

# 'Little Women', 'Just Mercy' and 'Brams: The Boy 2'

 By [Daniel Derksen](#)

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Films opening at South African cinemas, this week, include *Little Women*, *Just Mercy*, *Brams: The Boy 2* and the Met Opera's *Porgy and Bess*.

## Little Women

Writer-director Greta Gerwig (*Lady Bird*) has crafted a sumptuous *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 poignant and heartfelt adaptation, the beloved story of the March sisters—four young women each determined to live life on her own terms—is both timeless and timely.

In the years after the Civil War, Jo March lives in New York and makes her living as a writer, while her sister Amy studies painting in Paris. Amy has a chance encounter with Theodore, a childhood crush who proposed to Jo but was ultimately rejected. Their oldest sibling, Meg, is married to a schoolteacher, while shy sister Beth develops a devastating illness that brings the family back together.

Portraying Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth March, the fantastic ensemble cast features, Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Florence

Pugh, and Eliza Scanlen, with Timothée Chalamet as their neighbour Laurie, Laura Dern as Marmee, and Meryl Streep as Aunt March.

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## Just Mercy

This powerful and thought-provoking true story follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) and his history-making battle for justice.

In 1988, attorney Bryan Stevenson courageously chooses to go Alabama to fight injustice, armed with nothing but a Harvard Law degree and the resolve to help people whose lives were literally on the line. Earlier that year, Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx) had been sentenced to death for a murder he didn't commit and now believes his fate is sealed. Life had taken these two men on very divergent paths...but now those paths are about to converge in a racially charged, landmark case that will ultimately shake an unjust legal system to its core.

Award-winning filmmaker Destin Daniel Cretton brings one of the most important stories of our time to the big screen, directing Just Mercy from a screenplay he co-wrote, based on Bryan Stevenson's bestselling memoir.

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## Brahms: The Boy 2

Unaware of the terrifying history of Heelshire Mansion, a young family moves into a guest house on the estate where their young son soon makes an unsettling new friend, an eerily life-like doll he calls Brahms.

Katie Holmes stars alongside Christopher Convery, Owain Yeoman and Ralph Ineson.

Directed by William Brent Bell and written by Stacey Menear, it is a sequel to the 2016 film *The Boy*.

## Met Opera: Porgy and Bess

The hugely anticipated *Porgy and Bess* screens from 22 February in the 14th season of the award-winning The Met: Live in HD, showcasing some of the New York Metropolitan Opera's finest performances to the big screen.

One of America's favorite operas returns to the Met for the first time in nearly 30 years. James Robinson's stylish production transports audiences to Catfish Row on the Charleston waterfront, vibrant with the music, dancing, emotion, and heartbreak of its inhabitants.

David Robertson conducts a dynamic cast, featuring the sympathetic duo of Eric Owens and Angel Blue in the title roles and an all-star ensemble that includes Janai Brugger, Latonia Moore, Denyce Graves, Frederick Ballentine, Alfred Walker, and Donovan Singletary.

It is screened at selected Ster-Kinekor and Nouveau Cinemas.

Read more about the latest and upcoming film releases [here](#).

## ABOUT DANIEL DERCKSEN

Daniel Dercksen has been a contributor for Lifestyle since 2012. As the driving force behind the successful independent training initiative The Writing Studio and a published film and theatre journalist of 40 years, teaching workshops in creative writing, playwriting and screenwriting throughout South Africa and internationally the past 22 years. Visit [www.writingstudio.co.za](http://www.writingstudio.co.za)

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