

# Goodnight Little Womans

Well... here is my final post on the great experience that began back in late March. New director, new cast members, new atmosphere, but still great fun. It is rather strange how intimate I have become with the stage in our little corner of Ohio. Twice I have been in shows where I end up lying downstage center. Whether it be sleeping and being pulled into my television or being stabbed in a duel and killed. During our final performance this afternoon, Marmee suggested that I combine Braxton Prendergast with my favorite character (of course many of you who read my blog know who that is). As thrilling as that would be, I decided that I better not although it may have drawn an even larger reaction than normal. The director could not understand why Braxton's death always drew chuckles from the audience. As our lighting tech so kindly observed, he does not know me very well, does he. Actually, I was quite impressed at the amount of time it took to strike the set. It took less than an hour and a half. Everyone really pitched in and helped. So, after that most of the cast and crew went for a final wrap gathering at an area pizza shop and said our final farewells amidst the sadness and joy. Once again, my sincere thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in this marvelous production. I found many ways in which to deliver the line "Who are you?" so it would be different each time I said it. I think I found as many as Jo found to deliver "Christopher Columbus." Plus, my goals for the show were met. I believe that the cast worked hard but still enjoyed themselves, and I got to wear pumpkin pants (tights as well, but that was definitely not on my list).



# From Stage To Screen

Last night's final dress rehearsal contained a small, intimate audience including two of my best friends who really enjoyed the performance (even if I am killed by a girl... not my fault that is how it is written). But I was really pleased with the entire evening. The length of the performance actually was about 10-15 minutes shorter than what we had been anticipating most of the week. I even got a crash course in spotlight use to substitute for the irreplaceable light woman who was still ill.

Today, while sitting at my brother's house waiting for a package that was to be delivered, I found the 1994 movie version of *Little Women* on television. Like most works that have more than one form, there were some differences between the stage and movie versions. I believe that both versions contain at heart the same theme: Do not be afraid to be true to yourself. Do not allow society to impact that which you truly feel you are meant to do.

I also was able to dig deeper into some of the characters while watching the movie. I often wondered why Grandfather Lawrence (John Neville) was at first portrayed as a crotchety old man and then have a change of heart by his interactions with Beth. Like Captain Von Trapp in the *Sound of Music*, Mr. Lawrence lost someone close to him which left an emptiness. Hearing Beth (Claire Danes) play the piano filled that void, lifted his spirits, and melted his heart... AWWWWW.

Mr. Lawrence's grandson Laurie ([Christian Bale](#)) is also given more depth in the movie. After his marriage proposal to Jo ([Winona Ryder](#)) is rejected, Laurie runs off to Europe and becomes a womanizing drunk until he encounters Amy ([Kirsten Dunst](#)) painting at school. At first, I believe that Laurie was in love with the idea of becoming a true member of the March family. However, I do believe that through the courtship he

did fall in love with Amy.

Nowhere is the central core of both pieces more substantial than in Jo's venture from Concord to New York where she meets Professor Bhear ([Gabriel Byrne](#)). Although they are both headstrong and stubborn, the professor encourages Jo to write that which is pleasing to her and not to the publishers who keep rejecting her stories. This path may not lead to a great financial career but will in time please her on a personal level.

Another important part of both versions are the wild, imaginative plays the girls perform. In a scene from the movie, Meg attends a party given in honor of Annie Moffett's coming of age. Annie decides to turn Meg into something she is not and Meg foolishly agrees to "play" along by wearing a corset showing off her figure, and experimenting with drinking (Trini Alvarado). Laurie catches her and she immediately hides in a corner, full of shame.

So while both versions are basically true to each other, there are moments in each which enhance both.



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## Ugly Or Sweet

Tonight's rehearsal was primarily focused on vocals and what blocking we have learned for the songs in Act I of which there are 10. It was almost as if I had stepped back into a vocal lesson reflecting on what I had learned years ago about sound placement, breath support, projection, etc. and a lot of it was nearly second nature. After my song was finished I decided to wait and see how the rest of the cast was coming along on

their songs. Amazingly, there were only about lets see (Jo, Amy, Beth, Marmee, Prof. Bhaer, Laurie, Mr. Brooke, and Mr. Lawrence, and myself) 9 of us there. I have yet to see Rodrigo at a rehearsal, but I guess people are busy and have other commitments.

I must say that the young man playing Laurie has his work cut out for him. This role calls for a range of approximately 2 octaves soaring to a high A on the Treble cleft, but I think he is doing a fine job... just needs to open up and get that breath support flowing.

Some of the March sisters songs are fun and choreographed well once they learn them well enough to sing without music in hand and move around the stage at the same time.

Actually, a hard rehearsal but at least it seems that the cast is well on its way with just over three weeks to go before performances begin. The trip home was quite exciting with a lightning storm flashing all around, but little rain... so no ditchings ☐

[Little Women \(1933\)](#) 

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## Oscar Party

We had an Oscar party last night. It was a lot of fun! We asked the guests to bring a \$5 item from home they would have put in a garage sale. Everyone filled out a ballot, and whoever got the most correct guesses (my husband out of sheer luck, can you believe it? He doesn't know anything about the Oscars! Congratulations Honey!) chose an item first, followed by the person with the next most correct guesses, and so on. So, we got a cool looking food chopper. Haven't tried it yet... I didn't do too badly on the guessing, I got to choose

fourth... but I was disappointed because the item I really wanted (needed, actually) had been taken by then... but I am happy with the food chopper, I'll have to see how it works. What I really wanted were the set of metal padlocks, it sounds weird, I know... but we have this escaping parrot who needs all the doors on his cage padlocked – there are 3 – and he can bite thru plastic padlocks. The other day he got out of his cage and chewed the light switch plate off the wall... so I'm afraid we're going to come home one day to fried parrot. But, who would have guessed that the padlocks would be in such high demand. Not my husband, who did get to choose first but thought the padlocks would be left for me to choose, so instead he chose the food chopper for me – awww. But I really recommend doing award show parties, sports-watching parties, etc. this way, it's lots of fun, and it's really interesting to see what kind of stuff you end up with.

But enough about us and our party, let's move on to the real party... I didn't really see any of the red carpet this year – oh darn – cuz we were busy playing a game and then we watched Barbara Walters interviews, which I don't usually watch. I did see Hillary Swank, who I mistook for Halle Berry – don't know what that was about, but she looked really different, barely recognizable. I thought the show was supposed to start at 8, but it started closer to 9, which could explain why our poor friends were stuck here until midnight on a work night! I thought Jon Stewart did pretty well as host. He was pretty funny, but my favorite Oscars host is Ellen – I really wish they'd have her back. I got 8 of the 24 votable categories correct. Not an outstanding score, but among our party of about 10, I think it was about average. The only award contenders I saw this year were *Gone Baby Gone* and *Juno*. See one of my previous posts for a review of *Gone Baby Gone* and you'll see why I wasn't broken up about it losing out on its Oscar chance. I was glad to see *Juno* win for one of the screenplay awards – it was a really well written movie, and I recommend it to anyone who is not a teen. If you have a teen,

watch out, and do not let them see this movie, as it totally glorifies teen pregnancy, makes it seem easy, and will most likely have them saying, what's the big deal, I can handle it, no problem. Enough of my rambling, here are the Oscar winners in case you can't find them anywhere else for some weird reason:

**Best Motion Picture:** "No Country for Old Men."

**Lead Actor:** Daniel Day-Lewis, "There Will Be Blood."

**Lead Actress:** Marion Cotillard, "La Vie en Rose."

**Supporting Actor:** Javier Bardem, "No Country for Old Men."

**Supporting Actress:** Tilda Swinton, "Michael Clayton."

**Director:** Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, "No Country for Old Men."

**Foreign Language Film:** "The Counterfeiters," Austria.

**Adapted Screenplay:** Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, "No Country for Old Men."

**Original Screenplay:** Diablo Cody, "Juno."

**Animated Feature Film:** "Ratatouille."

**Art Direction:** "Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

**Cinematography:** "There Will Be Blood."

**Sound Mixing:** "The Bourne Ultimatum."

**Sound Editing:** "The Bourne Ultimatum."

**Original Score:** "Atonement," Dario Marianelli.

**Original Song:** "Falling Slowly" from "Once," Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova.

**Costume:** "Elizabeth: The Golden Age."

**Documentary Feature:** "Taxi to the Dark Side."

**Documentary Short Subject:** "Freeheld."

**Film Editing:** "The Bourne Ultimatum."

**Makeup:** "La Vie en Rose."

**Animated Short Film:** "Peter & the Wolf."

**Live Action Short Film:** "Le Mozart des Pickpockets ('The Mozart of Pickpockets')."

**Visual Effects:** "The Golden Compass."