

## **Louisa May Alcott's *LITTLE WOMEN* Grows Up At THE ADVENT THEATRE In Studio City**

The ADVENT THEATRE, the oldest continuously operating community theatre in the Valley, presents Peter Clapham's adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel.

Alcott's *LITTLE WOMEN* is one of the most widely read books in the English language. Little wonder that it has been adapted for the stage and screen multiple times in its century and a half of popularity. And this adaptation by Peter Clapham was chosen by the Louisa May Alcott Society to be the official production presented in celebration of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth.

Exploring the value of family (nuclear, genetic and otherwise) and its role in shaping individuals as they struggle to discover the unique child of God they were meant to be is universal in its appeal. For people of every age and size, that journey is central and defining. While definitely family friendly, the play deals with the full range of joys and anxieties that make the story timeless and the characters compelling for even the most sophisticated audiences.

Each of the March girls displays a major character flaw: Meg, vanity; Jo, a hot temper; Beth, shyness; and Amy, selfishness. They overcome their flaws through lessons learned the hard way. With their minister/scholar father away, serving as a Civil War chaplain in the Union Army, the girls struggle with family dynamics and the burgeoning tugs at that fabric from the world outside. All this is under girded by the unflappable family pillar, Marmee, played by veteran actress Barbara Hartman Campbell. The little women are Rebecca Campbell (Meg), Molly Wilson (Jo), Madison Carden (Beth), and Emily Christine Charouhas (Amy). Robin Stallings plays Hannah, the devoted family maid and Lenore Cutler is the cranky Aunt March. The dashing eligible men are Isaac Phillip Brown (Laurie) and Devin Williamson (John Brooke). Roger Allen Hampton plays Mr. Laurence and Mr. March is played by Jerry L. Jackson, who also produces.

"Sometimes I think people give this story short shrift because of its title. It's not just about little girls," says Advent Theatre Artistic Director Glenda Morgan Brown who directs. "This is a family we can all recognize, trying to decipher who they are as individuals, and in relation to one another. It's really quite profound."

From its inception, Advent Theatre has been delivering entertaining and thought provoking slants on a classic catalog of plays. Housed at the First Christian Church of North Hollywood, the non-profit group began with a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion production of *GODSPELL* featuring the original 1971 New York cast that turned into a six month phenom. Today, the church is blessed with an abundance of outstanding professional talent from the entertainment industry and some of the finest and bravest amateur talents around.

The play opens Friday, April 18, 2008 and runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays @ 8 pm through May 17<sup>th</sup>, with one matinee at 2 pm on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Advent Theatre is located at the First Christian Church of North Hollywood, 4390 Colfax Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604 (the corner of Colfax and Moorpark). Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for students/seniors, \$12 for groups of 8 or more. Reservations, 818-753-3353 or [Advent@fccnh.org](mailto:Advent@fccnh.org). For more information [www.fccnh.org/advent](http://www.fccnh.org/advent).

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