

BAY AREA
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

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Bay Area Children's Theatre Presents *Little House on the Prairie*, Weekends, Beginning Saturday, January 22

WHO: [Bay Area Children's Theatre](#) (formerly Active Arts Theatre for Young Audiences)

WHAT: *LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE*

When Laura Ingalls and her family leave the Big Woods of Wisconsin for the unexplored prairie, the only thing they can count on is each other. Hoping for a better life, they load up the covered wagon and head west on a perilous journey that takes them through flood waters, fevers, and encounters with the nearby Osage tribe. Based on the beloved book by Laura Ingalls Wilder, adapted for the stage by Pamela Sterling, *LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE* is an imaginative retelling of Laura's story about growing up in the days of America's Frontier. Come see why the adventurous and loving spirit of her family has warmed the hearts of many generations.

BERKELEY PERFORMANCES: January 22, 23, 29, and 30 at 2 p.m., February 6 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., February 12 and 13 at 2 p.m., Freight & Salvage, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley

SAN RAMON PERFORMANCES: Weekends February 19 -27, at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., the Front Row Theatre, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon

TICKETS: Children \$14-15, Seniors \$16-\$17, Adults \$18-20, Groups \$12-13

BOX OFFICE: <http://www.bactheatre.org/> and (510) 296-4433

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE, produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre, opens Saturday, January 22, at 2 p.m. for a three-week run on weekends at Freight & Salvage, 2020 Addison Street in Berkeley. (Note: no performance Saturday, February 5; two performances—11 a.m. and 2 p.m.— Sunday, February 6)

Adapted for the stage by Pamela Sterling from the beloved children's classic of the same name by Laura Ingalls Wilder, the play tells how a loving family (Laura, Mary, Ma, Pa, Baby Carrie, and their trusty dog, Jack) meet the tests of life on America's Frontier in the late 19th century. Paula Wujek, who last appeared with the Bay Area Children's Theatre as Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, directs the production.

After its Berkeley run, *LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE* moves to San Ramon weekends where it will run weekends, February 19-27, at the Front Row Theatre, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road.

ACTORS:

Amelia Avila (Mary). Amelia's childhood was similar to Mary's in some ways: she grew up in small towns throughout the west and even had an outhouse for a bathroom in one of the cabins she lived in! Recent credits include Bidy in "Great Expectations" at Contra Costa Civic Theatre, Mary Magdalene in "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" at Custom Made Theatre, and Mistress Centaur in "Epicoene" at Subterranean Shakespeare. In addition, Amelia works in film and television, recently in a supporting role in a new Discovery ID channel program. Amelia graduated from the American Conservatory Theatre's 2010 Summer Training Congress. In addition to acting, she is a visual artist, published poet, certified

expressive arts therapist, credentialed K-8 teacher, and CEO of Universoul Arts—an organization that provides creative workshops and showcases Amelia’s arts.

Sebastian J. Romeo (Mr. Scott/Mr. Edwards). Sebastian has appeared with Woodminster, Broadway by the Bay, Diablo Light Opera Company, The Douglas Morrison Theatre, Dramatic Cure, Livermore Valley, and the Oakland Opera. Some of his favorite roles include Nicely-Nicely in “Guys and Dolls,” Jesus in “Godspell,” Mr. Bumble in “Oliver!,” the Cowardly Lion in “The Wizard of Oz,” Kaspar in “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” and the Padre in “Man of La Mancha”. Sebastian is the co-founder of The Ruach Players, which is dedicated to help raise monies for charities and needy causes through live theatre and cabaret shows. He is a proud member of Theatre Bay Area.

Bob Stratton (Pa). Bob has been appearing in Bay Area shows for the past four years, including “Cinderella,” “Guys and Dolls,” “Ragtime,” “Annie,” “Hair,” “The Producers,” and “Honk!” *LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE* is the first time he is appearing with both his wife and daughter. A graduate of San Diego State University, Bob will soon be appearing as Sheriff Earl in Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre’s production of “All Shook Up.”

Peggy Stratton (Mrs. Scott/Ensemble). Local audiences may remember Peggy’s performances for 14 years in Danville’s wacky cabaret show, “Wigged Out!” She was a Shellie Award nominee as Princess Puffer in “The Mystery of Edwin Drood.” Peggy’s favorite appearances have been in “Evita” and “Me and My Girl” with Contra Costa Musical Theatre, “Ragtime” with Alameda Civic Light Opera, and “Thoroughly Modern Millie” with Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. She toured Europe with the infamous jazz group, “San Andreas Fault,” and was a featured singer in San Francisco’s long running Gershwin review, “By George!” She is happy to be making her BACT debut, and extremely excited to be sharing the stage with her daughter Savannah, and husband, Bob.

Savannah Stratton (Laura). “Little House on the Prairie” is Savannah’s debut performance with BACT. This also marks her first production in which she shares the stage with her parents, Bob and Peggy. Laura has also made appearances in such shows as “The Producers,” “Peter Pan,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and “The Graduate.” Savannah will next be seen in Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre’s “All Shook Up” in April.

Donna Jeanne Turner (Ma Ingall). Donna gets her pioneer spirit from her great-grandma who came to California by covered wagon. She has performed in over 100 productions throughout the Bay Area, recently playing Aldonza in “Man of La Mancha,” Shelby in “Spitfire Grill,” Mama Rose in “Gypsy!,” Judith Bliss in “Hay Fever,” and Pennywise in “Urinetown.” Donna won a Shellie Award for “Kindertransport” (Helga), and was nominated for her work with the Diablo Light Opera Company in “City of Angels” (Mallory), “Me and My Girl” (Lady Jacqueline), and “Sweeney Todd” (Beggar Woman). Donna is a first-degree brown belt in Martial Arts.

Wendell H. Wilson (Dr. Tan/Indian/Ensemble). Wendell’s favorite stage roles include Lucien P. Smith in “The Boys Next Door,” Oberon in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” Horse in “The Full Monty,” Jacob in “La Cage aux Folles,” Hud in “Hair,” Audrey II (puppeteer) in “Little Shop Of Horrors,” The Wolf/Rapunzel’s Prince in “Into the Woods,” Lance Corporal Harold W. Dawson in “A Few Good Men,” and Rockwell in “Destry Rides Again.” You can catch him on the small screen in two episodes of the Discovery Channel’s hit reality crime series, “I Almost Got Away with It.” Wendell’s other passion is photography. A figure model, he is a member of Bay Area Models for the Arts (BAMA) and the Bay Area Models’ Guild (BAMG). ###

About Bay Area Children's Theatre

Bay Area Children’s Theatre (BACT) was founded in 2004 as Active Arts Theatre for Young Audiences to bring high quality, professional theatre to children and their families. Our programs aim to engage a new generation of theatergoers and inspire children to open their imaginations to new worlds. Here is how we carry out our mission:

- Encourage young people to explore literature and the arts by producing exciting stage adaptations of great children's books
 - Engage pre-kindergartners in the world of theatre with productions specially designed for them, based on their favorite books
 - Develop and perform exciting new work for the stage
 - Reach out to children who might not otherwise experience live theatre through touring productions and reduced-rate ticketing
 - Create versatile touring productions
 - Introduce children and teens to the art and the joy of performance with classes, workshops, and summer camp theatre programs.
- BACT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.