radio theatre can also be heard on various episodes of the Kansas City Actors Radio Theatre podcast channel. In addition to commissioned projects, Mary writes and produces royalty-free music under her musical pseudonym Duck Duck Music. More information about Mary and her work can be found at marylrobinson.org.

Eric Palmquist (Properties Designer) has previously designed properties for KCAT's production of *The Pests*. He is Resident Props Designer at the Unicorn Theatre, where recent designs include *The Inheritance, Part 1 & 2* and *Tiny Beautiful Things*. Other work: Rent (Spinning Tree), Sweeney Todd (Padgett Productions), and *The SpongeBob Musical* (Coterie).

Caroline B. Jackson* (Production Stage Manager) Production Stage Manager: Smart People (Kansas City Actors Theatre), Something Rotten, Mamma Mia, Pageant: The Musical, Fully Committed, Babes in Arms, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, The World Goes 'Round, Altar Boyz, Diamond Anniversary Revue, El Otro Oz, This Really Happened...Romance Depot (Forestburgh Playhouse), Into The Woods (Arkansas Repertory Theatre), Falstaff (IU Opera Theatre), Albert Herring, An Italian Straw Hat (UMKC Conservatory); Assistant Stage Manager: Carmen, La Traviata, Amahl and the Night Visitors (Lyric Opera of Kansas City), Twelfth Night (Kansas City Repertory Theatre), le Nozze di Figaro, Master Class, Sentimental Journey (Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre); Production Assistant: Pride and Prejudice (Kansas City Repertory Theatre); Tour Manager: Dog Man: The Musical (TheatreWorks USA). BA Music Theatre: College of the Ozarks; MFA Stage Management: University of Missouri Kansas City



Tyler Lindquist (Technical Director) is thrilled and honored to be collaborating with KCAT for the very first time to help bring *Little Women* to life! Tyler graduated this May from Avila University with his B.F.A. in Acting and a degree in Theatre Education. I know, I know. Why is an Actor and Teacher the Technical Director for a professional company? Well, it is because Tyler strives to be the most well rounded artist he can be, so he can proudly say that he is an Actor, an Educator, a Director, a Designer, and now for the first time a professional

Technical Director! Tyler wants to send his gratitude to John Resenhouse for the amazing opportunity, and he wants to send his love and appreciation to his family for their constant support and to Kristina, Chikis, and Bruno for being his everything! Enjoy the magic of the theatre!



John Rensenhouse* (Production Manager/Stage Manager) has been a KCAT company member for 15 years. As an actor with the company, he has appeared in Skylight, Spider's Web, and Oh! What a Lovely War. As a director, he has helmed the productions of Long Day's Journey Into Night, And Then There Were None, Glengarry Glen Ross, Desdemona, The Realistic Joneses, and Billy Bishop Goes to War. Mr. Rensenhouse has performed with the national Broadway tours of The Lion King and Noises Off and was once a soap opera villain on The Edge of Night.

Here at home he has been featured regularly at the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, the Kansas City Rep, and the New Theatre, playing various roles ranging from Dracula to King Lear. He hails from Lake Quivira, currently serves as Board President of KCAT, and has been married to Morgan Fairchild. Twice.



Emily Shackelford (Assistant Director) is a director, choreographer, and performer. She is currently the Artistic Associate with Music Theater Heritage. Recent directing credits include *The Secret Garden* at MTH (Asst. Dir.), A Spectacular Christmas at MTH (Director). Her work as an actor has brought her to Off-Broadway (The New Victory Theater), DC Arena Stage, Baltimore Center Stage, Syracuse Stage, The Kansas City Repertory Theater, and many more. She feels honored to be a part of KCAT's production of Kate Hamill's *Little*

Women, and would like to give a special thank you to John and Darren for having her on board!
Upcoming: Directing Gypsy at MTH! For more, find her on instagram @emilyareti.

Barbara Nichols (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to join the KCAT team with this beautiful show. In 2018/2019 she co-wrote and directed *Overture*, an original musical which won the Audience Favorite at the 2019 New York Music Festival. She also co-wrote and directed *The Sparkletones* which premiered as a co-production with Johnson County Theatre in the Park in 2022. Other recent shows as director include *Always*, *Patsy Cline* and *Once*. She serves as Vice President on The Barn Players Board. Love to Chris.



Tinna Rivera (Wardrobe Supervisor) recently received her B.F.A. in Technical Theatre from Avila University. She spends a lot of time at this theater as the Stage Manager for Theatre for Young America as well as Wardrobe Supervisor for this production. She would like to thank John Rensenhouse for the opportunity to tell this story and the TD for being so great to work with.

AUTHOR BIO



Kate Hamill (Playwright) is an actor/playwright. Wall Street Journal's Playwright of the Year, 2017. Her work includes her play Sense and Sensibility (in which she originated the role of Marianne)—Winner, Off-Broadway Alliance Award 2016; Nominee, Drama League Award; 265+ performances off-Broadway. Other plays include Vanity Fair at the Pearl Theatre (in which she originated the role of Becky Sharp; Nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award 2017), Pride and Prejudice at Primary Stages and Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (originated the role of Lizzy Bennet; Nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award). Her plays have been produced off-Broadway, at A.R.T., Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Guthrie, Seattle Rep, Dallas Theater Center, PlayMaker's Rep,

Folger Theatre (8 Helen Hayes Award nominations; Winner, best production—S&S), Arvada Center and others; upcoming productions at Shakespeare Theatre of DC, A.C.T., Trinity Rep, Portland Center Stage, Syracuse Stage, Pittsburgh Public, Kansas City Rep, Dorset Theatre Festival and more. Other world premieres: Little Women at the Jungle Theater and Primary Stages; Mansfield Park at Northlight Theatre. She is currently working on new adaptations of The Odyssey and The Scarlet Letter, as well as several new original plays (Prostitute Play, In the Mines, Love Poem). Kate was one of the top 20 most-produced playwrights in the country this season. http://www.kate-hamill.com

KANSAS CITY ACTORS THEATRE

Bravo! Kansas City Actors Theatre gratefully acknowledges the following generous individuals, foundations, and companies that have made it possible to stage smart and engaging plays. Gifts received between April 1st, 2022 and March 31st, 2023 are listed below.

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KANSAS CITY ACTORS THEATRE

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Laura Winsor



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Kansas City Actors Theatre's Land Acknowledgement

Currently, Kansas City Actors Theatre does not have a permanent stage that we call home, therefore we often perform in venues all around Kansas City. Because we consider all of Kansas City our home, we have a responsibility to nurture and embrace the land our city sits upon, and recognize that our city is a product of colonialism, genocide, and forced removal of the dozens of tribes that have called this land their home in America's history. The Kansas City area is currently home to members of more than 98 tribes. This Production of *Little Women* is being performed at the City Stage in Union Station; Land that belongs to the Kansa, The Osage, The Otis, and The Missouri. In 1825 the Federal Government forcibly displaced these tribes, and many others, from their ancestral land along the Missouri River.

What is a land acknowledgement?

From National Museum of the American Indian:

"A land acknowledgment is a traditional custom that dates back centuries in many Native nations and communities. Today, land acknowledgments are used by Native Peoples and non-Natives to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live."

From Northwestern University:

"It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation."

Why is Kansas City Actors Theatre doing a land acknowledgement?

Kansas City Actors Theater is participating in a land acknowledgement as one part of our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Since our birth, Kansas City Actors Theatre has always been guided by members of the greater Kansas City artistic community. Kansas City Actors Theatre cannot fulfill this core philosophy without building relationships with Kansas City's rich, multicultural, and diverse community. We do this to challenge the way we see our city, include all of Kansas City in our conversation, and to combat the erasure of Native American history.

We are still at the beginning of our commitment, we acknowledge that words are insufficient, and we are continuously learning. Land acknowledgements are one step, and must be paired with action. We are developing a plan so that our actions reinforce our words and look forward to sharing these active plans in our upcoming season. Join us to find ways to care for the city we call home.



AUGUST 16TH TO SEPTEMBER 3RD CITY STAGE IN UNION STATION

DIRECTED BY
DENNIS D. HENNESSY

FEATURING
VICTOR RAIDER-WEXLER
PEGGY FRIESEN
CRAIG BENTON
JAN ROGGE

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Why not sponsor an actor or a set in a production?
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Your sponsorship package includes:

- · Premium seating on opening night
- A meet-and-greet with your sponsored artist
- Special acknowledgement in the program and on our social media sites



Most of all, you will make a direct impact on Kansas City Actors Theatre's ability to continue offering audiences professional drama that's innovative, immersive, and inspiring.

CONTACT Malcolm Gibbs, Director of Development and Marketing 816.361.5228 or malcolm@kcactors.org

Want to stay up to date on all things KCAT?

The best way to hear all the news about the 2023-2024 Season, the Brouhaha, special events, and sneak peeks at upcoming shows is through social media!

Follow us on social media at:



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