

Almost, MAINE

BY JOHN CARIANI

DIRECTED BY RICK HORNOR



April 26-May 12, 2024

Evening Shows 7:30pm

Matinee Shows 2:00pm

Pay What You Can Thursday, May 9th at 7:30pm

ASL Performance Sunday, May 12th at 2:00pm

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"We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language."

Almost, MAINE

BY JOHN CARIANI

ALMOST, MAINE was developed by The Cape Cod Theatre Project.

Professional Premiere Production:
Portland Stage Company, Anita Stewart, Artistic Director
Tami Ramaker, Managing Director

Originally produced in New York by Jack Thomas/Bulldog Theatrical and Bruce Payne.

Original Music by Julian Fleisher

ALMOST, MAINE is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,
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Stage Manager J Wheeler
Assistant Stage Manager Nora Kremer McCarthy
Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals Blake R. York
Production Manager.....Dylan Twiner
Costume Designer Michele Graves
Properties Designer.....Jax Aversa
Lighting DesignerNiclas Olson
Scenic Artist/Lead CarpenterFrank Roberts
Sound Designer.....Beau M. K. Prichard
Intimacy Coordinator..... Dr. Brittany D. Henderson
Sound Board OperatorAsante Hayes
Shop Assistant..... Nate Lovitt
Photography..... Dennis K Photography



**Please remember to silence your
cell phone and mobile devices.
No texting during the performance.
—Thank you**

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Rick Hornor (Director)

Rick retired in 2011 after teaching for 45 years. His teaching included junior and senior high school English and Drama in CA and NY and teaching in and chairing the Theatre Department at Whitworth University in Spokane. He got his PhD from Gonzaga University. In Tacoma, his mainstage directing includes *And Then There Were None* at Lakewood Playhouse, and at Tacoma Little Theatre he has directed *Picasso at the Lapine Agile*, *Exit Laughing*, *Children of a Lesser God* and *Hay Fever*. He also directed two Off the Shelf readings: *Oleanna* and *The Guys*. He directed the musical *70, Girls, 70* at Tacoma Musical Playhouse and *A Charlie Brown Christmas* at Taproot Theatre in Seattle. He has directed workshops on the use of theatre across the curriculum to teach character values at schools in CA, TX, Washington DC, in London, England and Saipan, Mariana Islands. He has also enjoyed teaching and directing stints in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England, Tanzania, China, Italy, and Russia. Career highlights include teaching/coaching at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL, the oldest historically black college in the USA, and teaching/directing at Daystar University in Nairobi, Kenya and, as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching at LCC University in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

J Wheeler (Stage Manager)

J has been in front of and behind the curtain in the Tacoma area for a long time. You may have seen them acting as Alice Wendlekin in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (LPH), or working as ASM on *Broadway Bound* (LPS), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Centerstage), and *A Christmas Story* (TLT). J loves to stage manage, having most recently worked on *The Shawsbank Redemption* and *The Play That Goes Wrong* at TLT. They're a sophomore at UPS studying Theater and English. They'd like to thank all of you for supporting local theatre, and hope you enjoy the show!

Blake R. York (Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals)

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 17 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Slenth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing....*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Tom Sawyer*, *Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). Blake was named Best Director of the TLT production of *The Pillonman* at the 2019 AACT Regional Festival and won Best Scenic Designer in the AACT National Competition. He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him. In 2022, Blake was recognized as one of the 40 Under 40 by South Sound Business.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Dylan Twiner (Production Manager)

Dylan is glad to be a part of TLT. He grew up listening to old timey radio plays and has loved collaborative story telling ever since. His previous TLT sound credits include *Laura*, *A Doll's House*, *Macbeth*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Dracula*, and *The Pillowman*. He has also been seen onstage in several productions in the area over the past decade, including with the improvised theatre group Muh Grog Zoo. Thank you for coming to see this show and supporting live theatre.

Michele Graves (Costume Designer)

Michele has been designing shows for Tacoma Little Theatre for over 25 years. The past ten years she was the resident costume designer providing costumes for all mainstage productions. Though she is no longer designing and providing costumes for every production, she is not leaving the TLT family! Almost, Maine presented a unique challenge by having only four actors portraying twenty-one characters with several quick change instances. Many thanks to the wonderful directors, actors, stage and production crews, and TLT staff who have made her years of involvement with theatre the wonderful experience it has been. Thanks too, to her husband, Gary, for his support of her enthusiasm toward theater and costume design.

Jax Averna (Properties Designer)

Jax (They/Them) is a theatre professional from Leavenworth Kansas specializing in scenic and prop design/painting and takes part in IATSE Local 15 work as a stagehand and carpenter. They have had a wonderful time working with TLT for the past year doing props and can't wait to continue into next season!

Beau M. K. Prichard (Sound Designer)

Beau was born in Australia, raised in New Zealand, and educated by Quakers in Oregon. He is very grateful to be working at Tacoma Little Theatre again. He previously contributed to sound on the Stephen King double-headers in 2023, *The Shanshank Redemption* and *Misery*. He also created and directed *The Veteran's Day Project*, which was performed here at TLT in 2018. Most recently, he just directed the play *Red* at Burien Actor's Theatre. Beau is grateful to his friends and family for their support, and is grateful to you for coming to live theatre.

Frank Roberts (Scenic Artist/Lead Carpenter)

Frank is excited to continue at TLT as their Lead Carpenter and for this show, Scenic Artist. His work with TLT started as a volunteer during the run of *Gypsy* and he enjoys the dynamic work and communal experience that this fine theatre provides. Frank wishes to thank Nate Lovitt, Blake York and Jill Heinecke for all their contributions big and small. Additional thanks to his friends, family, Jill, and all who support local theatre.

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Niclas Olson (Lighting Designer)

Niclas is an actor, playwright, director, and designer based in Tacoma. Recent regional designs include lighting for: *Dragon Country* (Civic Rep); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (BroadwayWorld Award), *The Shanshank Redemption*, *Clue*, *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Tacoma Little Theatre); *Oleanna*, *Tribes* (Tacoma Arts Live); and sets for *Clybourne Park* (Tacoma Arts Live/UW Tacoma); *The Seagull*, *Saint Joan*, *The Last Five Years* (New Muses); and *The Ghost Train* (Centerstage). He is the Managing Artistic Director of New Muses Theatre Company, resident lighting designer at Tacoma Little Theatre, and a founding member of Green Theatre Now, an organization specializing in sustainable design solutions for the performing arts. www.NiclasOlson.com

Asante Hayes (Sound Board Operator)

Asante is excited to be back at TLT. He has worked with TLT before on several occasions, most recently on stage in *Rock of Ages*. He hopes to give a good performance and that you enjoy it!

Nora Kremer McCarthy (Assistant Stage Manager)

Nora is so excited to be returning to TLT's backstage after starting her career here with 2017's *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. When not working as a technician, she works as a theatre educator with TLT's education department and Annie Wright Schools. She sends all her love to her cat Gibby.

TACOMA Little THEATRE <small>SINCE 1918</small>	<p>This production of</p> <p><i>Almost,</i> MAINE</p> <p>is rated for ages 13 and up</p> <p>This show contains the following:</p> <p>SIMULATED ALCOHOL USE</p> <p>SOME SEXUAL INNUENDO</p>	TACOMA Little THEATRE <small>SINCE 1918</small>
TACOMA Little THEATRE <small>SINCE 1918</small>		TACOMA Little THEATRE <small>SINCE 1918</small>

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In his forward to the play, the playwright, John Cariani quotes F. Scott Fitzgerald: “. . . the sentimental person thinks things will last - the romantic person has a desperate confidence that they won't.” Cariani then opines, “*Almost, Maine* is for romantics - not sentimentalists.”

Almost, Maine does not exist on any map of the state. It is a composite made up of the kind of people and places the playwright experienced while he was growing up in rural, Northern Maine. The word “almost” is defined as “slightly short of; not quite; nearly.” Seen from this angle, “almost” is full of promise but also regret. The inhabitants of *Almost, Maine*, like all of us, constantly walk the boundary between the two senses of “almost” - between hope and regret.

The play is composed of eight vignettes plus a prologue, interlogue and an epilogue. In these 11 scenes we are introduced to 19 different characters all played by four actors. We meet each character only once. The reason we never see the same character appearing more than once is that all these vignettes happen at the same time - nine o'clock on a Friday night in the middle of winter. Every scene is about love - gaining or losing love, discovering love where it is least expected, and not finding it where it had always been. The play makes extensive use of surrealism to tell us something about love's extraordinary nature. If we take the trouble to look at love closely, it stuns us with its wonder.

Almost, Maine is a play about people, perhaps just like you and me, who are normally very grounded but who have become very excited by love . . . and other extraordinary occurrences.

Enjoy the show!
Rick

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



K Cryer

Pete, Jimmy, Lendall, Chad, Man

This is K's first show at Tacoma Little Theater. A student at UWT, K first got into theatre through introductory classes his freshman year. Now, he makes his first ever performance in *Almost, Maine*. K would like to thank his friends for supporting and encouraging him to pursue this new passion.



Rachel Blackwelder Gardner

Ginette, Glory, Waitress, Gayle, Shelly, Hope

Rachel is always happiest onstage, and some of her favorite roles include: Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Abigail in *The Crucible*, Peggy in *42nd Street*, Elizabeth in *Young Frankenstein*, The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, and Trisha in *5 Women Wearing the Same Dress* (for which she won IMCOM Europe's Tournament of Plays Best Actress in a Musical and Best Actress in a Play awards). She is new to Tacoma and thrilled to be a part of her debut production at TLT!



Joshua Olver

East, Steve, Randy, Phil, Dave

This is Josh's second show at TLT after last season's *The Shawsbank Redemption*. Josh graduated from The Evergreen State College with a BA in Theatre and Performance Art. He sends all his love to his wife Mo and his beautiful daughter Hazel.



Brookelyne Peterson

Sandrine, Marvalyn, Deena, Marci, Rhonda

Brookelyne just recently moved to Washington from Utah, where she graduated with honors from Utah Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in Theatre. Brookelyne has been acting for 10+ years and has performed 20+ roles. Some roles include: Emmy Helmer in *A Doll's House Part 2* (Tacoma Little Theatre), Macbeth in *Macbeth N.9* (Tumbleweed Theatre Company), Drowsy Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (UTU), Everybody in *Everybody* (UTU), and Renfield in *Count Dracula* (UTU). More of her work can be seen at brookelynepeterson.com.

CAST LIST

K Cryer

Pete, Jimmy, Lendall, Chad, Man

Rachel Blackwelder Gardner

Ginette, Glory, Waitress, Gayle, Shelly, Hope

Joshua Olver

East, Steve, Randy, Phil, Dave

Brookelyne Peterson

Sandrine, Marvalyn, Deena, Marci, Rhonda

SCENE BREAKDOWN

ACT ONE (55 minutes)

Prologue (Pete and Ginette)

Scene 1: Her Heart (East and Glory)

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

Scene 3: This Hurts (Marvalyn and Steve)

Scene 4: Getting It Back (Gayle and Lendall)

15-minute Intermission

ACT TWO (55 minutes)

Interlogue (Pete and Ginette)

Scene 5: They Fell (Randy and Chad or Deena and Shelly)

Scene 6: Where It Went (Phil and Marci)

Scene 7: Story of Hope (Hope and Man)

Scene 8: Seeing the Thing (Rhonda and Dave)

Epilogue (Pete and Ginette)

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 9:00pm on a cold, clear, moonless, slightly surreal Friday night in the middle of the deepest part of a Northern Maine winter.

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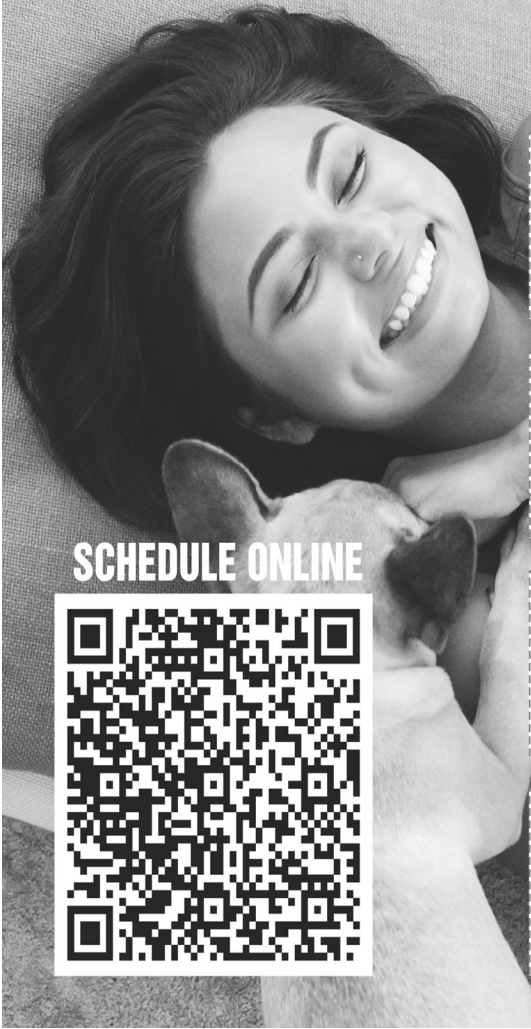
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