

# news galleryweek

July 14, 2021

## Theatre Company production of *Little Women* wraps filming



Summer productions are back for the Theatre Company, but with a twist.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on performers and audiences, this year's production of *Little Women: The Musical* has a small cast of 10 and was filmed so it could be streamed at a later date.

Theatre Company director, Bethany Rader, said productions rarely have a small cast so it took some getting used to. However, *Little Women* was a perfect musical for their small cast size and everyone was happy to be back in person.

"It took all of us a few moments to get back into the swing of things after not having in-person rehearsals for over a year and a half," Rader said. "But it was worth all the hoops we had to jump through and protocols we had to follow, so we could look each other in the eyes again without a screen in between us. We did have to wear masks the whole time and try to stay three feet apart, which was very difficult with such an emotionally heavy show. But these students are troopers and stuck with it."

*Little Women: The Musical* is a coming-of-age story based on the novel, *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott. The story is about the four March sisters, their mother, and their lives while their father is away during the Civil War.



"It tells an amazing story of sticking together no matter what," Rader said. "Of a family's love, through anything. I think that's an important message right now."

The entire musical was rehearsed and filmed last week by Travis Walters and Film Owl Productions at Visalia's Ice House Theatre. The musical was filmed from start to finish several times to keep the cast in their character headspace as much as possible. There was also an audio-only recording done.

"These parents and students were amazing and stuck with us through it all," Rader said. "They wanted to be back doing what they loved, no matter how."

### **Principal Characters**

Jo March played by Tessa Hemphill, Redwood High School  
Meg March played by Kathy Gonzalez, Redwood High School  
Beth March played by Elisabeth Smith, Redwood High School  
Amy March played by Lyra Paez, Golden West High School  
Marmee March played by Paige Ragan, Mt Whitney High School  
Laurie Laurence played by Brennan Church, Golden West High School  
John Brooke played by Jacob Lucio, Redwood High School  
Mr. Laurence played by Cade Gann, Redwood High School  
Aunt March played by Emilie Walker, Alumni

*Photos above:*

*~ The Theatre Company's summer production of Little Women finished filming last week.*

*~ An announcement about the public release of the Theatre Company's film of Little Women will be made later this month.*

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## **Daniel Del Villar is Visalia AcCEL's new program manager**

Daniel Del Villar is the new program manager for the AcCEL Program in the Visalia area. He started this month after serving most recently as a teacher within the AcCEL program for 14 years.

"I am excited and honored to be the new program manager for the Visalia-area AcCEL program," Del Villar said. "I am looking forward to providing service to the families and community of Visalia."

Prior to becoming a teacher, Del Villar was an instructional assistant at various school sites in the Valley. During his teaching career, he also had the opportunity to be an adjunct professor for Fresno Pacific University for seven years. During this time, he helped enrich and develop some great future educators.

A Valley native with Tulare County roots, Del Villar said the Special Education community has been a part of him for most of his life.

"I know with assurance that it will continue to be a part of me for many years to come," Del Villar said. "See, I also have been blessed to have a child with special needs. My youngest son was diagnosed with autism at the age of four. Since that moment, my perspective on life has forever changed, but my mission has stayed the same. Under my new role, I will continue to strive to serve the Special Education community and be an advocate for all those that may not have a voice."



## Distance Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
  - [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
  - [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)
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Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Communications Director

Contributors: Nayirah Dosu, Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Bethany Rader, Daniel Del Villar, and Sarah Hamilton.

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