



Get ready to see

LITTLE WOMEN

at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University

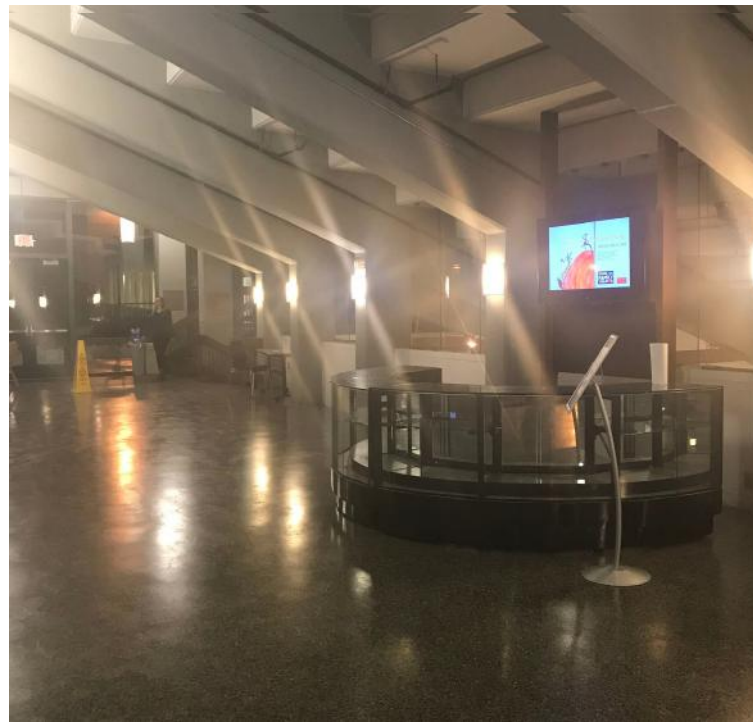
A social story to help families prepare for a visit to the theater



I am going to see a play called *LITTLE WOMEN* at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University.



When I get to the theater, we will walk through the lobby.



It might be crowded.

I can take deep breaths and be patient as we move through the crowd.



In a play, people on stage tell a story -
right in front of us!

These people are called actors.



When I sit down in the theater I will see
the set. A set is an imaginary place,
built on the stage, to show where the
story happens.



The set for this play is made up of lots
of pieces of furniture. It looks like an
attic!

This set can be many different places!
Sometimes it's a family home, or a
spooky forest, or even the beach!



This play takes place right near Boston in a town called Concord! This play tells the story of the four March sisters. It is a play about family, love, and strong women.



The story of this play is told through songs and dancing, not just speaking.



The music comes from a special place below the stage called the orchestra pit!



This is where the musicians sit and play their instruments. There is also a conductor who tells them how and when to play.

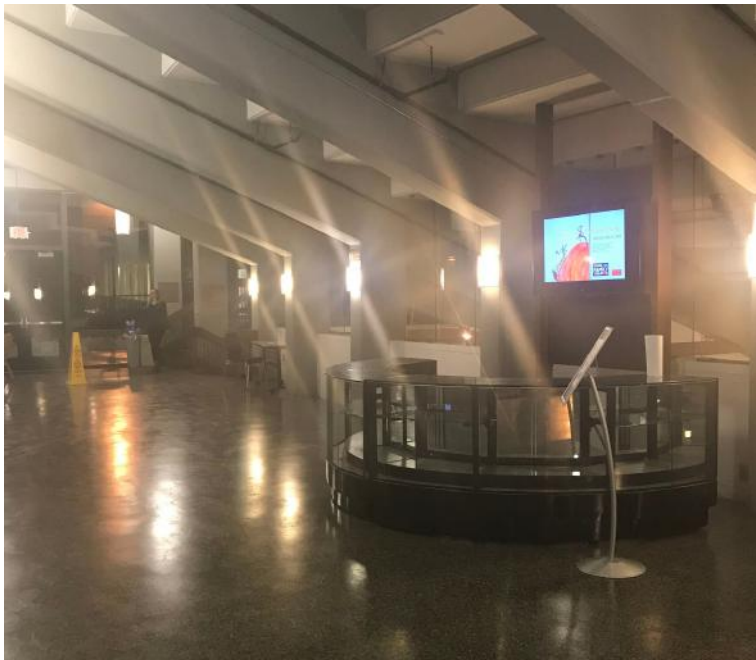
Sometimes the sounds and music can get loud. If it is too loud for me I can always cover my ears...



...I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad, or with someone else who came with me to the theater.



If I need a break I can go into the lobby...



...or to a quiet, cozy space nearby.



If I need something to hold onto I can ask an usher for a squishy toy.



I will know that the play is about to start when the lights in the room get darker and the lights on the stage get brighter.

The audience will get very quiet. It is important that I try to be quiet during the show so I can hear everything.



Now, let's meet some of the characters
in this play!

These are the four March sisters: Meg,
Jo, Beth, and Amy.



This is their mother, Marmee. She is a
strong woman who takes care of her
four little women while her husband is
away serving in the Civil War.



This is their neighbor, Laurie, and his
grandfather, Mr. Laurence.

Laurie is the March sisters' best friend.
Mr. Laurence can seem to be angry at
times but it's just an actor playing a role.



This is Aunt March. She lives in a mansion called Plumfield, where Jo helps her every day.



This is Mr. John Brooke, Laurie's tutor, who helps the March family in a time of need.



And this is Professor Bhaer. He is Jo's friend when she lives in New York City.



Sometimes in this play, the actors will play a different character!

One actor, Gamalia Pharms, plays both Aunt March and Mrs. Kirk, the woman who runs the boarding house where Jo lives in NYC.



I can tell the two characters apart by the things they wear and how they behave towards Jo!

Aunt March wears a purple dress and always insists Jo learn to be proper. Mrs. Kirk wears a pink apron and is amused by Jo's antics.



The actors who play Jo's family also play the characters in the story Jo writes.

When Jo starts to tell her story, I will know that the actors are going to appear to bring her story to life!



In the play, Jo March cuts her hair to get money for her father, who is sick.



I know that the actor who plays Jo doesn't really cut her hair!

She is wearing fake hair, like a wig, that she can take off and then put back on for the next show!



Look at how different her hair looks!

I am excited because I know how the actor does her theatre magic!



This play takes place over many years.

In the start of the play, we see Jo as a grown up living in New York City.



Then Jo writes the story of her childhood with her sisters.

We go back in time to when she was a teenager living in Concord, Massachusetts.



Then the play takes us through the journey of the March sisters growing up!



In the play, Beth gets very sick and the March family is very sad.



This is Abigail Mack. She is the actor who plays Beth. In real life, Abigail isn't sick. She is just pretending for the play.



If I feel sad, know that this is just a story and everyone is safe and only pretending.



If I feel sad I can hold hands with mom or dad or someone else who came with me to the theater.



At the end of a scene or song some people will clap. Clapping tells the actors that I liked their performance.



If I want to clap I can.
If I don't want to clap I don't have to.

This play is performed with an intermission. This is a break in the play where I can leave the theater to walk around the lobby, use the restroom,



get a drink of water, or have a snack.



At the very end of the play all of the actors will come out on stage and bow. This is called a curtain call.



I can clap. Clapping tells the actors I liked the show.

If I really like the show I can stand up and clap. This is called a standing ovation.



If the sound is too loud, I can always cover my ears.



If I feel anxious or upset I can take deep breaths to help me stay calm.



I can hold hands with mom or dad or with someone else who came with me to the theater.



After I move through the lobby I will leave Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University.



Going to the theater is very exciting!

I hope I will have a great time when I go to see *LITTLE WOMEN*.



For more information about access and inclusion at Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University please contact Jeri Hammond, Director of Education, Outreach, and Community Engagement, at JeriH@bu.edu or 617-353-1459.

