

LITTLE WOMEN



ABC and iview SATURDAY 5 JANUARY AT 7.30PM

Based on Louisa May Alcott's universally beloved novel, *Little Women* is a new three-part adaptation from the award-winning creator of *Call the Midwife*, Heidi Thomas, and directed by Vanessa Caswill (*Thirteen*).

Set against the backdrop of a country divided, the story follows the four March sisters: Meg (Willa Fitzgerald), Jo (Maya Hawke), Beth (Annes Elwy), and Amy (Kathryn Newton) on their journey from childhood to adulthood while their father (Dylan Baker) is away at war.

Under the guidance of their mother Marmee (Emily Watson), the girls navigate what it means to be a young woman: from gender roles to sibling rivalry, first love, loss and marriage. Accompanied by the charming boy next door Laurie Laurence (Jonah Hauer-King), their cantankerous wealthy Aunt March (Angela Lansbury) and benevolent neighbour Mr. Laurence (Michael Gambon), *Little Women* is a coming-of-age story that is as relevant and engaging today as it was on its original publication in 1868.

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Episode 1:

Christmas, 1861. The March sisters - Meg (Willa Fitzgerald), Jo (Maya Hawke), Beth (Annes Elwy), and Amy (Kathryn Newton), and their mother Marmee (Emily Watson), prepare for Christmas without presents and without their father, a Union army chaplain away at war.

Learning to appreciate the smaller things in life, the sisters strike up a friendship with their charming new neighbour Laurie (Jonah Hauer-King), and his tutor John Brooke (Julian Morris).

After the holiday, Meg and Jo return to work in order to provide for the family. In the new year, Amy and Jo clash over an invitation to the theatre and a rash act of revenge, but a life-threatening event encourages them to put their differences aside.

During the summer Beth struggles to overcome social anxiety and Meg grows closer to John Brooke. As autumn of 1862 sets in, the family receives the terrible news that Mr March (Dylan Baker) has been taken ill in an army hospital in Washington DC. The girls anxiously await news of their father's fate as Marmee, accompanied by John, rushes to his side.

Commissioned by Piers Wenger and Charlotte Moore (BBC); produced by Playground (*Wolf Hall, Howards End*) for BBC One. A co-production with Masterpiece on PBS; Producer Susie Liggat; Executive Producers: Colin Callender and Sophie Gardiner (Playground), Heidi Thomas, Lucy Richer (BBC) and Rebecca Eaton (Masterpiece).

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