

Blue Demon Theatre Presents

THE BRINK OF WOMANHOOD

An Original Musical

BLUE DEMON THEATRE
presents

THE BRINK OF WOMANHOOD

Book by
Anna Maria D'Ortenzio

Music by
Anna Maria D'Ortenzio & Ayda Akbal

Produced by
Ben Stumpe

Directed by **Anna Maria D'Ortenzio** *Music Direction by* **Anna Maria D'Ortenzio**

Performances
April 1-3, 2022
Athenaeum Center for
Thought & Culture



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PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER.....	Ben Stumpe
PLAYWRIGHT.....	Anna Maria D'Ortenzio
DIRECTOR.....	Anna Maria D'Ortenzio
COMPOSERS.....	Anna Maria D'Ortenzio Ayda Akbal
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....	Anum Sadruddin
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	Anna Maria D'Ortenzio
CAST/STAGE MANAGER.....	Ellie Rath
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SET CONSTRUCTION.....	Ben Stumpe Dominic Reyes
REHEARSAL MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	Elizabeth Crutchfield
ASSISTANT REHEARSAL MUSIC DIRECTOR.....	Gabby Potempa
PIANIST.....	John Gogolewski
VIOLINIST.....	Timothy Michuda
TRANSITIONAL COMPOSERS.....	Sam Kudra Jonah Sendlin
ASSISTANT COMPOSITIONAL ARRANGER.....	Jonah Sendlin
LIGHT DESIGNER/OPERATOR.....	Jade Magno McGovern Trinh Vo
COSTUME DESIGNER.....	Anna Maria D'Ortenzio
STAGE CREW.....	Gael Rojas Trinh Vo Anum Sadruddin Ellie Rath
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PROGRAM EDITOR.....	Ben Stumpe

CAST

ELINOR DIXON.....	Emma Gordon
LYDIA DIXON.....	Grace Provan
THOMAS BANKS.....	Charlie LaBerge
MARTIN WOODS.....	Carlos Roques
GAYLORD CRUMPHENT.....	Dominic Reyes
MS. DIXON.....	Gabriela Potempa
MR. CRUMPHENT.....	Sam Albrecht
PRISSY ELTON.....	Bella Parkinson
PENELOPE.....	Emma Kate Bretzloff
POPPY.....	Lia Hielkema
SERVANT.....	Cristina Rosheger
BALL GOERS.....	Alexandra Lewis Grace Ryan "Duffy" Will Geist Cristina Rosheger

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical started at 3AM in my bedroom, amidst the lockdown of the COVID-19 pandemic. A Victorian world of petticoats, tea, and biscuits sounded much more appealing than masks and hand sanitizer. Escaping into the world of "Elinor Dixon", paving her way to university, served as a beacon of hope for me during such a dark time. I decided to gather together a cast of some old high school friends, find a composition partner, and finish and produce my musical. Our first mounting of *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical* graced the stage in late June of 2021. Thankfully, I have had the wonderful opportunity to reproduce this show through Blue Demon Theatre and bring my characters back to life at the Athenaeum Center, gracing the stage once more. Our story asks one thing: what does it take to have the courage to listen to your own conscience? Our modern society turns up their noses at powerful women, silencing their voices. Learn a lesson from Elinor or Lydia Dixon: speak your mind, no matter who's listening.

Watching my cast bring the Victorian era to life before my very eyes has been an absolute joy. I would like to extend the utmost thanks to my wonderful cast and amazing crew, for their care and dedication to the project. Also, I would like to thank Valerie Maze, Ayda Akbal, Jonah Sendlin, and Sam Kudra for assisting in the composition of this musical. Furthermore, I would like to thank my compositional tutor, Dr. David Reminick, for instilling a confidence for writing in me, and for his constant support. And lastly, the biggest "thank you" of all is for my mother, Marie Michuda D'Ortenzio, who is forever my role model, biggest cheerleader, and supporter. It is impossible to write strong female characters without having a strong female in your life. Mom, you are the strongest, most amazing woman I know. I owe it all to you!

The only thing I ask of you, the audience member, is this: escape into our world for just two hours. Your troubles and obligations will be waiting for you after the show. But for now, sit back, relax, and enjoy *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical*.

To challenges, to questions, to adventure,
Anna Maria D'Ortenzio

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

“In the Name of Adventure”.....Elinor
“Gaylord Crumphant”.....Elinor, Lydia, Ms. Dixon
“Little Lydia”.....Lydia
“Gaylord Crumphant Reprise”.....Elinor, Lydia, Ms. Dixon,
Mr. Crumphant, & Gaylord
“My Elinor”.....Thomas
“Broken Wheel”.....Elinor

Act II

“Fire of Her Love”.....Thomas & Martin
“For A While”.....Lydia & Gaylord
“All Because of You”.....Elinor & Lydia
“At the Elton Ball”.....Company (Tutti)
“In the Name of Adventure Reprise”.....Elinor

Setting
Norland, England
1868

MEET THE CAST



Emma Gordon



Grace Provan



Charlie LaBerge



Carlos Roques



Dominic Reyes



Gabriela Potempa



Sam Albrecht



Bella Parkinson



Emma Kate Bretzlaff



Lia Hielskema

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Emma Gordon (*Elinor Dixon*) is honored to make her Blue Demon Theatre debut in *The Brink of Womanhood*. Emma is a sophomore at DePaul, majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing. A Chicago native, Emma has been performing from a young age, making her debut in the world of professional theater as Emily Cratchitt in *A Christmas Carol* at the Goodman Theatre. Other professional credits include Tessie in *Annie* at Paramount Theatre, and Oiseaux in *The Wheel* at Steppenwolf Theatre. Emma went on to act competitively on her high school's speech team, where she was awarded the IHSA 2020 State Champion in Dramatic Interpretation. Emma is so grateful to Anmarie for the chance to bring this wonderful show to life with her. Additional thanks to her mom, Liz, for her endless love and support.

Grace Provan (*Lydia Dixon*) is so excited to be performing in *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical!* Grace is a freshman majoring in theatre arts - theatre for young audiences here at DePaul, and is originally from Delafield, WI. This is her third production with Blue Demon Theatre. Previously, she played "Meg March" in *Little Women* and was the director for *Perfect Partners* in SAST 2022. She is also a Freshman Representative on the BDT board. Outside of BDT, she has performed as "Sally Brown" in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, "D'Artagnan" in *La Petit Mousquetaire*, and was in the ensemble for First Stage Children's Theatre's production of *A Wrinkle in Time*. She has won multiple acting awards, including "Outstanding Lead Actress" from the Wisconsin High School Forensics Association and "Best Actress" in her Drama Club. She wants to thank her family and friends for supporting her, her castmates for being so incredible, the crew for all their hard work, and of course, her wonderful director who gave her this incredible opportunity. Go on, watch this show fly!

Carlos Roques (*Martin Woods*) is thrilled to be a part of *The Brink of Womanhood!* He is a sophomore at DePaul University studying Animation with a Concentration in Storyboarding and Character Design. He's received recognition as a Featured Ensemble Role at the 5th Avenue Theatre Awards. Previous credits include "Chris Keller" in *All My Sons*, "Dr. Thomas Stockmann" in *An Enemy of the People*, and Javier Perales in META Performing Arts theatrical adaptation of *Stand and Deliver*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for putting on such a great show.

Charlie LaBerge (*Thomas Banks*) is elated to be a part of the brilliant new work, *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical!* Charlie originally hails from Maple Grove, MN, where he participated in theatre on a community and semi-professional level, receiving "Outstanding Lead Actor" awards from Minnesota Spotlight Education for his roles as "Jesse Tuck" in *Tuck Everlasting* and "Tateh" in *Ragtime*. Charlie is currently studying journalism and film at DePaul University, and besides acting, is also a lyricist and playwright. Charlie would like to thank the entire directing and production team for making this show happen during trying times, his fellow castmates for being so incredibly talented and kind, and of course, his family for always supporting and pushing him to do greater things. Follow Charlie on Instagram: @charlielaberge

Dominic Martin Reyes (*Gaylord Crumphant*) is ecstatic to be in the new musical *The Brink of Womanhood: an Original Musical!* Dominic is a junior at DePaul University studying Music Composition and is originally from Rockford, Illinois. He was last seen on stage as "Schroeder" from *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at Concordia University Chicago and "Alex the Lion" from *Madagascar the Musical* at Starlight Theatre. Dominic would like thank his family for the constant support and Anmarie for being an amazing director/playwright. Enjoy the show!

Gabriela Potempa (*Ms. Dixon*) is elated to be a part of *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical!* She is currently a sophomore at DePaul studying sound recording technology. This is her first show with Blue Demon Theatre and she couldn't be more excited! Gabriela has had a great time getting to know the cast and of course, working with Anna Maria a second time, as she played "Ms. Dixon" in the original cast over the summer. This show has developed so much over the past year, and she can't wait to see where it goes. Gabriela hopes everyone enjoys the show and is so proud of all the hard work the cast and crew has put into it.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Sam Albrecht (*Mr. Crumphant*) is ecstatic to be performing in *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical!* Sam is a sophomore at DePaul studying digital marketing and comedy filmmaking. He is originally from Algonquin, IL where he's performed in many shows throughout the last decade. Some of these shows include "Scuttle" in *The Little Mermaid*, "Christopher Wren" in *Mousetrap*, and "Steve" in *Almost Maine*. More recently, he performed as the freakishly large "Parrot" in BDT's production of *Little Women* as well as "Jack" in BDT's Short and Sweet Theatre production of *Game Day*. Sam would like to thank the entire production staff, crew members, as well as his castmates for contributing to this incredible show. He would also like to thank his family and friends for being so supportive and allowing him to do what he loves.

Bella Parkinson (*Prissy*) is thrilled to be in the cast of *The Brink Of Womanhood: An Original Musical*. She's currently a freshman at DePaul, majoring in peace and conflict studies, with a minor in Spanish. Bella has been a part of Blue Demon Theatre since fall quarter, playing "Amy" in their production of *Little Women*. Throughout high school, she's been in many different productions, from *Bring It On The Musical*, to *The Tempest*. Working on this musical has been one of the biggest learning experiences of her theatre career. Bella is so excited for you to see the amalgamation of all of the cast and crew's hard work and time dedicated to this musical. "Have a great time, sit back and relax!"

Emma Kate Bretzloff (*Penelope*) (she/they) is thrilled to make her Blue Demon Theatre debut! They are a freshman double majoring in Media and Cinema Studies and Political Science. They grew up in Kankakee, IL and participated in many school and community productions. Some of her recent credits include *Songs For A New World* (Kankakee High School), "Daimler" in *Dark Road* (Kankakee High School), and "Andrea" in *Once on This Island* (Kankakee High School). She would like to thank her parents for pushing her to continue her passions, their friends Adelaide, Madelyn, and Grace for always being one call away, and the cast and crew of this show for being so wonderful and kind. Add Emma Kate on Instagram: @emmakatebretzloff

Lia Hielkema (*Poppy*) is delighted to be a part of *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical*. Lia is a freshman at DePaul University majoring in political science and minoring in theatre arts. Most recently, she has played the role of "Aunt March" in Blue Demon Theatre's production of *Little Women*. Her other credits include "Bea" in *Something Rotten*, "Miss Scarlet" in *Clue: On Stage*, and the "Librarian" in *Orbiting Jupiter*. She has been honored with a "Best Rookie" award from her high school theatre director. She wants to thank Director Anna Maria for pushing the cast to be the best that we can be. She would also like to extend thanks to the cast for being wonderful, funny, and brilliant friends. Follow Lia on instagram: @liagraceqin

Ben Stumpe (*Producer, Set Designer, Set Construction, Graphic Designer/Program Editor*) is a junior majoring in Communication and Media with a minor in Theatre Studies. Ben is proud to be the Artistic Director and Founder of Blue Demon Theatre, and is happy to lead such a talented group of cast and crew members. He has been in several BDT productions such as the *Valentine's Cabaret*, *Spring Awakening Cabaret*, [title of show], and *Halloween Cabaret*. He is also a producer, playwright, and director for *Short and Sweet Theatre*. Recent theatre credits include his original musical *Couch the Musical* (Tyler), *Our Town* (George Gibbs), *Matilda* (Doctor), *Footloose* (Rev. Shaw Moore), and *Shrek the Musical* (Lord Farquaad). Ben is a member of DePaul Improv and Sketch Comedy and performs stand-up comedy at local Chicago comedy clubs in his spare time. He is also a member of the Chicago Playwright Group and DePaul Honors Student Government where he serves as the Vice-President.

Donors & Sponsors

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Anna Maria D'Ortenzio (*Director, Author, Lyricist, Music Director, Co-Composer*) is absolutely thrilled to have written, co-composed, and directed *The Brink Of Womanhood: An Original Musical*. This is her fifth original work she has produced, and her Athenaeum debut. Anna Maria is a sophomore at DePaul University studying classical vocal performance. In 2019, she received the Rising Star Award from the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra for excellence in voice. In addition to her operatic studies, she has recently graced the stage as "Jo March" in BDT's production of *Little Women*. Other roles Anna Maria has portrayed include "Marian Paroo" in *The Music Man*, "Aunt Eller" in *Oklahoma!*, and "The Witch" in *Into The Woods*. Anna Maria would like to thank her composition partner, Ayda Akbal, as well as Jeff Ray, Marie Michuda, Joe D'Ortenzio, Valerie Maze and Anne Perillo, for helping her achieve her musical dreams. She would also like to thank her compositional tutor, Dr. David Reminick, for his constant support. Lastly, she would like to thank her amazing cast and hard-working crew for their dedication to this project. To challenges, to questions, to adventures!

Anum Sadruddin (*Assistant Director*) is extremely thrilled to be a part of *The Brink Of Womanhood: An Original Musical*! She is a freshman majoring in digital marketing and minoring in PR and advertising. This isn't her first time being a part of a BDT production as Anum played "Beth March" in *Little Women*, and was in two *Short and Sweet Theatre* plays! She is so excited for you to see the hard work the cast and crew has put in and is incredibly thankful to everyone involved!

Ellie Rath (*Cast/Stage Manager*) is a freshman majoring in communication and media in the 3+3 BA/JD program. She was involved in many cast, crew, and writing positions in high school and in her local arts center. Ellie is so excited to be a part of Blue Demon Theatre and previously played "Eve" in *Can I Turn It Up?* from *Short and Sweet Theatre* and was also a part of the set crew for *Little Women*. She is so thankful for her family, friends, and everyone involved in this production and hopes you enjoy the show!!

Ayda Akbal (*Co-composer*) is a composer, songwriter and producer living and working in Melbourne, Australia. She is studying both music composition and psychology at Monash University, all the whilst working on various projects to build her diverse skill set in music. Ayda is delighted to be a part of this musical, working across oceans to write the music with Anna Maria, and wishes she could be there to see it come to life on stage!

John Gogolewski (*Pianist*) is delighted to be playing for *The Brink Of Womanhood: An Original Musical*. He is originally from Woodstock, IL, and is currently studying sound recording technology at DePaul University. Previously, he obtained his associate's degree from McHenry County College. John is not only a pianist, but also a self-taught guitarist, and teaches both professionally. He would like to thank the cast and crew, and cannot wait to play for this production!

Jade Magno McGovern (*Lighting Designer*) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre Arts. Jade has been a part of many theatrical productions, but most recent theatre credits include *Short & Sweet Theatre* (Director/Playwright/Lighting Designer), *Little Women* (Lighting Designer), and *The Nina Variations* (Stage Manager). She is so grateful for her family, friends, and everyone involved in this production. Enjoy the show!

Gael Rojas (*Stage Crew*) is a freshman at DePaul majoring in Film & Television. He is concentrating on directing. Gael has done theatre all his years in high school and loved every second of it. He is currently one of the assistant directors for Blue Demon Theatre's production of *Into The Woods*.

Trinh Vo (*Lighting Operator*) is a freshman majoring in Film/TV and Political Science with a focus in Law and Theory. Trinh was in Blue Demon Theatre's *Little Women* (Stage Manager) and has been involved in theatre as a technical director, stage manager, actress, lighting/sound designer, and more and is excited to continue her love for theatre at DePaul.

Blue Demon Theatre relies on donations to help produce high-quality theatrical productions for all DePaul students. Please consider making a donation at the end of the performance at the donation box or through Venmo @bluedemontheatre (last four digits 9361).

Thank you for your support and monetary contribution!



BDT would like to thank the Student Activity Fee Board for providing us additional funding for this event!

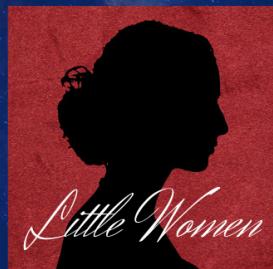


BLUE DEMON THEATRE

2021-2022 SEASON: LOST TIME



OCTOBER 20



NOVEMBER 4, 5, 7



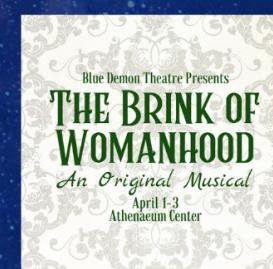
JANUARY 27-29



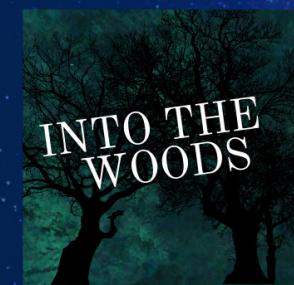
FEBRUARY 10



MARCH 5



APRIL 1-3



MAY 26-29



JUNE 5



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