

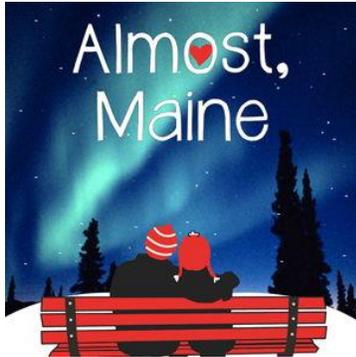
OTC Fine Arts Department
AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENT – *Almost, Maine*

Mon Sept 9, Tue Sept 10, Wed Sept 11 at 6pm
Call Backs (Invitation Only) Thur Sept 12 at 6pm

Almost, Maine

By John Cariani

Directed by Jon Herbert



Welcome to Almost, Maine. A town so far north it's almost in Canada. Well, almost. One cold, clear Friday night in the middle of winter, while the northern lights hover in the sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. Love is lost, found, and confounded. And life for the people of Almost, Maine will never be the same. *Almost, Maine*: It's love. But not quite.

8-10 Actors to Portray 19 Roles (10 Men – 9 Women) – All Open

There are 19 roles in the play. It was written to be performed by four actors doubling the various roles. The play is structured as 8 vignettes with a Prologue, Interlogue and Epilogue. With the exception of the pro, inter, and epilogues, no character is repeated in any of the vignettes so we will may be doubling roles. I expect that each actor cast will perform in two, maybe three roles in two or so vignettes. **This may change depending on how auditions go. I expect to cast 8-10 actors** evenly divided, more or less between men and women. There will be roles for actors who can portray characters in their mid/late 20s to mid/late 30s and roles for actors who can portray characters in their 40s and 50s. This is an actor's play with each role presenting unique and interesting challenges especially considering the characters appear in only one scene....a lot of role/character development in a short burst on stage...each character is its own "star turn" on stage. It is also a nice play to get involved with since the scenes are discrete and, at least in the early parts of our rehearsal schedule, not every actor will be needed for each rehearsal so the experience will be a little less intense than in many productions.

Availability of the Play for Review

The OTC Fine Arts Department does not post pdf copies of plays on our website, however, *Almost, Maine* is readily available in pdf format on the internet, for instance at this web address: http://www.jacneed.com/ASYD/AlmostMaine/AlmostMaine_Script.pdf

Audition Dates

Monday, Sept 9, 6:00 pm (OTC Springfield Campus, ICE 350)

Tuesday, Sept 10, 6:00 pm (OTC Springfield Campus, ICE 350)

Wednesday, Sept 11, 6:00 pm (OTC Springfield Campus, ICE 350)

Performance Dates and Times

Wednesday, November 20th, 2019 7:00pm

Thursday, November 21th, 2019 7:00pm

Friday, November 22th, 2019 7:00pm

Saturday, November 23th, 2019 7:00pm

Sunday, November 24th, 2019 2:00pm

Callbacks (Invitation only) will be held: **Thursday, Sept 12, 6:00 pm**

The **cast list** will be posted on the [theatre page of the OTC Fine Arts website](#) as well as the [OTC Fine Arts Facebook](#) page by **Friday, September 13 by 12pm**

Audition Information/Instructions:

PLEASE RSVP to director Jon Herbert at herbertj@otc.edu with the dates you plan on auditioning.

HOW WE WORK: You are welcome to come to auditions on more than one of the initial audition evenings. This is not a requirement. Most auditions have actors up and down to read multiple times in multiple combinations and scenes. Most actors find this fun. As space allows, you will be able to watch all the auditions. You may be asked to go into the hallway with audition partners and work a bit on a scene. We will do our best to get you up multiple times reading for parts you are interested in. You will also be asked to read for other parts you may not be auditioning for. We strive to make our productions open to interested and engaged actors & actresses, regardless of their level of experience. We try and make our auditions as relaxing and fun as possible.

AUDITION PROCESS: Auditions will consist of readings from the script - No monologue required although one of the sides may be a monologue from the play.

AUDITION SIDES: Sides for the audition process will be supplied at auditions and are included in this announcement. Additional sides may be added at the auditions.

AUDITION FORM: Resumes and headshots will be accepted but are not required. Please **ALSO COMPLETE** the attached Almost Maine Audition Form and bring it with you to the audition.

RSVP: Please send us an RSVP if you plan to audition to herbertj@otc.edu (or email us any questions you may have).

Rehearsal Schedule:

A copy of the **tentative** rehearsal schedule is included with this announcement and will be available online and at auditions.

Rehearsals begin September 16, 2019. 3-hour rehearsals are typically held 4-5 days a week—usually Sunday through Wednesday, Monday through Thursday, or Monday through Friday late afternoons or evenings.

There will also be an occasional Saturday or Sunday obligation—especially as we move toward technical rehearsals. This schedule is subject to change depending on cast availability.

Please come to auditions prepared to list any availability conflicts over this time period. Space is provided on the audition form for this purpose.

ALMOST, MAINE – About the Play

Almost, Maine--a romantic comedy—is a series of short plays about the residents of a fictional remote town in Maine called “Almost” Each scene happens at exactly 9:00PM on a winter Friday night just as the Northern Lights appear in the sky. Just as the northern lights are created as a result of molecules in the magnetosphere becoming excited by solar winds, the people of almost find themselves momentarily excited by love. At times realistic and at times absurd, *Almost, Maine* is mostly very funny and sometimes dramatic. Every scene has an element of sentimental “magic.”

Following are some excerpts of notes from the author:

On the northern lights:

“The northern lights occur when atoms become ‘excited.’ ... When the aurora fades, it’s because the affected atoms have returned to their grounded state. *Almost, Maine* is a play about people who are normally grounded, but how have become very excited by love...and other extraordinary occurrences.”

On time:

“The plot of each scene in *Almost, Maine* climaxes with some sort of ‘magical moment... This play is about one moment in time—what happens to people in a heartbeat.”

On the people:

“The people of Almost, Maine are not simpletons. They are not hicks or rednecks. They are not quaint, quirky eccentrics. They don’t wear funny clothes and funny hats. They don’t have funny Maine accents. They are not ‘Down Easters.’ They are not fishermen or lobstermen. They don’t wear galoshes and rain hats. They don’t say, ‘Ayuh.’

The people of Almost, Maine are ordinary people. They work hard for a living. They are extremely dignified. They are honest and true. They are not cynical. They are not sarcastic. They are not glib. But this does not mean that they’re dumb. They’re very smart. They just take time to wonder about things. They speak simply, honestly, truly, and from the heart. They are never precious about what they say or do.”

On presenting *Almost, Maine*:

“Please keep in mind that ‘cute’ will kill this play. *Almost, Maine* is inherently pretty sweet. There is no need to sentimentalize the material. Just...let it be what it is—a play about real people who are really, truly, honestly dealing with the toughest thing there is to deal with in life: love.”

ALMOST, MAINE – Scene Summaries/Characters

Prologue – Pete (20s-30s), Ginette (20s-30s)

Pete and Ginette are sitting on opposite ends of a bench in front of Pete's house in the town of Almost, Maine. After some awkward false starts, Ginette confesses her love to Pete. When Pete does not immediately return the sentiments, Ginette is flushed with embarrassment. Just when it seems as if things have gone terribly wrong, Pete admits his love as well. When Ginette comments on how close they are, Pete points out that the opposite is also true: if you measure the distance between them by going all the way around the globe, they are actually as far apart as possible. A bewildered Ginette starts to walk away from Pete to get closer to him. She continues until Pete finds himself alone on the bench.

Scene 1 – “Her Heart” – East (20s-40s), Glory (20-40s)

A woman named Glory enters carrying a bag. The porch light comes on and East, the owner of the house, comes out to find out why there is a strange woman standing in his yard. Glory, who is not from Almost, explains that she traveled a very long way to get here and would like to camp out on East's property. East is puzzled until Glory explains that everything she read about Mainers indicated that they were very open; therefore, she assumed it would be no problem to camp out on a stranger's yard. As the two get to know each other, East suddenly kisses Glory and tells her he thinks he is in love with her. Glory is offended and informs him that she is in Almost to pay her respects to her dead husband, whom she hopes to see in the Northern Lights. East kisses her several more times, and with each embrace the bag gets passed back and forth between them. Glory reveals that the bag contains the pieces of her broken heart. East, a repairman, vows to put the pieces back together for her. As he begins to do so, Glory watches the Lights and says goodbye to her husband.

Scene 2—“Sad and Glad” – Jimmy (20s-30s), Sandrine (20s-30s), Villian (20s-30s)

Jimmy and Sandrine are estranged lovers who happen to run into each other at the back of a bar in Almost. Sandrine makes repeated attempts to get away, stating that her girlfriends are waiting for her. When she notices a mark on Jimmy's arm, he reluctantly shows it to her. The tattoo reads “Villian” a misspelling of “Villain,” which explains how Jimmy feels about letting Sandrine get away. Sandrine finally admits she is here with her girlfriends for her bachelorette party; she is getting married the next day. As they part, the obviously wounded Jimmy tries his best to put on a good face. When he is alone, the waitress who has been waiting on Jimmy and Sandrine returns. She notices Jimmy is feeling down and tells him to call her if she needs anything. The scene ends with her mentioning that her name is Villian.

Scene 3 – “This Hurts” – Marvalyn (20s-30s), Steve (20s-30s)

When Marvalyn accidentally hits Steve in the head with the ironing board, Steve tells her he has a condition that prevents him from feeling pain. As a result, he keeps a journal of things that

hurt so he knows to avoid them. As Marvalyn presses him about his unusual disease, Steve admits that he'll never know what love is like because it hurts. Marvalyn spontaneously kisses him to test his theory. Although they are obviously attracted to each other, Marvalyn fears the reaction of her boyfriend, Eric, who doesn't trust her to be out of sight for long. As she leaves, she accidentally hits Steve again with the ironing board. To their great surprise, Steve cries out in pain.

Scene 4 – “Getting It Back” – Lendall (20s-30s), Gayle (20s-30s)

Lendall's angry girlfriend, Gayle barges in bearing a heavy bag. She continues to bring in bag after bag, and she tells him the bags contain all of his love for her. She is fed up with their dead-end relationship and wants all of her love back in exchange for his. Lendall reluctantly presents Gayle with a very tiny bag, and she cannot believe that he loved her so much more than she loved him. When she finally looks in the bag, she finds an engagement ring. Lendall transformed her bags and bags of love into this ring, and the scene ends with the couple reunited.

Interlogue -- Pete

Pete, who is still alone, sits on the snowy bench. With only a snowball as his company, he patiently awaits Ginette, whom he hopes will return.

Scene 5 – “They Fell” – Randy (20s-30s) and Chad (20s-30s)*

After exchanging lousy date stories, Chad admits how happy his relationship with Randy makes him. Randy becomes uncomfortable and tries to change the subject. When Chad stands up, he abruptly falls to the ground and tells Randy that he “fell” in love with him. Randy angrily accuses Chad of ruining their friendship with his confession. Immediately following his tirade, Randy also falls. The two men repeatedly attempt to get to each other but continue to fall.

*There is an alternate version of this scene that features two women.

Scene 6 – “Where It Went” – Phil (30s-50s), Marci (30s-50s)

Unhappily married couple Phil and Marci have just finished an evening of ice skating. As Marci tries unsuccessfully to find her missing shoe, Phil asks her why she's angry. Marci finally explains that it is their anniversary and Phil forgot. Both agree that it's not working. When Marci's shoe inexplicably drops from the sky, both take it as a sign. Marci drives off alone and leaves Phil to ponder their future.

Scene 7 – “Story of Hope” – Daniel (20s-30s), Hope (20s-30s), Suzette (20s-30s, one off-stage line)

Hope rings the doorbell, and an unfamiliar man answers the door. Hope explains that she was looking for a man named Daniel who asked her to marry him many years ago. Instead of giving him an answer, she left to travel and find herself. She desperately wants to apologize to him

and thought he might still live in the family homestead. The man listens intently to the story and speculates about how slow and agonizing it must have been for Daniel. Finally, Hope recognizes the man as Daniel, who has been physically transformed into a figure half his original size because of all the hope he lost. Hope is just about to answer the question from so many years ago when Daniel's wife, Suzette, calls from inside the house. Daniel and Hope part once again.

Scene 8 – “Seeing the Thing” – Dave (20s-30s), Rhonda (20s-30s)

friends Dave and Rhonda have just finished snowmobiling and arrive outside her shack of a house. Dave gives her a pointillist painting he painted for her. Dave confesses his love for her, but she tries to avoid his advances by trying to figure out the image in the painting. Rhonda, a tomboy, admits that most men don't think of her romantically; she has never been kissed nor has she slept with a man. When Dave kisses her, she gives into their passion and the two comically remove numerous layers of clothing before heading in for the romantic liaison. As they exit into the house, the painting is finally revealed to the audience: a heart.

Epilogue – Pete, Ginette

Pete is still looking for Ginette, who went away to get close to him. Nervous and impatient, he crosses over to where she exited to see if she might return. Just then, Ginette re-enters from the opposite side of the stage. Pete notices her presence and quietly asks her if she really has traveled all the way around the world to him. She confirms this, and the two embrace. The play ends with the reunited couple sitting on the bench, taking in the stars in the evening sky.

Audition Form



Please fill out each section below

You may attach a resume and/or headshot to this form (optional)

NAME _____

Phone _____

Email _____

ROLE(S) PREFERRED _____

Would you like to register in THR 295 to receive college credit for participating in this production?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Unsure

Scheduling Conflicts?

Please review the audition announcement, show dates, and tentative production calendar.

Below, List any conflicts from 4pm to 11pm, Sunday through Saturday from September 16 to November 24.

Give us a sketch of your Theater Background

A resume may be attached in lieu of filling out the table below, though it is not required.

Acting Experience:

High School ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

College ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

Community ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

Pro (Paid) ___Y ___N - Approx. Number of Productions _____

Would you be interested in getting involved in the production if you are not cast?

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Unsure

Production Experience:

| Production Role | # of Shows | I would be interested in... (Check all that apply) |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Director | | |
| Stage Manager | | |
| Set Design | | |
| Set Construction | | |
| Set Painting | | |
| Props | | |
| Stage Crew | | |
| Lighting Design | | |
| Light Board Operator | | |
| Sound Design | | |
| Sound Board Operator | | |
| Stage Make-up/Hair | | |
| Publicity/Marketing | | |

Other Relevant Experience:

September

2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Read-thru; Table work; Ensemble | 17 Read-thru; Table work; Ensemble | 18 Read-thru; Table work; Ensemble | 19 Read-thru; Table work; Ensemble | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 BLOCK: Prologue; Her Heart | 24 BLOCK: Sad and Glad | 25 BLOCK: This Hurts | 26 BLOCK: Getting it Back | 27 RUN: Act 1 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

October

2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|--|--|---------------------------|----------|
| 29 | 30 BLOCK: Interlogue; They Fell | 1 BLOCK: Where it Went | 2 BLOCK: Story of Hope | 3 BLOCK: Seeing the Thing; | 4 RUN: Act 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 WORK: Prologue; Her Heart | 8 WORK: Sad and Glad | 9 WORK: This Hurts | 10 WORK: Getting it Back | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Fall Break | 15 Faculty Development Day | 16 RUN: Act 1 | 17 RUN: Act 2 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 WORK: Interlogue; They Fell | 22 WORK: Where it Went | 23 WORK: Story of Hope | 24 WORK: Seeing the Thing; Enilogue | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 RUN: Act 2 | 29 RUN: Act 1 and 2 | 30 WORK: TBD | 31 Halloween | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

November

2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 Load-in/Tech 10am- |
| 3 Tech 1pm-5pm | 4 Run-thru/Tech 7pm | 5 Run-thru/Tech 7pm | 6 Run-thru/Tech 7pm | 7 Run-thru/Tech 7pm | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Tech Rehearsal 6pm | 13 Tech Rehearsal 6pm | 14 Tech Rehearsal 6pm | 15 Tech Rehearsal 6pm | 16 |
| 17 Dress Rehearsal 1pm | 18 Dress Rehearsal 7pm | 19 Dress Rehearsal 7pm | 20 Performance 7pm | 21 Performance 7pm | 22 Performance 7pm | 23 Performance 7pm |
| 24 Performance 2pm | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |