

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate Release

Première

Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Watford Palace Theatre present

Little Women

An adaptation by **Anne-Marie Casey** / From the novel by **Louisa May Alcott**
Directed by **Brigid Larmour**

Dates:

21 July – 29 September, Pitlochry Festival Theatre
11-22 October, Watford Palace Theatre

Press performances:

Wed 27 July at 2pm and Tue 2 Aug at 8pm
Auditorium, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Watford Palace Theatre to première new stage adaptation of Little Women

Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Watford Palace Theatre are set to join forces this summer to stage the première of Anne-Marie Casey's new adaptation of Louise May Alcott's much loved tale *Little Women*.

Directed by Watford Palace Theatre's Artistic Director Brigid Larmour, *Little Women* will première at Pitlochry Festival Theatre from 21 July – 29 September and then transfer to Watford Palace Theatre from 11-22 October.

Published in 1868, Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* is one of the best loved novels of all time. By turns comic, dramatic, romantic, and tragic, the book was inspired by Alcott's experiences growing up with her three sisters and is the story of the March family, mother Marmee and her daughters, beautiful Meg, strong-minded Jo, sensitive Beth, and spoilt Amy, as they struggle to survive in New England during the American Civil War.

Anne-Marie Casey's adaptation of the classic story offers an exciting theatrical experience, guaranteed to be a night (or afternoon!) filled with laughter, tears, and a lifting of the spirits.

Little Women's exciting cast will feature **Rachael McAllister** (*A Christmas Carol*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre) as Jo March; **Jessica Brydges** (*Peter Pan*, Maltings Theatre) as Meg March; **Meg Chaplin** (*Arrival*, imPOSSIBLE) as Beth March; **Anna Fordham** (*The Borrowers*, Watermill Theatre and *The Athena*, Sky) as Amy March; **Amelia Donkor** (*As You Like It* and *The Taming of the Shrew*, Royal Shakespeare Company and *Eastenders*, BBC) as Marmee; **Tom Richardson** (*The*



PITLOCHRY
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Prince and the Pauper, New Vic Theatre) as Prof Bhaer/John Brooke; **Deirdre Davis** (Eileen Donachie in *River City*, BBC Scotland and the films *Orphans* and *Get Duked*) as Aunt March; and newcomer **Richie Spencer** as Laurie.

Little Women is designed by **Ruari Murchison**, lighting design by **Kate Bonney**, music composed and directed, and sound designed by **Niroshini Thambar**, and movement directed by **Saffy Setohy**.

Director and Watford Palace Artistic Director **Brigid Larmour** said:

'Lockdown has had its weird upsides! It enabled collaborative zoom play readings in the ether between Pitlochry and Watford, attended by audiences as far afield as Shetland and Chicago. That led to a partnership to co-create on two major productions over the next two years, and share them between our two theatres, and nations.

Little Women is loved by huge numbers of people, from Margaret Atwood to Patti Smith to Caitlin Moran. Anne-Marie Casey's fresh, fast-moving take on this family isolated together at home, fractious and loving, tragic, and funny - took on a whole new meaning in lockdown! There is nothing chocolate-box about the show. It's the best in period drama like *Bridgerton*, with some of the cheeky humour, and all the heart, of *Derry Girls*.

An earlier version of this script had two sell-out runs at Dublin's Gate Theatre, and I think it's the kind of joyous and engaging theatre we all need right now.'

Playwright **Anne-Marie Casey** said:

"Like millions of others around the world, I first encountered Little Women as a child. Louisa May Alcott's timeless tale of the triumphs and tribulations of the four March sisters and the headstrong Jo, who defies all expectations and obstacles to pursue an independent life as a writer, left an indelible impression upon me. It has been a privilege to adapt this funny, warm, poignant, and ultimately life affirming story for the stage, and I thank the Pitlochry Festival and Watford Palace theatres for bringing these wonderful characters to life in the UK premiere of this new production"

Little Women runs at Pitlochry Festival Theatre from 21 July -29 September and then transfers to Watford Palace Theatre from 11-22 October.

Tickets for *Little Women* are available the box office on **01796 484626** or online at **pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com**

-Ends-

**For all press interviews please contact Duncan Clarke PR:
T 07880893750 or E duncanclarkepr@gmail.com**

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Auditorium, Pitlochry Festival Theatre**



Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Watford Palace Theatre present

Little Women

By **Louisa May Alcott** and adapted by **Anne-Marie Casey**

Directed by **Brigid Larmour**

Designed by **Ruari Murchison**

Lighting Designed by **Kate Bonney**

Music composed and directed / Sound Design by **Niroshini Thambar**

Movement Directed by **Saffy Setohy**

Cast: **Jessica Brydges, Meg Chaplin, Deirdre Davis, Amelia Donkor, Anna Fordham, Rachael McAllister, Tom Richardson, and Richie Spencer**

PITLOCHRY FESTIVAL THEATRE LISTINGS

21 July – 29 September

Eve perf at 8pm: July: 21, 22 & 26 / August: 2, 13, 17, 27/ September: 3, 14, 22 & 28

Mat at 2pm: 27 July and 29 September

Ticket prices: From £16

Box Office and group bookings: 01796 484626

email boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Website: pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

WATFORD PALACE THEATRE LISTINGS

11-22 October

Box Office and group bookings: 01923 225671

Website: watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk

Watford Palace Theatre inspires and entertains through inventive, ambitious, and inclusive drama, new plays, musicals, dance, and family shows; Imagine Watford, a free annual festival celebrating a range of outdoor performance art; diverse stand-up; Stage in the Park, an exciting and varied programme of entertainment set in Cassiobury Park, Watford; and a much-loved traditional pantomime. It reflects its diverse communities, and fully represents women, both onstage and behind the scenes, whilst celebrating and developing creativity and skill in the community and with young people, exhibited with Buffering, the first onstage performance by the Palace Young Company at Stage in the Park, and the Hertfordshire Film Festival produced in partnership with Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden, the University of Hertfordshire, and CathARTic Art. The theatre's locally produced shows and home-grown talent have toured nationally and internationally, been seen on BBC iPlayer, won awards, and transferred to the West End. Central to WPT's vision is Resident Partner Rifco Theatre Company. Recent WPT productions include Jan Ravens in Talking Heads; an all-female Gaslight; the UK's first African American Glass Menagerie; and Ayckbourn's Absurd Person Singular. World premieres include musicals Mushy and Miss Meena & the Masala Queens (with Rifco), and I Capture the Castle, and plays good dog by Arinze Kene (with tiata fahodzi), Poppy+George by Diane Samuels, Coming Up by Neil d'Souza, Jefferson's Garden by Timberlake Wertenbaker, and Jumpers for Goalposts by Tom Wells.