

PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors | Emma Van Nieuwenburgh and Victoria Wells
Stage manager | Fiona Whiteside
Sound | Andrew Hayward and David Witherall
Lighting | Josh Mitchell and Liam Whiteside
Set design | John O'Leary-Fawcett
Set build team | Marlon Gill, Mervyn Wilson, Alan Goss,
Emma Dickson, Alexander Gill and Arthur Gill
Costumes | Angela Goss, Alan Clarke and Tracey McNevin
Props | Jan Drury and Angela Goss
Publicity | Sarah Cunnane and Matt Eyles

With thanks to the Dunstable Rep committee, along with the front of house and bar teams. The directors wish to thank Pippa Wilson, a voice coach from The Albany Centre who supported the cast with their New England accents.



Dunstable Rep presents
Louisa May Alcott's timeless tale
Adapted for the stage by Peter Clapham



Good Wives

18-26 September 2026,
The Little Theatre, Dunstable

Directed by
Emma Van Nieuwenburgh
and
Victoria Wells



This amateur production of "Good Wives" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. concordtheatricals.co.uk



DIRECTORS' NOTE

Welcome to Good Wives, the much-loved sequel to Little Women, rejoining the March sisters as they reach adulthood.

After directing Little Women together last year, we were delighted to return. What began as our first experience of directing became something truly special. We created the March family together on stage and, in many ways, our cast became a family, too. We are so pleased that many familiar faces have returned, alongside some wonderful new additions who have been warmly welcomed into the fold.

We met through Dunstable Rep and over the years our friendship has grown through a shared love of theatre, storytelling, and spending time with this fabulous company.

Community theatre has a unique kind of magic. Bringing people together to create something larger than ourselves can bring joy, purpose, laughter, and connection. It can also help us through life's more difficult seasons. Like the March family, none of us escapes stress, illness, loss, or hardship, but we are fortunate to have one another, and the friendships and community that theatre helps create.

Thank you to our cast, crew, and everyone at Dunstable Rep who continues to make this such a supportive and special place to belong. A special thank you from both of us to Angela Goss for her support, and from Emma to her husband, Greg, for all his love and support.

We hope you enjoy spending time once again with the March family and sharing in the next chapter of their story.

Victoria and Emma

Victoria Wells and Emma Van Nieuwenburgh, co-directors

CAST

Jo | Katie Barton-Rolfe
Marmee | Jo White
Meg | Carla Kedzierski
Beth | Carly Shotbolt
Amy | Ella Sarti
Laurie | Jack Downie
Hannah | Debbie Cavanagh
Mr Brooke | Marc Rolfe
Mr Laurence | Phil Baker
Aunt March | Sue Jones
Aunt Carrol | Gillian Morris
Mr March | Barry Pain
Mr Bhaer | Nick Norkin

SYNOPSIS

Three years after Little Women, the March sisters are growing up and life is changing fast in 1860s New England. Meg settles into married life, Jo pursues her writing, Amy travels to Europe, while gentle Beth faces worsening health. As love, loss, ambition and family ties pull them in different directions, each sister must decide what kind of woman she wants to become.

Good Wives is a heart-warming celebration of female voices, sisterhood and the courage to choose your own path. This timeless story explores love in all its forms – between sisters, partners and oneself.

To find out more about our cast and this production, please scan the QR code to access our extended programme, available online via the Little Theatre website.



MEET THE CAST



Phil Baker | Mr Laurence Phil joined the Rep in 1966, and has acted and directed numerous plays over the years. He is delighted to be Mr Laurence, and to once again share the stage with the extended March family. He says it's lovely to be on the stage with younger talented people.



Katie Barton-Rolfe | Jo The only thing Katie loves more than performing is reading, so she's thrilled to be back playing her favourite literary heroine! Although only her second Rep show, Katie trained at Tring Park and has appeared in various productions since.



Debbie Cavanagh | Hannah Debbie has been involved in the wonderful world of am dram since 1988 and has taken part in musicals, plays and pantomimes. She loves playing 'real' characters, including Beggar Woman in Sweeney Todd, Bertha in Pippin and of course Hannah in Little Women.

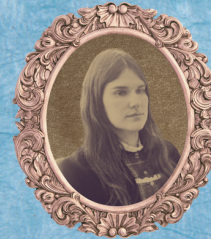


Jack Downie | Laurie Jack has always had an interest in acting, but his role in Good Wives marks his stage debut. He has had a brilliant time during the rehearsal process and can't wait to perform at the Little Theatre. He hopes that you enjoy the show!

MEET THE CAST



Sue Jones | Aunt March Sue became an acting member of the rep in 1986, taking on many roles since then. Sue takes great pride in knowing that she has encouraged and sometimes inspired the students she taught both drama and theatre studies to during her career as a teacher.



Carla Kedzierski | Meg Carla has loved acting since childhood. After a Drama degree and 10-year break, she happily found her way back with Dunstable Rep, playing Meg and Sebastian. She's grateful to be back doing what she loves, surrounded by such lovely local talent.



Gillian Morris | Aunt Carrol Gillian discovered a passion for theatre back in 1990 and joined a local community theatre group that toured schools. She has been involved in set design and taken on a few acting roles. Gillian has recently joined Dunstable Rep for fun and friendship.



Nick Norkin | Mr Bhaer Nick only started acting recently, with Good Wives marking his fourth production. He's wanted to join the March family since Little Women, and is delighted to finally do so as Professor Bhaer – a fellow immigrant he feels particularly close to.

MEET THE CAST



Barry Pain | Mr March Barry is grateful to the Rep for a chance to escape his comedy straightjacket. He has appeared in many shows at the Rep in the past, most recently Bronte. Additionally, he has also appeared with both CADS and TADS over many years.



Marc Rolfe | John Brooke Marc began acting at 24 and has loved every minute. He's portrayed many characters, but Brooke is one of his favourites and he's honoured to play him again. Little Women, Good Wives, and everyone involved in both will forever hold a special place in his heart.



Pippa Wilson | Voice and speech coach Pippa has been dedicated to the field of voice for over 30 years, working with actors and performers as well as broadcasters and teachers. She is passionate about helping actors

to find character voice flexibly and safely and has been delighted to work with the cast of Good Wives on a late 19th-century New England accent. Pippa currently teaches trainee actors at the Courtyard Training Theatre Company, London, and works out of The Albany Centre in St Albans running individual sessions and workshops.

Find out more: www.thealbanycentre.com/voice

MEET THE CAST



Ella Sarti | Amy Ella has been performing for a year, with Amy March having been the first character she played on stage. This was swiftly followed up by the (rather different!) character of Leah in Beautiful Thing, before Amy was reunited with Ella once again for Good Wives this September



Carly Shotbolt | Beth As an actor, classic lit girl and period drama devotee, Carly is delighted to be reunited with her March family in Good Wives. Her CV through and since training spans musicals, plays and immersive theatre, and she cannot wait to see what comes next.



Jo White | Marmee The theatre is Jo's second home. She's played an evil mother, a fierce mother and questionable women... so naturally, she's now going "respectable" as Marmee. If you're wondering why she's on stage again, nobody has found the paperwork to stop her.

Follow the Rep

Get our latest news on social media



facebook.com/DunstableRep



instagram.com/DunstableRep

IN REHEARSAL



If you like the sound of theatre on your doorstep...
...Join our club!

Dunstable Rep is more than the people you see on stage. We're a community of performers, makers, technicians, organisers and theatre lovers who come together to create award-winning local productions and keep The Little Theatre thriving.

Whether you want to perform, learn a new skill, meet people or simply support more local theatre, there's a place for you here. You don't need previous experience, just enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved.

Join today: www.littletheatre.org.uk

IN REHEARSAL

