

Towson University Department of Theatre Arts Presents

Almost Maine

by John Cariani

Directed by Donna Fox

A Ruth Marder Studio Production



TU
TOWSON
UNIVERSITY

Theatre
Arts

Almost Maine

By John Cariani

Directed by Donna Fox
Lighting Design by Patrick Cullinan
Costume Design by Wynter O'Connor
Scenic Design by Wynter O'Connor
Stage Managed by Charlie Dicken

There will be a 10 minute intermission.

Almost, Maine is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

Original music composed by Julian Fleisher.

For additional information on productions, please visit our website at: www.towson.edu/theatre
For a complete listing of events at Towson University, please visit events.towson.edu
If you would like to share a comment on this production, please e-mail theatre@towson.edu

Director's Note

About the Play:

Almost, Maine is a play about love - not the sentimental flowers and chocolates and everything-will-be-perfect-in-two-hours kind of love. It is about the magic of a first kiss. It is about finding love and losing love. About closing the door on one love and the possibility of opening a new door - or not. It is about love at first sight and about realizing what you have been looking for is right in front of you - and all the joys and fears and hope and hurt that go along with these revelations.

It has been referred to as "A Mid-Winter's Night Dream", and in many ways, it is. The magic of the Aurora Borealis might be the cause of the strange things that may (or may not) have happened in *Almost, Maine* on a clear, cold Friday night not too long ago.

This production looks a little different from other productions you have seen. I would like to thank playwright John Cariani for giving us the freedom to make his play work with this particular group of actors.

About Directing during Covid:

Directing a play with so many actors at this particular time means accepting challenges and coming up with some creative choices. These are ours.

Understudies: Many of the actors in this production learned their roles, as well as serving as an understudy for other roles. They created a character, learned lines, blocking and attended rehearsals for a role that might never be seen by anyone outside the cast. There were times when an understudy was out and another actor stepped in as an understudy for the understudy!

Kissing: Portraying love in 2022 is quite different from portraying love in the pre-COVID era. *Almost, Maine* is a collection of love stories—many of which involve life-changing kisses. To keep everyone healthy, we are using a combination of hugs, a few strategically placed kisses, and if necessary, the placement of touching hands as a placeholder. And the sound of a bell. So, when you hear a bell know someone's just been kissed.

Helpful links:

To see the [Northern Lights](#)

To learn more about [Organ Donation](#)

PLACE

Various locales in Almost, Maine, a small town in far Northern Maine that doesn't quite exist.

TIME

The present.

All events transpire over the same ten minutes – from around 8:50 to a bit after 9 P.M. On a cold, clear, moonless, slightly surreal Friday night in the middle of the deepest part of a Northern Maine winter.

ACT I

Prologue: Pete, Ginette

Scene 1: Her Heart: East, Glory

Scene 2: Sad and Glad: Jimmy, Sandrine, Waitress

Scene 3: This Hurts: Marvalyn, Steve

Scene 4: Getting it Back: Gayle, Lendall

Scene 5A: They Fell: Randy, Chad

Interlogue - Intermission

ACT II

Scene 5B: They Fell: Deena, Shelley

Scene 6: Where it Went: Phil, Marci

Scene 7: Story of Hope: Hope, Man

Scene 8: Seeing the Thing: Rhonda, Dave

Epilogue

Cast (in order of appearance)

Pete- Grady Heveron

Ginette- Jade Eyes

East- David Norris

Glory- Abby Duggan

Jimmy- Nick Harlee

Sandrine- Alexis Slacum

Waitress- Natalie Dent

Marvalyn- Skylar Shaffer

Steve- Solomon Butler

Gayle- William Kinna

Lendall- David Norris

Randy- Casey Brogan

Chad- Kieran Newell

Deena- Madeleine McComb

Shelly- Jaelyn Craigen

Phil- William Kinna

Marci- Layla Smith

Hope- Natalie Dent

Man- Ben Smith

Rhonda- Abby Duggan

Dave- Nick Harlee

Understudies

Casey Brogan: Gayle

Solomon Butler: Randy / Man

Jaelyn Craigen: Phil / Waitress

Natalie Dent : Marvalyn

Abby Duggan : Hope

Nick Harlee: Chad

William Kinna: Pete/ Dave

Madeleine McComb: Marci

Kieran Newell: Lendall/ Jimmy

Skylar Shaffer: Sandrine/ Rhonda

Alexis Slacum: Shelley/Glory

Ben Smith: Steve

Layla Smith: Ginette/ Deena

Production

Assistant Director: Ava Askandarian
Assistant Stage Manager: Shana Fishman
Props Master: Kai Hopkins
Light Board Operator: Lindsay Wilk
Deck Hands: Ramon Miranda Amaya & Felix Cooke
Poster Design by Katie Simmons-Barth

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to Robyn Quick, Stephen Nunns, Jay Herzog,
William Kinna, and Seth Herzog

