THE WOMEN of the Syracuse Stage production of "Little Women": (from left) Aisling Halpin as Amy, Jenaha McLearn as Beth, Mary Kate Morrissey as Meg and Sarah Shahinian as Jo.
Familiar Themes

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those in their acquaintance.

“You can follow their jour-

ney. They’re not strangers to

you by the end of the play,”

says director and choreogra-

pher Anthony Salatino.

He says the play’s themes —

values, conflicts, strug-

gles, death and family rela-

tionships — are familiar to

everyone.

“It has nothing to do with
gender. That’s an important
thing. It has to do with life
experiences and how do we
overcome, how do we find
opportunity out of a crisis.
What lessons are we learn-

ing through all this,” he

says. “Love is the thing that

holds it all together.”

Of course, music cements
this “Little Women.”

Salatino describes the lyr-

ics as beautiful and easy to

understand. “The great
thing about the music is that
it continues the plot and
character development. So
the songs are not just songs
of emotional value, although
they exist. But, it’s the char-
acter also forwarding the
plot and the character’s own
journey during the song.”

The lives of the March
women aren’t the only

drama of “Little Women.”
The musical has had a stor-
ed history since its begin-
nings in 1998. Composer
Kim Oler and lyricist Alison
Hubbard, both based in
Long Island, continued to
make changes as the work-
shop progressed. Afterward,
Kemp lobbied Timothy
Bond, Stage’s producing
artistic director, to schedule
“Little Women” as a future
main stage holiday presenta-
tion. It is a joint production
of Syracuse Stage and SU’s
Department of Drama.

And, once again, Kemp
plays a part in giving life to
“Little Women.”

ANTHONY SALATINO, director of the Syracuse Stage production of “Little Women,” describes the play’s lyrics as beautiful and easy to understand.

Special events

These are some of the special events Syracuse Stage is holding in conjunction with “Little Women.” All events are held at Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St., Syracuse.


Sunday: “Actor Talkback.” The cast of “Little Women” will remain for a question-and-answer session after the 7 p.m. show.

Dec. 5: There will be a “Welch Allyn Signed Interpretive Performance” of the 3 p.m. show.

Dec. 9: Dennis J. Connors, curator of history at Onondaga Historical Association, will discuss Louisa May Alcott’s connection to Central New York through her uncle, Samuel Joseph May, a Unitarian minister, abolitionist and advocate for women’s rights, at 1 p.m. before the 2 p.m. matinee.

Through Dec. 27: In Syracuse Stage’s lobby, the Onondaga Historical Association has organized an exhibit of Louisa May Alcott’s connections to Syracuse during the 19th century. Her uncle was Samuel J. May, who lived in Syracuse. May Memorial Unitarian Universal Society, 3800 E. Genesee St., is named after him. Two of Alcott’s sisters also lived and taught school here during the 1850s.