

Welcome to Our 42nd Season!



Welcome to the Rochester Rep and our 25/26 Season, an exciting season of community theatre, right here just off Broadway!

We're proud to bring you six unforgettable productions, each chosen to inspire, entertain, and spark conversation. Your presence and support make our work possible, and we are deeply grateful. Thanks to patrons like you, the Rep continues to thrive. Settle in, enjoy the performance, and know you're a vital part of this journey!

Philip Wayne-Davis
Managing Director

Board of Directors
Benjamin Hain, President

Land Acknowledgement

The Rochester Rep wishes to acknowledge that our theater resides on the native lands of the Dakota Sioux and Ojibwe peoples. We pay our respects to their peoples of the past, as well as future generations.

In an effort to avoid lip service, this acknowledgement will be absent from our curtain speeches as we work to find *tangible* ways to go beyond a simple verbal statement. We understand the importance and impact of this work, and we as a company are striving to do our part in dismantling systemic racism and prejudice in its many forms.

Why A Digital Program?

By offering a digital program, we hope to be more environmentally friendly and reduce printing costs. By using less paper, we reduce our carbon footprint while also giving you remote access to the program from anywhere.

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Up Next:

The Women of Lockerbie

A Poetic Drama of Healing

Directed by Cheryl Frarck

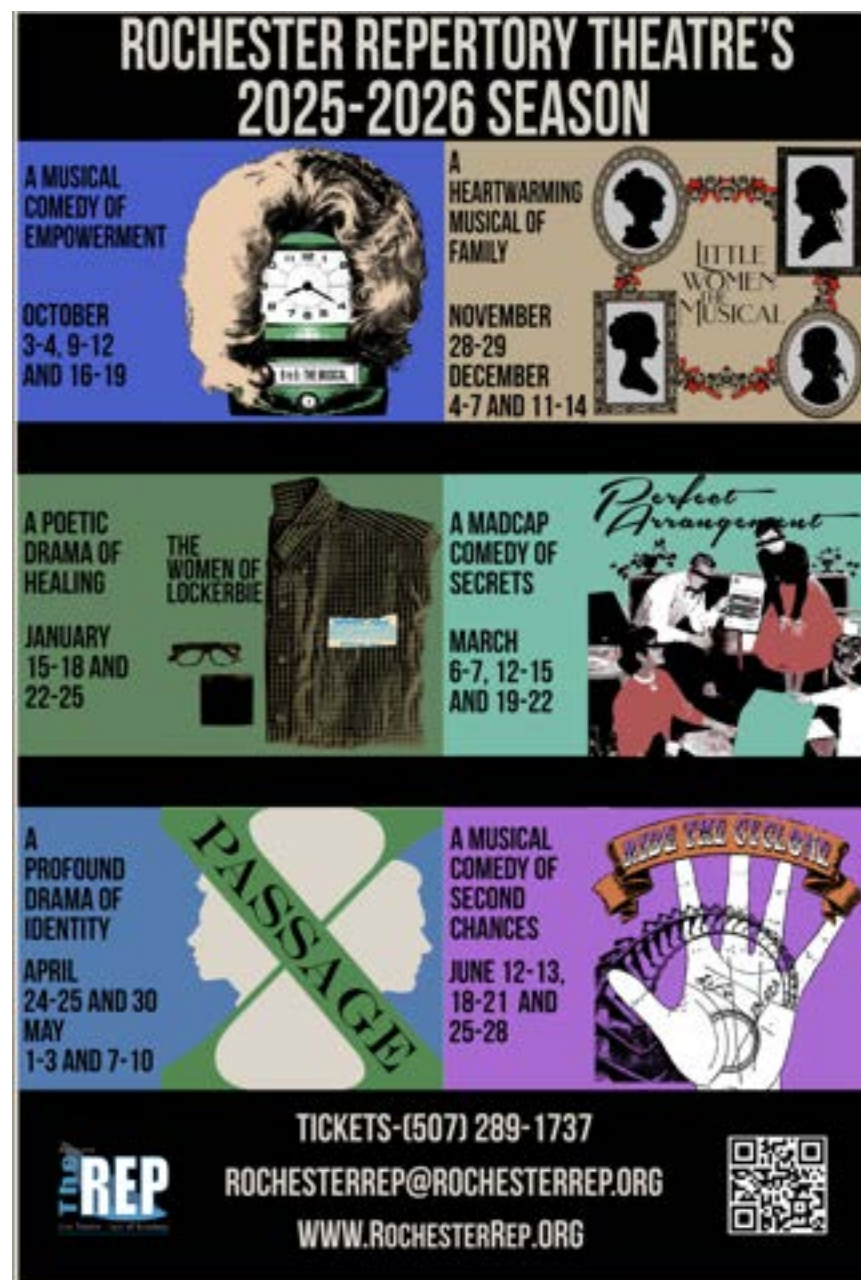
Performing Jan 15th – 25th

In the aftermath of the Pan Am bombing, a mother who lost her son in the attack travels to Lockerbie, Scotland, seeking closure.

There, she encounters a group of local women who have transformed their grief into activism. Together, they confront the past and fight for justice, healing, and a better future.



Join us for the rest of our
42nd Season!



The Rochester Repertory Theatre Presents:

Little Women: The Musical

Music & Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein and Jason Howland; Book by Alan Knee
Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Production/Design:

Director.....	River Clare
Music Director.....	Stefanie Fry
Stage Manager.....	Emilie Pentico
Choreographer.....	Deb Fuehrer
Scenic Design.....	Susan Zahasky
Lighting Design.....	Benjamin Hain
Costume Design.....	Annie Johnson/Susan Flaker
Sound Design.....	Philip Wayne-Davis
Mic Operator/Technician.....	Nick Taylor
Asst. Director.....	Lynn Montague
Rehearsal Pianist.....	Lauren Saner
Fight Choreography.....	Mike Speck
Intimacy Coordinator.....	Amanda Jade

Cast:

Jo March.....	Amber Feind
Professor Bhaer.....	Alex O'Brien
Amy March.....	Alyssa Keller
Meg March.....	Catherine Williamson
Beth March/Rodrigo 2.....	Meredith Leigh
Marmee March.....	Stephanie Tucker
Mr. Laurence/Braxton.....	Santiago Martinez
Laurie Laurence/Knight.....	Anthony Nelson
Aunt March.....	Susan Cizek
Mr. John Brooke/Rodrigo.....	John (JT) Copeman
Mrs. Kirk.....	Taleah Kear

Ensemble/Jo's Story:

Stefanie Fry, Judi Ketterling, Phoenix Wilkins, Joy Jasik
Gwyn Krol, Mallory Jenkins

Understudies:

Joy Jasik (Jo), Kayla Kanzelman (Amy), Malia Montague (Beth), Stefanie Fry
(Meg), Judi Ketterling (Marmee), Kai Wernau (Laurie)

Director's Notes

Little Women has always lived quietly in my heart. Growing up with my own sister, I've known the wild mix of laughter and rivalry, devotion and distance; the kind of love that shapes you even when you don't understand it. We've stumbled, grown apart, and found our way back again, because that's what sisterhood is: forgiveness wrapped in history. Love that endures the storms.

Like Jo, I've always believed ambition is my folly. I hate melancholy lines and scriptures without rhyme or reason; I crave motion, passion, purpose. I've spent much of my life chasing something just beyond reach, constantly comparing myself to a false idea of perfection. But *Little Women* reminded me that there's beauty in imperfection, in the trying, the almost, the becoming. Even in the chasing, there is grace. Every rehearsal has shown me glimpses of real sisterhood.

May this story leave you braver, warmer, and a little more in love with the beautiful imperfection of growing up, and with the people who help you do it.

- River Clare, Director

Special Thanks

Tony Drumm, Chris Smith, KTTC/Midwest Access, Paul Zahasky, Chris Smith, John McDougall, Barb Haas, Ayanna Arnold, Merritt Olsen, and Diane Solem, Topsy Side Trailer

Thanks to Our 25/26 Season Sponsors!



To read the full digital program, including company bios, scan any of the QR codes in the lobby or visit www.RochesterRep.org

This production is performed through a special agreement with
Music Theatre International

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PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**

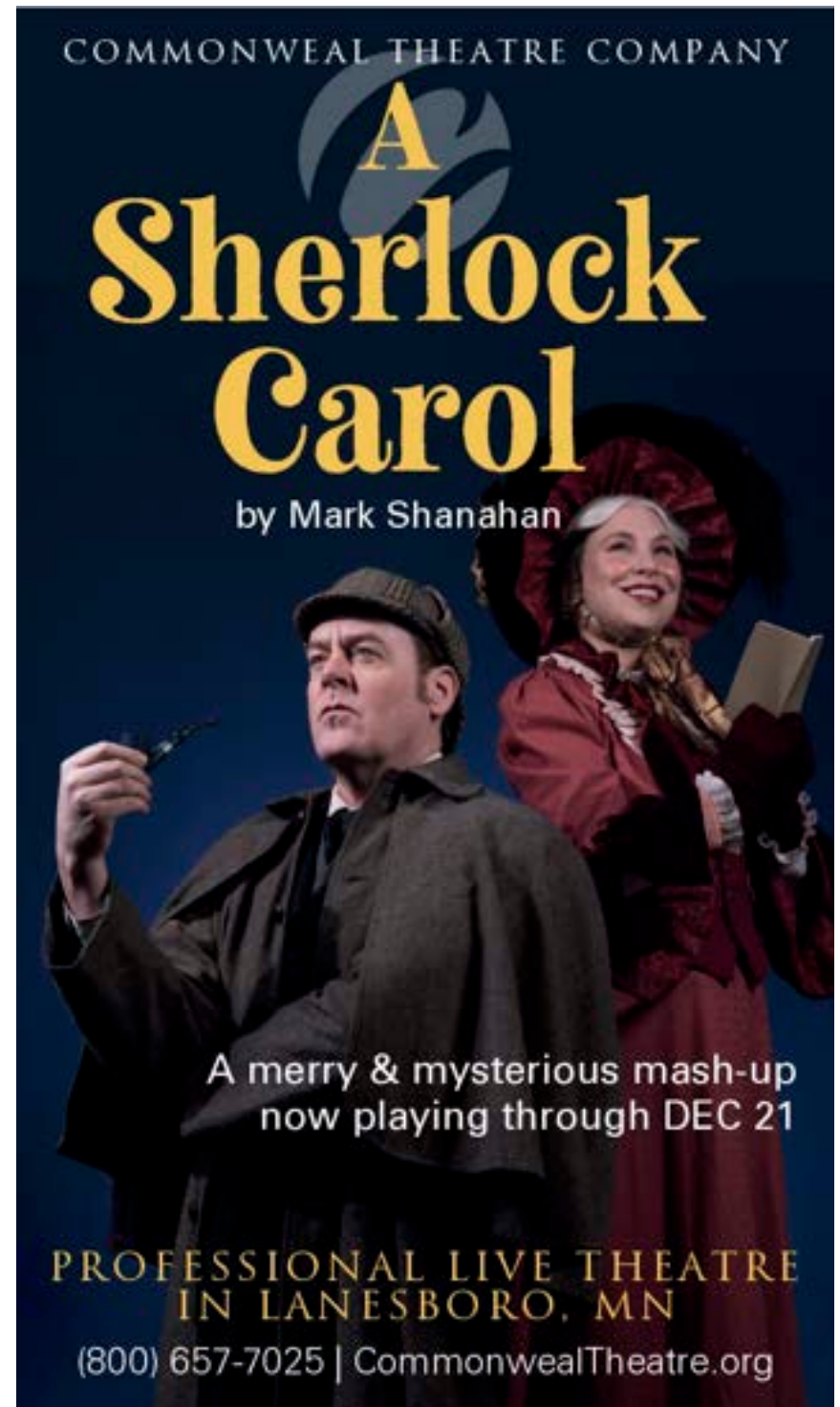
Musical Numbers

Act I

An Operatic Tragedy
Better
Our Finest Dreams
Here Alone
Could You?
Delighted
Take a Chance On Me
Better (Reprise)
Off to Massachusetts
Five Forever
More Than I Am
Take a Chance on Me (Reprise)
Astonishing

Act II

The Weekly Volcano Press
Off to Massachusetts (Reprise)
How I Am
Some Things Are Meant to Be
The Most Amazing Thing
Days of Plenty
The Fire Within Me
Small Umbrella in the Rain
Sometimes When you Dream



Cast Bios



Amber Feind (Jo)

Amber is delighted to be helping bring this amazing show to life. She was more recently seen at the Rochester Civic Theatre in *Anastasia* (Dunya/Ensemble), *Waitress* (Dr. Francine Pomatter/Jenna US), and *Matilda* (Miss Honey) as well as at the Rochester Repertory Theatre in *The Haunting of Hill House* (Eleanor Vance). She hopes that you enjoy this beautiful story of love, family,

and never giving up on one's dream!



Alex O'Brien (Prof. Bhaer)

Alex O'Brien Alex has been deeply involved in the SE MN theatre scene since 2015. They last appeared on stage at the Rep as a member of the great ensemble in *The Wild Party*. Alex is also an accounting student at RCTC and will be transferring to complete his Bachelor's at Winona State in 2026. He hopes you will love this classic slice of life and always remember to

be exactly who you want to be!



Alyssa Keller (Amy)

Alyssa is thrilled to be making her Rep debut! She just graduated from Luther College this past spring, where she majored in Visual Communications (Graphic Design) and minored in Musical Theatre. Some previous credits include Jenny Hill (*Big Fish*), Dorothy (*Wizard of Oz*), and Rochester Civic Theatre shows; Teen Fiona (*Shrek*), Star to Be (*Annie*). At Luther, when

she wasn't doing theatre, Alyssa was singing in the Nordic Choir and designing all of the theatre posters and programs. In Rochester, when she's not doing theatre, she's coaching youth soccer. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Catherine Williamson (Meg)

Catherine Williamson, of Pine Island, is a registered nurse working in surgery. She loves her family, friends, and the many animals she lives with on the farm! She has performed in school and community shows including *James and the Giant Peach* as Ladybug, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* as Lucy, *The Curious Savage* as Ethel P. Savage, and *The Government Inspector* as Marya Antonovna, but this

is her first show at the Rep! *Little Women* is such an important story to her, and she is so excited to perform this beautiful show with this amazing cast and crew!



Meredith Leigh (Beth)

Meredith has performed in a variety of productions, including Angel and a Battle Mouse in *The Nutcracker*, Titania the Fairy Queen in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Duffy in *Annie*, the Page to Prince Ceren in *Crown of Coral and Pearl*, Jade Kelly in *Nun-crackers*, Bielke in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and one of the Three Pigs in *Fractured Fairy Tales*. She has

also appeared in Spark Theatre Company, *Hadestown* (Chorus), and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Violet). Meredith is thrilled to play Beth in *Little Women*. She has a deep passion for theater, dance, and singing, and loves bringing stories to life on stage.



Stephanie Tucker (Marmee)

Stephanie is thrilled to make her debut with the Rep and return to the stage after many years away. She has performed in both plays and musicals and has also sung jazz and standards from the Great American Songbook with big bands. Stephanie is delighted to play Marmee alongside this astonishingly talented cast and especially grateful to

share the experience with her two “real life” daughters - Meredith Leigh (Beth) and director River Clare.



Santiago Martinez (Mr. Laurence)

Santiago is excited to debut on The Rep stage; he has always wanted to join in on the fun here! During the day he works as an ESP for Phoenix Academy. He has done almost 20 shows with different theaters combined. He is very excited to be playing Braxton and Mr. Lawrence. He was last seen as Fred in *Christmas Carol* over at the Rochester Civic

Theater. He wants to thank his family and girlfriend for their never-ending support.



Anthony Nelson (Laurie)

Anthony graduated from Stewartville high school in 2024. He started doing musical lessons sophomore year where his first role was the Candyman in *Willy Wonka*. He more recently did *White Christmas* down in Chatfield last year. He believes theater is a great way to get out of your comfort zone and meet new people.



Susan Cizek (Aunt March)

Susan spent her youth getting as much stage time as she could starting in middle school. She studied voice at Northwestern University, and sang with Lyric Opera in Chicago. Then she had children. Now that her kids are grown and she is retired from teaching, Susan is happy to be returning to the stage and is thrilled to be performing as Aunt March in

Little Women.



John “JT” Copeman (Mr. John Brooke)

John is excited to be in his second show at the Rep as John Brooke. John has starred in *Beauty and the Beast*, *Once upon a Mattress*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, *White Christmas*, and his most recent show, *Hadestown*. When John is not performing or singing his heart out on stage he does Speech, figure skating, golf, sings in choir and honors choir and plays the

saxophone in band at school. John is excited to show his love for theatre and hopes everyone enjoys the show.



Taleah Kear (Mrs. Kirk)

Taleah is excited to be back onstage after a 19-year hiatus from theater. She has sung in various musical groups over the years and is heavily involved with music at her church. When she is not singing, playing the piano, or wrangling her four energetic and amazing kiddos, you can find her hiking, biking, gardening or cooking. She would like to thank her

husband and children for cheering her on in her dream of getting back into musical theatre.



Stefanie Fry (Ensemble/Music Director)

Stefanie is thrilled to be back performing at the Rep! She’s previously been seen on the Rep’s stage in *9 to 5*, *Heathers: The Musical*. Within the past year alone, Stefanie’s been in *Footloose*, *Newsies*, *White Christmas*, *Waitress*, *Anastasia*, and *Shrek*. Stefanie’s a proud Luther College alum where she was a part of

The Nordic Choir, Opera, and private voice. When not on stage, she works as a school social worker, hangs out with her husband and their bunnies, Esther and Light.

**Judi Ketterling (Ensemble/Marmee US)**

This will be Judy's first show here at the Rep, and she is honored to be a part of this wonderful cast! A few other roles she's had include: US Dowager Empress/ Ensemble (*Anastasia*), Cinderella's Stepmother (*Into The Woods*), Snyder the Spider (*Newsies*), Grandma Potts (*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*), Melissa Frake (*State Fair*), and Mae Peterson (*Bye Bye Birdie*). Thank you for joining us for *Little Women*! Enjoy the show!

**Phoenix Wilkins (Ensemble)**

"Answer me these questions three, ere the other side he see." Their name? Phoenix. Their quest? Debuting at The Rochester Repertory Theatre! After a long hiatus, they are elated to be returning to the local theater scene. When not acting as a troll demanding a toll, they can be found with their cat on their lap, nose-deep in a good story. Oh, and their favorite color is plum.

**Joy Jasik (Ensemble/Jo US)**

Joy Jasik was last seen on stage as Trina in the Rep's production of *Falsettos* as well as the recent Miscast Cabaret. Before then, she was also in the Rochester Civic Theatre's productions of *Waitress* in the ensemble and *Newsies* as Spot Conlon. Joy also sings with Choral Arts Treble Singers and Hometown Opera Company. By day, she is a Desk Operations Specialist in the Orthopedics department at Mayo Clinic.

**Gwyn Krol (Ensemble)**

Gwyn is elated to be in her first show with the Rochester Rep. Her last role was Wendy Darling in *Peter/Wendy* with the drama club at Grand Meadow High School. When she's not on stage, she spends her time engaging in other forms of the arts such as painting and poetry. She also spends her days reading, writing, and spending time with people close to her.

**Mallory Jenkins (Ensemble)**

Mallory Jenkins is thrilled to be in her first production with the Rep. Mallory grew up in Michigan where she participated in productions at school, community theater, and the local university before graduating from Northern Michigan University and beginning a career in the sciences. Previous roles include July (*Annie*), Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*), costumer/puppet builder (*Avenue Q*), and assistant director (*Pride and Prejudice*).

**Kayla Kanzelman (Amy US)**

Kayla is thrilled to be back at the Rep for another fantastic show. You may have previously seen her on this stage in *9 to 5: The Musical*, *The Wild Party*, or *Heathers: The Musical*. When not on stage you can usually find Kayla lost in a book or starting (and sometimes even finishing) new crafts and projects.

MANTORVILLE THEATRE COMPANY

Nov 21 - Dec 7



Written by Greta Grosch
Directed by Annie Johnson
Music and lyrics by Dennis
Curley & Drew Jansen

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mantorvilletheatrecompany.com

Rochester
The REP
Live Theatre - Just off Broadway

Holiday Dessert Auction

Dec 7th - 4:30pm



Production/Creative Bios



River Clare (Director)

River is a 19-year-old director and writer excited to bring *Little Women: The Musical* to life. They wrote, directed, produced, and starred in the original musical *Crown of Coral and Pearl* and have directed *The Lottery*, *Spy School*, and *One Last Train to Nowhere*. River loves telling stories that explore ambition, identity, and connection, and is endlessly grateful to this cast for their heart and dedication.



Lynn Montague (Asst. Director/Props Design)

Creativity has always been at the center of Lynn's life - whether she's crafting, painting, or volunteering at RideAbility, where she supports riders of all abilities. She's had a lifelong love of musicals and theatre, a passion that has only deepened while cheering on her theater-loving daughter. Being part of *Little Women* lets her celebrate that love while embracing the imagination, community, and heart she values most. She's grateful to share in bringing this beautiful story to life.



Emilie Pentico (Stage Manager)

While this is not her first show here (that honor goes to *Radium Girls*), this is Emilie's first production role at the Rep, and she is grateful to help bring this musical to life and heartwarming festivity to the season. Her previous stage management experience includes Hometown Opera Company, Rochester Civic Theatre, In Heart Theatre, and RCTC. Her favorite on-stage roles have been Edith (*Blithe Spirit*), and Countess Almaviva (*Figaro*). In her free time, you will find her either trying a new (or favorite) recipe, playing Dungeons & Dragons, riding her horse, Merry, or cuddling with her cat, Bear, and a good book (like *Little Women*)!



Benjamin Hain (Lighting Design)

Ben has been doing lighting and theater for more than 40 years. He worked as a production electrician for Theater de la Juene Lune and at Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis. He has lit shows at RCT, The Rep, Byron, The Jon Hassler Theater, Mayo Clinic, The Rochester School District, and various dance shows. He has worked as a stagehand at the Mayo Civic Center and ran spotlight from rodeos to rock concerts. Those and the band Genesis are major reasons he is a lighting designer today. Ben is married to the amazing Kelly, and they operate the farm that has been in the family since 1896. Ben is the technical director for Hill Theater at Rochester Community and Technical College.

Annie Johnson (Co-Costume Designer)

Annie is thrilled to be helping with costumes for this show! Recent Rep credits include directing last season's sold-out hit *Nun-crackers*, and *Evil Dead: The Musical*. By day she works in physical therapy for various companies and gets to record YouTube videos and commercials for Bob and Brad: The Most Famous Physical Therapists on the Internet (In their opinion, of course).



Philip Wayne-Davis (Sound Design)

Philip is celebrating his fifth season as the Rep's Managing Director. Recent Rep sound design credits include *Clybourne Park*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Haunting of Hill House* and *Tiny Beautiful Things*. He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of North Dakota and has worked

regionally with Commonweal Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Rochester Civic Theatre, and Absolute Theatre. He is currently earning his MA in Arts Management through the University of Oklahoma. Much love to his **NEW HUSBAND** Isaiah for helping him through this busy time in their life together!

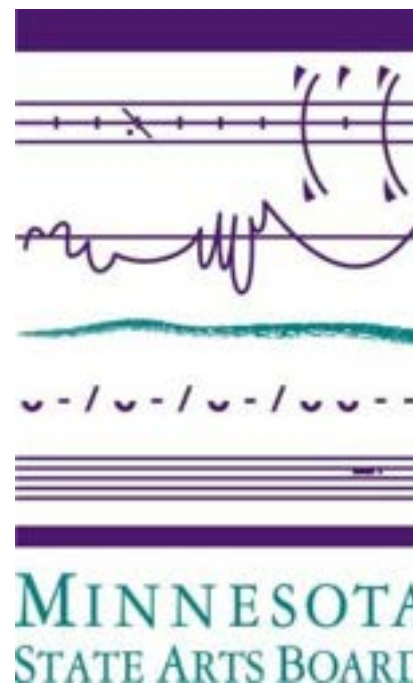
Thanks to Our 25/26 Season Sponsors!



Thanks to our show sponsor for
Little Women: The Musical!



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board and Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



The Rochester Repertory Theatre Extends the Deepest Thanks to Our Donors!

2025-2026 Season Donors

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In Loving Memory of Eric Donaldson
Ruth Donaldson

In Loving Memory of Michelle Nietz
