



The University of Texas at Austin  
**Theatre and Dance**  
*College of Fine Arts*

**For immediate release:**

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE**  
**PRESENTS**  
**LITTLE WOMEN**  
**THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**  
**NOVEMBER 2-20, 2016**  
**AT THE B. IDEN PAYNE THEATRE**

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents ***Little Women The Broadway Musical***, directed by Melissa Maxwell, November 2-20, 2016 at the B. Iden Payne Theatre.

Based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved 1869 novel, *Little Women The Broadway Musical* shares the adventures of the four March sisters at home in Concord, Massachusetts while their father is away on the Civil War battlefields. Premiered on Broadway in 2005, this timeless story is brought to life in a musical filled with personal discovery, heartache and everlasting love.

With book by Allan Knee, music by Jason Howland and lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, the musical celebrates the March sisters' individual journeys and transformations. "Each of the March sisters copes with the tumultuousness of the war and the absence of their father in a different way: Meg strives to be a lady, Beth takes care of the family, Amy aspires to be an artist, and Jo writes sensational fiction," explains Zoë Crabtree, production dramaturg.

Director Melissa Maxwell returns to Austin to help bring the musical hit to the stage. Specializing in new play development, Maxwell's credits include the world premiere of

Andrea Lepcio's *Tunnel Vision* (Off the Wall Theatre, Pittsburgh); Keith Josef Adkins' *Safe House* (Repertory Theatre of Saint Louis, six St. Louis Theatre Circle Award nominations); the world premiere of four-time Emmy-winner Judy Tate's *Slashes of Light* (Kitchen Theatre/Civic Ensemble co-production, NYCWAM Collaboration award finalists); *Unheard Voices* (American Slavery Project); *The Story* (Duke Ellington School of the Arts, seven Cappies award nominations) and *Trouble in Mind* (Ohio State University). Her direction of Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* at The University of Texas at Austin in 2013 received critical acclaim (*The Austin Chronicle*, *Broadway World*).

"In Jo's song *Astonishing*, she shares: I thought home was all I'd ever want...There's a life that I am meant to lead, alive like nothing I have known. I can feel it and it's far from here. I've got to find it on my own," shares Maxwell. "Jo has a yearning and struggle that we can all identify with – the need to find where one fits in the world."

*Little Women The Broadway Musical* features an all-star cast of University of Texas at Austin students, including Lilly Lane Stafford (Jo March), Reagan Murdock (Professor Bhaer), Emma Center (Clarissa), Max Torrez (Braxton), Connor Barr (Laurie Laurence/Rodrigo), Maddie Dennison (Amy March/Troll), Caroline Kinnamore (Meg March), Emily McIntyre (Beth/Rodrigo 2), Maddrey Blackwood (Marmee March/Hag), Eli Weinberg (Mr. Laurence/Knight), Devin Medley (Aunt March/Mrs. Knight) and Morris Jude Martinez (Mr. John Brooke). Ensemble members include Veronica Boccardo, Tyler Cofield, Claire David, Connor Palmore, Sarah-Grace Poitevent and Joseph Wilson.

Book by Allen Knee – Music by Jason Howland – Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein  
Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

The creative team includes Melissa Maxwell (Director), Scott Bussey (Technical Director), Zoë Crabtree (Dramaturg), Natasha Davison (Choreographer), Kate Ducey (Projection Designer), Caitlin Graham (Costume Designer), Billy Henry (Sound Designer), Lyn Koenning (Music Director), Jasmine Kurys (Stage Manager), Chian-Ann Lu (Lighting Designer) and David Molina-Garza (Scenic Designer).

For more information on *Little Women The Broadway Musical*, please visit [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org)

## **CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

### **Pre-Performance Talk:**

**Connecting Civil War-Era *Little Women* to the Modern World**  
**November 6 at 1:30 p.m. at B. Iden Payne Theatre**

Patrons are invited to join in a brief discussion introducing the main characters, the March sisters, and offering insight into the historical context of the play.

**Pre-Performance Workshop:**

***Little Women*, Big Dreams: Challenging Expectations and Gender Roles**

**November 13 at 1:00 p.m.**

**F. Loren Winship Drama Building, Lecture Room 2.112**

In the story of *Little Women*, Jo March is a woman living ahead of her time – with dreams that take her outside of what is expected. What happens to personal dreams in the face of political and personal upheaval? What impact do social and familial roles have on those dreams? With engaging writing and drama-based activities workshop participants will explore these questions and the character of Jo March as we connect the Civil War-era story of *Little Women* to today's world.

RSVPs are encouraged, as seating is limited. Email RSVPs to [UTLittleWomen16@gmail.com](mailto:UTLittleWomen16@gmail.com).

**CALENDAR LISTING**

**November 2-20, 2016 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Little Women The Broadway Musical* at B. Iden Payne Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus:**

[http://texasperformingarts.org/visit/maps\\_directions](http://texasperformingarts.org/visit/maps_directions)

Performance times are November 2 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview); November 3-5, 8-11, 13, 15-19 at 7:30 p.m. and November 5-6, 13, 19-20 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for performances on November 3-20 (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are now on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office, most H-E-B stores and all Texas Box Office outlets, online [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org), or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. Tickets for the preview performance on November 2 (\$10 adult, \$5 student) are available at the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and F. Loren Winship Building Box Office.

**ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE**

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

**ALSO THIS SEASON**

***In the Red and Brown Water***

By Tarell Alvin McCraney

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

October 5-16, 2016

***Lost Girl***

A new play by Kimberly Belflower  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
November 9-20, 2016

Dance Repertory Theatre presents  
***Momentum***

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
February 15-26, 2017

***UTNT (UT New Theatre)***

Curated by Liz Engelman and Steven Dietz  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
March 2-12, 2017

***The Cohen New Works Festival***

***Presented by Broadway Bank***  
April 10-14, 2017

***Luna***

By Ramon Esquivel  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
April 20-23, 2017

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