

KITSAP FOREST THEATER *LITTLE WOMEN* CAST BIOS

LOUISA CAST

Dawn Brazel has appeared in shows at KFT: Cinderella (*Cinderella*, 1983), Nancy (*Little Merry Sunshine*, 1994), Miss Andrew/Bird Women (*Mary Poppins,* 2015). Other theaters: *Village Theater*, *Bathhouse Theater, Pioneer Square Theater*, *Lyric Light Opera*, *Seattle Musical Theater*, *ArtsWest*. Favorite roles include Nancy (*Oliver!*), Joanne (*Company*), & Ruth (*Calendar Girls*).

Daire Byrne feels so excited and fortunate to be spending her first season with Kitsap Forest Theater and to do so performing the timeless story that is *Little Women*. As an only child she would like to thank Anna, Jasmine, and Juliette for being such welcoming and wonderful sisters this summer.

Meagan Castillo is happy to be out of the house and back in the forest for her 8th production with KFT. Previous roles include Mary Poppins (*Mary Poppins*), Princess Fiona (*Shrek*), and Ado Annie (*Oklahoma*). Love to Bryan for his continued support!

Jasmine Harrick is over the moon to be singing in this magical forest amphitheater alongside such talented and kind people. *Little Women* is her 8th show at KFT! She enjoys painting and hiking. Love to Mom, Dad, and Eliana. Thanks to Mary Jo and Jeff for their guidance and support. KFT credits include Mary (*Secret Garden*), Annie (*Annie*) & Dorothy (*Wizard of Oz*).

Tod Harrick, who cries backstage every time daughter Jas sings "Fire within me", is grateful for this talented, friendly cast "family", his own loving family, & the existence of this uniquely beautiful theater space and those who have kept it going for nearly 100 years (here's to Ray - zt"l, and special shout-out to Gala who doesn't get enough appreciation for all she does).

Matt Howe is beyond thrilled to finally play with KFT in the forest. A Kingston resident, Matt has performed with BPA (Cookie in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*) and Island Theater Matt thanks the cast and crew for warmly welcoming him into the fold and his family, friends, and dashing fiancée (prior to August 7th) slash wife (after August 7th) for all their support.

Juliette Jones is delighted to return to KFT and live theatre in general! You may have seen her as Wendy in *Peter Pan* alongside two of her beloved stage-sisters. Recent credits include Cordelia (*Dead Girls No Mothers)*, Martha (*Spring Awakening*), & Lady Capulet (*R&J*). Thanks to the cast, crew, and community who made this possible despite unprecedented obstacles!

Leif Layman is ecstatic to live out his lifelong dream of spending all summer in the woods camping and doing theater. Leif is very experienced with theatrical accents (he has previously played the Scottish ogre Shrek), and is glad to be able to add German to his repertoire. Shout out to his wives Anna, Daire, and Grace for their continuous support.

Kevin Tanner is thrilled to be acting again! Previous Kitsap Forest Theater credits include Sky (*Mamma Mia!*), Miles Tuck (*Tuck Everlasting*), *Tarzan*, and Scuttle (*Little Mermaid*). Kevin has also performed with Reboot, Dacha, BPA, SMT, and Driftwood.

Anna Vizzare is thrilled to be back in her happy place for her 7th show! Other KFT credits: Ariel *(The Little Mermaid)* and Peter *(Peter Pan).* Anna dedicates this show in particular to her real life March sisters, Grace, Ellie, and Sammie, who are and always will be the fire within her.

ALCOTT CAST

Luciana Barrera was previously seen on this stage in *Newsies*, *Music Man*, *Mary Poppins*, *Honk!*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*, and worked behind the scenes for *Peter Pan* and *Wizard of Oz*. She is honored to be part of this wonderful cast and crew as they navigate a return to live theater after a year away.

Anthony Dreessen is thrilled to be returning to his beloved theater. You may remember him from KFT shows awhile back including *Into The Woods*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. He is happy to be performing with his wife, mother, sister and his cousin!

Ila Faubion Dreessen is overjoyed to be back performing at her favorite theater after a 10 year absence. Favorite roles at KFT: Belle (*Beauty & Beast*, 2008), Liesl (*Sound of Music*, 2010), Little Red (*Into the Woods*, 2011). She was recently seen as Diana (*Next to Normal*) and spent her time out of state being "friends" with Ariel, Elsa, and Princess Leia at Walt Disney World.

Katie Dreessen is beyond thrilled to be back under the trees with family & friends alike. There is nothing like being at KFT! You may have caught this WWU sophomore most recently as Katherine (*Newsies)* or Zaneeta (*Music Man)*. All the love to this amazing & resilient cast/crew!

Jenny Dreessen was Donna in KFT's last show, *Mamma Mia!*. She's proud to share the stage with her daughter, Katie, son, Anthony, daughter-in-law, Ila, and niece, Luci. What fun! When she is not playing a mother on stage, she enjoys being an actual mother, gardening and working at Back To Action Chiropractic with her husband, Jerry, who keeps everyone well adjusted.

Becky Eastgard is thrilled to not only bring back life to this wonderful theater, but to be back on the stage, full stop. She was last at KFT in *Mary Poppins*, *Secret Garden*, and *Footloose*. To experience the magic of this theater in storytelling is truly unique. Many thanks to Gala, Craig, and Jenny for their courage to say yes to this double cast & yes to an entire summer of shows!

John Lange was asked to audition for a play in college, a crazy ask to a complete novice. MANY years later John has a Masters in Theatre Arts, has written, taught, directed and acted for the stage. KFT shows include *Wizard of Oz*, *Tuck Everlasting* and *Newsies*. Reward for a life well lived is grandparenthood so he dedicates this show to Eibhleann, his granddaughter.

Liam Loughridge is a Senior at Bellarmine Prep and he's so exicted to be working with KFT again. He was last seen in as Mark in *A Chorus Line* at TMP. Other credits: *Mamma Mia!* and *Newsies* here at Kitsap Forest Theater. He's so excited to be back performing in the forest.

Libby McDonald is honored to be the youngest member of this fantastic cast! Previous shows at KFT: *Newsies*, *Tarzan*, *Peter Pan*, Winnie Foster (*Tuck Everlasting*-favorite role!). Other favorite roles: Junie B Jones (*June B Jones the Musical*), Sharpay Evans (*High School Musical*) Jane Banks (*Mary Poppins*). She is so happy to be back on stage in this beautiful setting!

Kevin Tanner (please see bio in Louisa Cast listing)

LITTLE WOMEN PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

Dawn Brazel received her music degree from Central Washington University with an emphasis on voice and piano. Musical direction credits include *Annie, The Music Man, Tarzan, Shrek* (all at KFT), *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Wizard of Oz, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Sound of Music, Camelot, and South Pacific.*

Greg Brown has happily been doing sound for the Mountaineers Players since 1973.

Guy Caridi is choreographying his 25th show (!!!) at KFT. He feels fortunate and honored to be working & dancing with such a talented cast. Guy's been choreographing, performing & teaching dance since 1991. He is the Artistic Director of Savoy Swing Club (28 years)). He believes KFT's community-based al fresco theater is one of the best age-defying experiences.

Bryan Castillo is happy to be out of the virtual office and back at KFT. Over the many years Bryan's family has performed at KFT, he has been busy in the background; parking cars, hauling equipment, and assisting with sound. Bryan would like to thank his wife Meagan for her continued love and support, and for writing his bio for him.

Ila Faubion Dreessen is happy to be putting her sewing skills to good use! She's a self-taught seamstress and has been making costumes and cosplay since 2013, and has assisted costuming other shows. Pre-covid she was also a sewing instructor for elementary school children. Thanks to her mother-in-law, Jenny, for teaching her the ropes for costuming a big show like this one!

Jenny Dreessen has had fun pulling, altering, and creating costumes with her daughter-in-law, Ila. She made her first hoop skirt for this show and was surprised she needed two full spools of thread to complete the project.

Jerry Dreessen joined us this year on the other side of the stage in the sound booth. The show really is a family for him – his wife, Jenny, daughter, Katie, son, Anthony, daughter-in-law Ila, and niece, Luci will all be on the stage while he watches from above. When he's not involved with theater, Jerry is either at work, sailing or fishing - and all of them bring him joy.

Danette Lam has been part of the KFT family since 2011. Every year she is constantly blown away by the mouth dropping, tear jerking, hard working, incredibly talented group of people that bring the shows to life. It is a complete joy to be part of such a magical experience.

Gala Lindvall is producing her 30th show for the Mountaineers Players. She also directs Kitsap Forest Adventure Camp (since 2012), and helps her husband, Brian, manage the property. She thanks Jenny for her wisdom, ideas, help & support in navigating this unusual year.

Kuran Pettiross is excited to be back in the woods for his third show, especially with these two extremely talented casts.

Craig Schieber is pleased to be directing his 22nd show here at the KFT. Each year is a chance to explore new creative ideas and appreciate the wonderfully talented actors we have here. Though many things have changed at KFT over the years, the one constant is the magic that happens with theater that is multi-generational.

Chris Stanley once again picks up tools and hammer to build another set for KFT. Chris has been lending his skills to us since 1998. Chris is a model maker, artist, inventor, educator, and sometimes an actor. Outside the Forest Theater Chris is an instructor at area maker spaces.

Emma Shusterman, 19, Has been involved with KFT since 2012, though not on stage, and this is her 3rd year doing Artistic Sound at the theater after *Tuck Everlasting* (2018) and *Newsies* (2019).

Stewart Shusterman is so excited about returning for his 9th season to this magical place, often referred to as KFT, that he is speechless. Nonetheless, he is still able to write, and would like to take this opportunity to thank his loving wife who taught him everything he knows, and doesn't know, about props.