

# LITTLE WOMEN

## SCAVENGER HUNT

Celebrate the release of the *LITTLE WOMEN* movie by discovering the many locations where the film was shot in Boston! Boston by Foot and Sony Pictures present a sneak peek of the *LITTLE WOMEN* film sites mixed together with places that were important to Louisa May Alcott and her family.

Directed by Oscar-nominee Greta Gerwig, the film features the stellar cast of Saoirse Ronan who plays Jo, Emma Watson (Meg), Florence Pugh (Amy), Eliza Scanlen (Beth), Laura Dern (Marmee), Timothée Chalamet (Laurie) and Meryl Streep as Aunt March. *LITTLE WOMEN* opens on December 25th.

### **DIRECTIONS**

All of these sites are within walking distance and are located in Beacon Hill, Back Bay, the Theater District and Downtown Boston.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Post images of you and your friends at the scavenger hunt sites using:

#LittleWomenScavengerHunt #LittleWomenMovie

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# SCAVENGER HUNT CLUES

## BACK BAY

Completed in 1860, this historic house museum is located in Back Bay. Now a National Historic Landmark, the home served as residence to three generations of one family and their household staff between 1859 and 1954. The Museum's four floors of period rooms, including the original kitchen, are a time capsule of domestic life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Visitors experience the house through guided tours that interpret class and culture through the stories and objects of the people who lived and worked there.

In the *LITTLE WOMEN* movie, the house is a stand-in for the boarding house where Jo lived on her own in New York City and met Professor Bhaer. In the movie, you see Jo running into Professor Bhaer on the stairs leading to the house. Scenes of the boarding house common rooms and the bedrooms of both Jo and Professor Bhaer were shot inside. In addition, the second floor study was used to portray the home of Mr. Dashwood, Jo's publisher. In that particular scene, the Dashwood girls, who have been given the first part of *Little Women* to read, beg their father for the rest of the book.

## BACK BAY

Located in Back Bay, this historic hotel stands alongside fellow architectural gems, the Boston Public Library and Trinity Church. Designed by Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, it is the "sister" hotel of The Plaza in New York City which was also created by Hardenbergh. The hotel's magnificent Grand Ballroom is the location for the scene in the *LITTLE WOMEN* movie where Amy reprimands Laurie for arriving late to the elegant ball and being a disappointment. (Please ask the hotel's concierge if you can take a peek into the Grand Ballroom as there may be a meeting or an event taking place in the room.)



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## BEACON HILL

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Towards the end of her life, Louisa May Alcott moved into this home with her father, Bronson. Both father and daughter were extremely ill at the time. Bronson Alcott died here on March 4, 1888. Louisa passed away two days later at her doctor's home in nearby Roxbury. Both Bronson and Louisa's funerals were held at this address. Father and daughter are buried in the Alcott Family plot on Author's Ridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Concord.

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## BEACON HILL

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Although the plaque on this building says Louisa May Alcott lived here as a child, she was 20 years old when the family moved into this home. The Alcott family was extremely nomadic—in the 40 years of their marriage, Louisa's parents moved 30 times! Financial pressures forced the Alcotts to return to Boston and sell the first home they owned in Concord—Hillside—to Nathaniel Hawthorne (who promptly renamed it The Wayside). Louisa and her older sister, Anna, opened a school here in the second-floor parlor. After their students went home in the afternoon, the parlor was converted back to a family space where the Alcotts would gather to read aloud, play games, or produce theatricals.

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## BEACON HILL

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At the beginning of the dance at the Moffat's home, Meg March lines up along this site's ornate staircase with the other young ladies. She is wearing a sumptuous silk gown that she has borrowed from Annie Moffat. When Meg arrives at the house in her modest dress, Sallie Moffatt asks her "Can't you send home for another?" and Meg, who is ashamed, admits that she doesn't have another dress. Annie responds, "I've got a sweet silk laid away, which I've outgrown, and you shall wear it to please me." The stairwell scene as well as the ballroom scene at the Moffat's party take place in this Federal style historical house owned and operated by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. The five-story brick home which is located across from the Boston Common is open to the public for tours from mid-April through October.



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## BEACON HILL

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Even after the family purchased a permanent home—Orchard House in Concord—Louisa May Alcott often returned to Boston to write. It was at a hotel on this site (now a condo building) where Alcott wrote Part II of *Little Women* (later editions combined the two books into a single volume). She stayed at this hotel often between 1868 and 1883. During her last visit, she was accompanied by her infant niece (also Louisa, but nicknamed Lulu) whom Alcott adopted following the death of her youngest sister, May. This site is directly across the street from one of the country's oldest private libraries.

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## DOWNTOWN

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This church dates to 1754. It was here—on May 22, 1830—that Louisa May Alcott's parents, Bronson and Abigail May, were married.

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## THEATER DISTRICT

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In the movie, Jo meets with the publisher Mr. Dashwood who tells her to make the novel she is proposing, "short and spicy...and if the main character is a girl, make sure she is married by the end." The publishing house's set was built for the movie integrating architectural details from the interior of this building. After the filming, the set was taken down. Located in the Boston Theater District across from the Boston Common, the building stands at what was known as Boston's "piano row." A large sign with a "musical symbol" tips you off to its location.

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## THEATER DISTRICT

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While living in New York City, Jo and Professor Bhaer both see a performance at this theater though they do not attend the show together. Jo is not aware that Professor Bhaer steals glances at her throughout. This sumptuous theater is the oldest continuously operated theater in Boston. It was recently restored and re-opened with a pre-Broadway showing of *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*.



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## BONUS

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While this location is in Boston, it is not in walking distance from the other sites.

Planned and designed in collaboration with Frederick Law Olmstead, this 281-acre research institution is also a beloved Boston park. This bucolic location was used as the setting for a Parisian park in which Aunt March and Amy, who are riding in a carriage, encounter the March's neighbor, Laurie. To ensure authenticity, the paved roads were covered with dirt, and antique gas lanterns and iron filigree park furniture were added. Men sporting top hats and ladies in Victorian petticoat dresses strolled along the paths. FYI, the segment filmed was along Meadow Road.



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## LITTLE WOMEN

Writer-director Greta Gerwig (*Lady Bird*) has crafted a *Little Women* that draws on both the classic novel and the writings of Louisa May Alcott, and unfolds as the author's alter ego, Jo March, reflects back and forth on her fictional life. In Gerwig's take, the beloved story of the March sisters - four young women each determined to live life on her own terms -- is both timeless and timely. Portraying Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth March, the film stars Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Florence Pugh, Eliza Scanlen, with Timothée Chalamet as their neighbor Laurie, Laura Dern as Marmee, and Meryl Streep as Aunt March.

## BOSTON BY FOOT

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