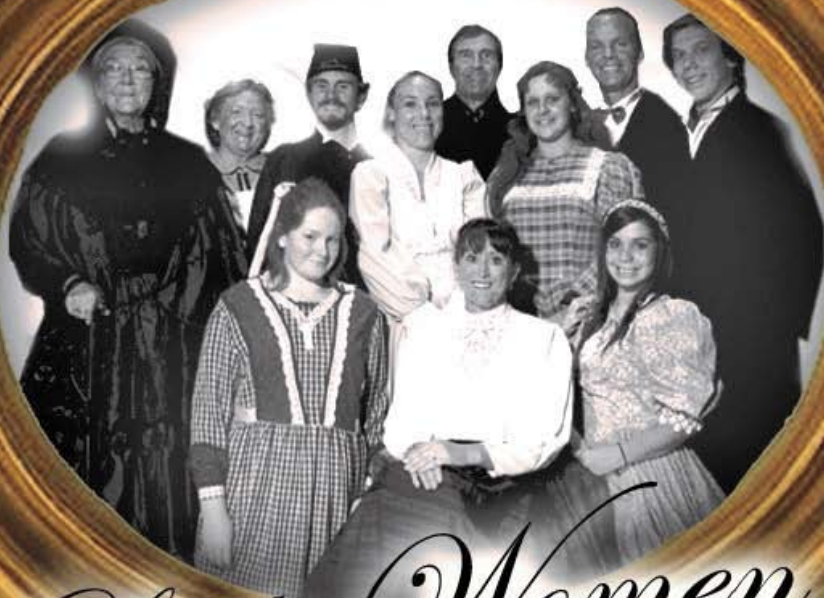


# Wyong Drama Group



*by special arrangement with Dominic Drama Pty Ltd  
Proudly Presents*



## *Little Women*

*By Peter Clapham*

*Adapted from the novel by Louisa M. Alcott*

*Wyong Memorial Hall*

# *April 2011*



By special arrangement with Dominie Drama Pty Ltd  
Wyong Drama Group proudly presents  
Little Women by Peter Clapham based on the novel by Louisa M. Alcott.

### President's Note

*Little Women* represents a milestone for Wyong Drama Group. Under the directorship of Ron Baker, the play brings together various age groups from 13 years upward and spanning three generations. By bridging the age gap the group continues to expand as a successful community group. We hope next year brings funding for the new Arts Centre with which we would like to be fully involved. So please voice your support for the new centre and spread the word, as the revitalisation of our town is equally important to all.

Howard Oxley

### Director's Note

This is my first attempt at a period play and I have found it extremely challenging. When the Group were looking for an April production I felt it might be time to look at expanding the opportunities for younger players. Browsing through my library of scripts I found a copy of *Little Women* which catered for a good range of ages, from young to well-experienced. The cast of eleven seemed well-balanced with four young women, two young men and five more mature players. I was surprised by the large number of auditionees especially for the roles of the four March girls. We have a wealth of fresh, young talent in this community.

During the rehearsal period I was very fortunate to have strong support from members, especially my Assistant Ros Ellis and Costumier Wendy Potter, who had a good understanding of authentic costumes, sets and props as well as the language of the day. Sincere thanks to my dedicated cast and crew and to all those who helped to bring this much-loved classic to Wyong's stage. Further I thank you, the audience, without whom it would all be for nothing.

Ron Baker

### A Special Thanks to:

Henry Kendall Cottage & Museum, Shirley & Bob Rider, Wyong Musical Theatre Company, Gosford Musical Society, Central Coast Express Advocate, The Village Grapevine, Hunter & Central Coast iMag, Margaret Hardy @ MAC, Snap Printing, Seniors Paper, Karen Ractliffe @ About The Central Coast, Debbie@ What's On Central Coast, June Roberts @Radio 50 Plus, Coast FM, ABC Central Coast, Rose Cooper, Jopuka Productions, Daryl Ganter, Graham Vale for stepping in late to finish off the program, Hagen Heinrich for piano construction and Robert Cottam for painting George Washington.

www.wyongdramagroup.com.au  
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### Peter Clapham

Peter Clapham, born in Exeter, England in 1925, was an actor, director and designer who received several awards for his work in the theatre. He studied in Europe and the US and, whilst in New York, directed productions at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts - the oldest drama school in the English-speaking world. Prior to his death in London in 2003 he lived and worked in the West Country in England. TV acting credits included Eddie Barnes in *Doctors*, Field Marshall in *'Allo 'Allo*, Vicar in *Nanny* and Lord Bowford in *Bread*. He also played Harrison in *The Phantom of the Opera* in 1989. Peter Clapham first adapted Louisa M. Alcott's *Good Wives*, (the sequel to *Little Women*), for stage about ten years before doing the same with *Little Women*. He also wrote the comedy *The Other Fellow's Oats*.



### Louisa May Alcott

Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888), an American novelist, is best known for her widely-read novel, *Little Women*, set in the Alcott family home, Orchard House in Concord, Massachusetts. Published in 1868, this novel is loosely based on her childhood experiences with her three sisters during the period of the American Civil War. In *Little Women*, Alcott based her heroine, Jo, on herself. Jo does marry in the sequel, *Good Wives*, but Louisa remained single throughout her life. As an adult Alcott was an abolitionist and a feminist. Literary influences included family fiends Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau. Other writing credits include *The Inheritance and Flower Fables* (1849), *Hospital Sketches* (1863), and *The Rose Family: A Fairy Tale* (1864). The *Little Women* series included *Good Wives* (1869), *Little Men* (1871) and *Jo's Boys* (1886).



### Setting

The action of the play takes place in the parlour of the home of the March family, who live on the outskirts of Concord, a small town in Massachusetts, New England.  
The period is the 1860s, at the time of the American Civil War.

### The Cast

Act 1  
Scene 1: A few days before Christmas.  
Scene 2: New Year's Eve.  
Scene 3: The following afternoon.

Act 2  
Scene 1: The following summer.  
Scene 2: The next day.

Act 3  
Scene 1: November later that year.  
Scene 2: Ten days later  
Scene 3: Christmas Morning

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



Amy - Kalani Hirst

A fresh young face joining WDG, Kalani comes to us after learning her trade with 'The Edge Drama' and 'XtrAct Drama'. Having appeared in many pantomimes with both groups, her favourite role was 'Puddin' in *Cinderella* in 2008. She was a featured cast member in Jopuka's 2009 production of *Stand Out, Fit In, Be Heard*. Kalani then had further training at NIDA where she featured in the production *The Trojan Women* as Cassandra. She really hopes you enjoy her performance.



Marmee - Cathy De Vries

Cathy has been a member of WDG for about 13 years. She has performed in many plays with the group, three of which broke all box office records. Cathy has also participated in two one-act plays for the group's annual Theatrefest – *The Cage Birds* which won "Best Production" and *Repent at Leisure* which also won a number of awards. Cathy is delighted to be playing the role of Marmee in *Little Women*, it being such a wonderful period piece and a book Cathy loved when she, too, was a Little Woman. With great direction from Ron Baker and a cast of many favourites, as well as new faces, this play will surely pull at your heart strings!



Beth - Renee Stein

Thirteen year old Renee has been in fourteen musicals including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Honk Jr* and *Seussical*, however, this is her first production with Wyong Drama Group. As well as acting, Renee has twice been placed in the ACMF National Song Writing Competition. She also plays the bass guitar and piano but her main focus is singing, which she has been studying for 10 years. Renee studies drama with Helen O'Grady. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with this cast and bringing the role of Beth to life.



Hannah - Julie Bailey

Julie has been an active member of WDG for over 25 years and is currently a Vice-President. She has enjoyed a variety of roles both on and off the stage and was last seen as Mother Raphael in John Misto's *Harp on the Willow* in 2010. Julie directed, for the 2010 CC Theatrefest, a comedy, *Three Chairs!*, and, in '09, Hannie Rayson's great Australian play, *Inheritance*. She has now cast off the habit and has taken up another kind of service as the March family's long-serving, faithful maid who is considered 'more as a friend than a servant'. Like so many others, Julie read *Little Women* in her youth and loved it. She is thrilled to be acting alongside fresh, new talent as well as audience favourites and long term WDG friends.



Jo - Sarah-Ann Ballard

This is Sarah's first production with Wyong Drama Group. She made her stage debut in Wyong Musical Theatre Company's 2010 production of *Bye Bye Birdie* where she played Rosie. She grew up on the Coast, yet has spent much time touring around Australia on other work endeavours, most notably in the 2009 national production of *Buddy! The Buddy Holly Story*. Sarah currently manages Lowes Menswear at Lakehaven. She hopes you enjoy the production and is keen to get back on stage soon.



Aunt March - Pam Campbell

Pam, as a life member of the Wyong Drama Group, has performed many roles, including Hilary in *Hotel Sorrento*, Mrs Clackett in *Noises Off* and Girlie in *Inheritance*. She has also performed for Gosford Musical Society, Central Coast Theatre Company, Woy Woy Little Theatre and Ad Hoc Theatre in such roles as Bridie in *Shoehorn Sonata*, Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* and Monica in *Caravan*. Pam has directed several plays for the group, including *Fawlty Towers* (twice) and *Run for Your Wife*. The role of Aunt March holds its own challenges, especially in negotiating a voluminous taffeta skirt!



Meg - Erin Beecher

Erin first became interested in drama in 1994 and wanted to pursue a career in acting, but "life" intervened. However during the '90s she did perform as a young flute and tenor recorder player in a number of venues in Wollongong and even at the Opera House. She has also studied tap-dancing and began singing lessons in 2008. In her capacity as professional make-up artist, she is currently trying to break into the field of Film, TV and Special Effects Make-up, whilst also hoping to get work as an extra. As this was her first ever audition, Erin is very pleased to have been chosen to play the part of Meg.



Mr Laurence - Marc Calwell

Marc has been performing with the Wyong Drama Group since 1998 in such productions as *Wanted: One Body*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and more recently in the award winning production of *The Boat* for last year's Theatrefest. He is thoroughly enjoying working with such a talented cast and with Ron Baker as director again. Marc hopes you enjoy the portrayal of Mr Laurence, with his hard exterior and soft heart and once again dedicates his performance to his three favourite actors, his daughters!



### Laurie - Scott Russell

Another new face to the group - we welcome the lively Scott who comes to us fresh from playing "Maurice" with GMS Juniors in their production of *Beauty and The Beast*. He has also made many appearances with Wyong Musical Theatre Company in such shows as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and the upcoming *Jesus Christ Superstar* directed by fellow WDG member Polly Forshaw. He is currently studying at Uni and also works at Lowes with his on-stage counterpart Sarah (Jo). He hopes you enjoy his version of the loveable Laurie.



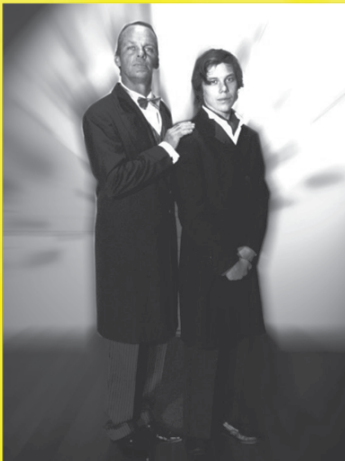
### Mr Brooke - Robert Cottam

Robert is excited about making his debut for the Wyong Drama Group. In recent years he has performed in a number of avant-garde productions, including the mysterious front man in *The Mundus Tree*, whilst at University. Robert studied to be an art teacher and says that his acting experience has really helped him with his teaching career. He is looking forward to many more roles with Wyong Drama Group.



### Mr March - Howard Oxley

An unusual part, for Howard, as a minister of religion! Not *Fawlty Towers* nor a ripping comedy, but a nice change to see him in a 'serious role'. He remarks, "After 25 years it's a delight to see a merging of age groups and to be part of *Little Women*. I've been in dozens of productions but never tire of the sheer theatrical experience."



### Production Team

- Director Ron Baker
- Assistant to Director Ros Ellis
- Production Manager Jenny Newman
- Stage Manager Duncan Mitchell
- Stage Hand Nicholas McCarthy
- Props Ros Ellis, HKC Historical Museum, Julie Bailey
- Prompt Sally Bartley
- Lighting/Sound Scott Daniel, Cameron Oxley, Nick Lyons (Light Entertainment)
- Wardrobe Wendy Potter, Joyce Abbott
- Make Up Helen Schumann
- Hairdressing Kellie Mortimer, Millie Sampson, Suzanne Stein
- Set Construction Barry Sampson, Hagen Heinrich, Fred Roome, Charles Styles, Marc Calwell, Ian Abbott, Ron Baker
- Set Design/Decor Ron Baker, Ros Ellis
- Set Painting Ros Ellis, Julie Bailey, Daryl Ganter, Pollyanna Forshaw, Helen Schumann
- Graphic Arts Jopuka Productions
- Program Printing Snap Printing Gosford
- Publicity Julie Bailey, Howard Oxley
- Photography Julie Bailey, Mathew Richards
- Front of House Jenny Newman, WDG members
- Bookings/Box Office Robyn Weidlich
- Kitchen Jenny Newman, WDG Members




**Join the Group.**  
 Wyong Drama Group holds meetings on 1st Tues / month at 7.30pm.  
 New members are welcome to join our dynamic team of actors, directors, technicians and willing workers.  
 For more information check our website:  
[www.wyongdramagroup.com.au](http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au)  
 or just ring: 4353-4353

Wyong Drama Group turns 60 in 2012!!  
 And we're getting ready to party all year long!  
 So check our website for updates on the plans for our 60th Birthday Celebrations



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