FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the second production of our 2024-25 Nordonia Drama season! It has been quite the whirlwind adventure adding a third mainstage show to our year. Each day I have been impressed over and over again by the dedication, determination and perseverance of my casts, crews and staff that have helped to bring these two stories to our stage back-to-back. I love what I do, and as crazy as the last twelve weeks have been for us all, I have never been more excited for what the future has in store for us on the Nordonia stage.

In *Little Women*, Jo March has an imagination that cannot be contained. She uses theatre as an outlet for storytelling, and to create a connection to her sisters. These moments often bring the March sisters closer together and help to shape who they will become. I think it is safe to imagine (many years after the end of our story) that these characters will see these memories as defining moments in their lives and cherish them with fondness.

As a theatre director, specifically one who works with teenagers, I can only hope that the time we spend together working on creating our own stories will be looked back upon many years from now with that same fondness and love. My time on the Nordonia stage as a student are some of my favorite times to look back upon. It lit that spark for me that I have been so very fortunate to transform into such a vital part of my life, still here on the stage of my alma mater. I have been so lucky to work with easily more than a thousand students over the last twenty years, and it is my greatest wish that the time we have spent has been as meaningful to each of them as it has for me. I am so immensely proud of all the stories we have created together.

To my cast, whether you were just on this ride or were one of the ones who rode the insane roller coaster straight from Skid Row to New England alongside me, thank you. Thank you for helping me to create such a beautiful story. I am so proud of my Little Women (and men). Julia and Ryan, I could not have done any of this without you. I will spend the next twenty years thanking you both for helping me bring my dream of expanding our season to reality, and it still won't be enough. I am forever indebted to you both.

Thank you for supporting the arts here at Nordonia. I cannot wait for many many more stories to come. For now, "tell me a story, Jo".

Chris Simmons, Director of Drama

CAST

Meg March.....Rylie Chard

Jo March.....Aubrey Spinetti

Beth March.....Katelyn Wojnarowski

Amy March.....Gabrielle Jethrow

Theodore "Laurie" Laurence.....Ezekiel Rayle

Marmee March.....Nolah Walton

John Brooks.....Caeden Bolling

Hannah.....Katie Hersh

Aunt March.....Kennedy Auman

Mrs. Mingott/Messenger.....Isabella Schultz

Mr. Laurence/Dashwood.....Xavior Smith

Robert March/Parrot.....Liam Bolling

SETTING

Little Women is set in and around the March family home in Massachusetts, from December 1861 through spring 1864.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Please silence your cell phones.

The taking of photographs or video with or without a flash is a violation of our license agreement and is strictly prohibited.

Concessions and Candy-Grams are available in the cafeteria.

Following the performance, we will be collecting donations. Nordonia Drama will split all money collected this weekend with **Our Community Hunger Center**. Thank you!!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Chris Simmons

Assistant Director.....Julia Dulaney

Technical Directors.....Carlton Guc, Dylan Maholm

Fight Captain.....Caeden Bolling

Costumes Designer.....Aubrey Spinetti

Social Media.....Richie Nyce, Ezekiel Rayle

Graphic Design.....Logan Strauss

Production Photographer.....Lexi Majoros

Production Videographer.....Chris Rayle

Production Printing.....Kimpton Printing

Makeup and Hair Manager.....Julia Greenberg

Stage Crew/Box Office Supervisor.....Keyshaun Smith

Stage Manager.....Abigail Bendlak

Stage/Props Crew.....Henry Burt, London Chapman & Aubrey Garcia

Tech Crew Managers.....Anthony Trivisonno Jr., Kendall Haynes

Tech Crew.....Liz Ayers, Izzy Bacik, Sophie Gentile, Ash Patterson & Lila Sedor

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A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO…

Casey Wright | Louise Teringo | Amy Strauss
Jessy Archer | Anthony Buckler | Jeff Fox
Cindy Simmons | Ryan Dulaney | Vicki Lester
Melissa Chase | Kyle Kiffer | Eszti Pigniczky
Julie Kaczmarek | Eric Vasquez | Mary Kidd
Jen & Chris Rayle | Paul & Glenda Bolling
Mike Kelley and the NHS Custodial Staff
Dane CT Leasure & Kendra Strickland, Rubber City Theatre
Dale & Helen Kimpton, Kimpton Printing

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Kennedy Auman (Aunt March) is in the twelfth grade. This is her third production onstage with Drama following performances in *The Little Mermaid* and *Mamma Mia!* In addition to Drama, Kennedy is involved with National Honor Society, NST3 and Mock Trial, of which she is currently serving as President. After graduating next spring, Kennedy plans to attend college to further her education and major in Early Childhood Education, with a minor in Psychology.

Caeden Bolling (John Brooks, Fight Captain) is a senior this year and *Little Women* marks his eighth performance with Nordonia Drama. He has also performed in: *Five by Ives, Once Upon a Mattress* (Wizard), *Puffs* (Wayne Hopkins), *The Little Mermaid* (Scuttle), *A Murder is Announced* (Edmund), *Mamma Mia!* (Bill) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour). This past summer he also performed in Rubber City Theatre's production of *Freaky Friday* (Parker/Louis). Caeden is currently in his second year as Co-President of Drama and is also involved in Choir and National Honor Society and helps out at his church. After graduation, he plans to attend college for Education, while continuing to pursue music.

Liam Bolling (Robert March, Parrot) is in the ninth grade, and this is his second onstage role with Nordonia Drama after appearing onstage in the ensemble of last year's *Mamma Mia!* He is a member of Science Olympiad and plans to pursue a STEM related field after high school. One of Liam's roles is loved equally as much as the other is hated, so there's that…

Rylie Chard (Meg March) is a senior this year returning back to the Nordonia Drama stage after three years! She previously performed in 2021's *Five By Ives*. She is also involved in Pep Club, and is the President of Film Club. After graduation, Rylie plans to attend the University of Cincinnati to major in Psychology with a minor in Media.

Katie Hersh (Hannah) is in the eleventh grade this year. She has previously performed in: *Puffs, The Little Mermaid* and *Mamma Mia!* and has also worked on crew for Drama productions. She is a member of Choir and A Capella. Katie currently plans to attend Ohio College after high school.

Gabrielle Jethrow (Amy March) is a senior, and this is her fourth year with Drama. She has appeared onstage in: *Puffs, The Little Mermaid* and *Mamma Mia!* and has also worked on crew for Drama productions. She is also involved in Band, Black Student Union, Girl Scouts and National Honor Society. Gabrielle plans to attend college after high school to study Film Production and Business to become a film producer. She would like to thank her own sisters for being her rock and supporting her no matter what!

Ezekiel Rayle (Theodore "Laurie" Laurence) is a junior appearing onstage in his sixth production with Nordonia Drama. He has also performed in: *Puffs, The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *A Murder is Announced* (Inspector Craddock), *Mamma Mia!* (Sam) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin). Ezekiel has also worked with Rubber City Theatre in Akron on their production of *Mean Girls* (Kevin G) and *Freaky Friday* (Adam). He is the current Vice President for Nordonia Drama, helps run our social media accounts (Follow our TikTok! @nordoniadrama), is involved with Choir, and takes voice lessons from Vicki Lester. After high school, Ezekiel plans to pursue a BFA in Musical Theatre, and study Marketing and Advertising. Instagram: @zeke_rayle.

Isabella Schultz (Mrs. Mingott, Messenger) is a sophomore who performed last year in the ensemble of *Mamma Mia!* as well as in several of Drama's summer camp programs. This is her first non-musical performance. She also participates in Dance and St. Barnabas Teen Life. Isabella currently plans to study P-5 Education at a small catholic college after high school.

Xavior Smith (Mr. Laurence/Dashwood) is a freshman, and this is his second onstage role with Nordonia Drama after appearing onstage in the ensemble of *Mamma Mia!* He has also performed with Drama at the middle school as well as Drama's summer camp programs. Xavior is also involved in Future Problem Solvers and hopes to play Tennis this spring. In college, he currently plans to study either Theatre or Forensic Science.

Aubrey Spinetti (Jo March, Costumes Designer) is in the twelfth grade, and this is her third year involved with Nordonia Drama. She has appeared onstage in our productions of: *Puffs, The Little Mermaid, A Murder is Announced* (Letitia Blacklock), *Mamma Mia!* and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Chiffon). This is her second year serving as the Costumes Manager for Drama. Aubrey plans to attend Kent State University to major in a fashion field, minoring in Costume Design, and hopes to assist Drama on future productions!

Nolah Walton (Marmee March) is a senior who has previously performed in the ensembles of: *Once Upon a Mattress, The Little Mermaid* and *Mamma Mia!* She currently serves as the Secretary for Drama, is a class officer, and participates in Film Club, Volleyball and National Honor Society. After graduation, Nolah plans to major in Biology, minor in Spanish, and continue on to medical school.

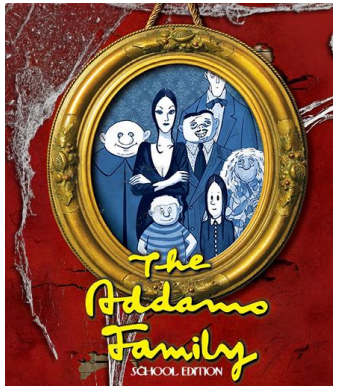
Katelyn Wojnarowski (Beth March) is in the ninth grade and this is her first production with Nordonia Drama, after having performed with Drama at the middle school and with Drama's summer camp programming. She is a member of Momentum and has participated in A Capella for three years. Katelyn has lived in three different states, Arizona, Mississippi and Ohio. After high school, she currently hopes to go to acting school.

SAVE THE DATES!

NORDONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA

Nordonia Drama

Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.



JANUARY 24-25, 2025

APRIL 11-13, 2025