

Wyong Drama Group's April production is Peter Clapham's skilful adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's much-loved American classic 1860s novel, *Little Women*.

Miss Alcott has created the four March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy as such interesting and individual characters, that most young readers find themselves identifying with at least one of them. The book has been widely read by successive generations since its publication in 1868 and its enduring charm still seems to capture the imagination of modern readers of all ages.

Into her story of a year in the life of a New England family during the American Civil War, Alcott has woven much of her own earlier life and that of her family. It has a universal appeal as readers and audiences continue to identify with both the characters and the situations.

All the characters in *Little Women* are well drawn, each adding significant richness to the unfolding story. Marmee, the girls' mother, is kind, warm and sympathetic with a wisdom that helps her daughters negotiate life with all its complexities. Hannah, who has been with the family since Meg was born, is considered more as a friend than a servant. Jo, the second eldest and the tomboy of the family, is companion to the formidable, autocratic Aunt March described by Jo as 'a tiresome old fuss-pot!' Mr Lawrence, the Marches' wealthy neighbour and Laurie's grandfather, initially reclusive becomes a benefactor to the Marches, developing a special friendship with Beth, the second youngest, who is gentle and shy with a love of music. Mr Brooke,

Laurie's tutor, falls in love with Meg, the eldest daughter who is a good-natured, well-mannered, mature young lady. Mr March, the girls' beloved father, is a scholar and a minister, serving as a chaplain for the Union Army. His return home is a highlight of the latter part of the play. Amy, the youngest sister, at times appearing vain and spoiled, is interested in art. Her relationship with Jo is sometimes strained.

A strong, enthusiastic cast of eleven led by Ron Baker, along with a highly acclaimed script, will ensure an engrossing and entertaining show.

The Cast

Amy	Kalani Hirst	Aunt March	Pam Campbell
Beth	Renee Stein	Laurie	Scott Russell
Jo	Sarah-Ann Ballard	Mr Brooke	Robert Cottam
Meg	Erin Beecher	Mr Laurence	Marc Calwell
Hannah (maid)	Julie Bailey	Mr March	Howard Oxley
Marmee (Mrs March)	Cathy De Vries		

Phone Bookings – 43534353 (Open 9am – 9pm from March 17)

Card facilities for bookings available.

Wyong Memorial Hall, Anzac Ave (opp RSL)

Opening night, Thursday April 7 will be a fundraiser for those affected by the natural disasters which have caused so much disruption in Australia over recent months.