

KALAMAZOO CIVIC



**ALMOST,
MAINE**
by John Carriana

Live Streamed Performances

April 30, 7:30; May 1, 7:30; May 2, 2:00; May 5, 7:30; May 6, 7:30

DRAMATURGY PACKET

2021

WELCOME TO ALMOST, MAINE



PLACE:

The play takes place at different locations in a small town in the northern heart of Maine. It's almost what you would expect Maine to be but not quite.

TIME

The present. Everything takes place between 8:50 to 9pm on a cold Friday night. And that magical moment? For every character, it happens right at 9.

SYNOPSIS:

Welcome to Almost, Maine, a town that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States—it's almost in Canada. And it almost doesn't exist. Because its residents never got around to getting organized. So it's just...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. (www.almostmaine.com)

THE HISTORY OF ALMOST, MAINE



ALMOST, MAINE was developed at the Cape Cod Theater Project (Andy Polk, Artistic Director) in 2002, and received its world premiere at Portland Stage Company, where it broke box office records and garnered critical acclaim. ALMOST, MAINE opened Off Broadway in the winter of 2005/2006 at the Daryl Roth Theatre (Jack Thomas/Bulldog Theatrical and Bruce Payne, Producers) and was subsequently published by Dramatists Play Service. To date, ALMOST, MAINE has been produced by nearly 5000 theater companies in the United States (and by nearly 100 companies internationally) making it one of the most frequently produced plays of the past decade. (www.almostmaine.com)

SOME MAINE FACTS



- Maine's state animal is the moose. Maine has over 75,000 moose.
- Maine's largest city is Portland, which has a population of 66,363. It accounts for 1/4 of the state's population, which is 1.3 million.
- The average winter temperature in Maine is 20 degrees.
- Maine contains 542,629 acres of State National Parks .

Find more facts from visitmaine.net



THE NORTHERN LIGHTS



WHAT ARE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS?

The Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, is a beautiful and naturally occurring phenomenon that has happened since the beginning of time. Even dinosaurs have walked beneath the lights. But what are they? According to the Northern Lights Centre, "The bright dancing lights of the aurora are actually collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere." The lights are seen above both north and south magnetic poles, Aurora Borealis and Aurora Australis, respectively.

LEGENDS OF THE LIGHTS

There is a lot of folklore surrounding the northern lights. Just in North America, the First Nations each had different stories to explain the lights. The Cree Indians believed the lights were spirits of their departed loved ones trying to communicate with those left behind. The Algonquins believed that the lights were actually from a fire lit by their creator, Nanahbozho. Across different cultures and countries, the lights were and still are awe inspiring. (The Aurora Zone)



CHARACTERS



In light of COVID-19 restrictions and for the safety and health of all Civic volunteers and staff, the Civic will be utilizing a small cast of 4-6 actors.

Characters will act out different vignettes from the same night and time.

The following is taken straight from John Cariana's script.

PROLOGUE

PETE and GINETTE, who have been dating for a little while.

HER HEART

EAST, a repairman, and GLORY, a hiker.

SAD AND GLAD

JIMMY, a heating and cooling guy; SANDRINE, his ex-girlfriend; a salty WAITRESS.

THIS HURTS

MARVALYN, a woman who is very good at protecting herself, and STEVE, an open, kind fellow whose brother protects him.

GETTING IT BACK

GAYLE and LENDALL, longtime girlfriend and boyfriend.

INTERLOGUE

PETE, from the Prologue.

THEY FELL

RANDY and CHAD, two "Country boys."

and/or

DEENA and SHELLY, two "Country girls"

WHERE IT WENT

PHIL, a hard-working husband, and his hard-working wife, MARCI.

STORY OF HOPE

RHONDA, a tough woman, and DAVE, the not-so-tough man who loves her.

EPILOGUE

PETE and GINETTE, from the Prologue.

TECH WEEK AND PERFORMANCES



If we are still able to meet in person, the performances will be performed live and in-person with the show livestreamed to the audience. The only people allowed in the space will be the cast, crew, and production team.

We will video the performance each night live and stream it to our audiences. It's a new experience for everyone, but surely a fun one!

TECH DATES

We will practice what a livestream in-person performance will look like during tech week.

Tech will take place from April 26th - 29th with a 6:30pm call time.

PERFORMANCES

Audiences can purchase a ticket online or call the Box Office. Your family and friends can stream your performance from the comfort of their homes!

Performance dates are April 30th at 7:30pm, May 1st at 7:30pm, May 2nd at 2pm, May 5th at 7:30pm, and May 6th at 7:30pm.

HOW TO GET A TICKET?



These shows are Live Streamed, meaning you have to watch them during the specific show time. Tickets can be ordered on the website under the "production" tab. The audience will not be emailed a password or link. To view the content, simply go to [My.KazooCivic.com](https://www.kazooCivic.com), log in and choose digital content. This content can only be streamed within the US.

Need more help? Check out the video on our home page:

<https://www.kazooCivic.com/home>

AUDITION INFO



Auditions will be held over Google Meets. When you sign up for an audition slot on our SignUp Genius link, we will ask for information such as your email, phone number, any conflicts with rehearsal and performances, and what roles you are interested in. A few days prior to auditions, the stage manager will email you a Google Meets link to the audition. We have included some Virtual Audition Tips and Tricks on the next page to talk about how to get audition ready with your technology. Most importantly, remember to have fun!

WHAT TO EXPECT IN AN AUDITION

- You will be let in around 3 at a time. Depending on what times people sign up, you may be in the room with 1 to 2 other volunteers auditioning. The director, stage manager, and assistant stage manager will also be in the Google Meets.
- Please state your name loud and clear
- You will be asked to prepare a scene from our audition packet. These do not need to be memorized, but please familiarize yourself with the text prior to auditions. We might ask you to read from the script.
- The director may or may not give you directing notes to see if you can apply them to your performance. Don't worry, they're really fun exercises to help engage with the character more. Think of it more as a fun free masterclass than an audition.
- We will release you once you complete your scene. If you are called back for a callback, we will let you know in an email the next day. A callback is when we would like to see more from certain people to see what roles they could be for. Receiving or not receiving a callback does not mean you are or are not cast. A callback just means we wanted to try something. So whether you are called back or not, make sure you check when our cast list is posted!

AUDITION PREPARATION

- We recommend reading the whole script. It will help you understand the context of your monologue and also what we may be looking for in someone auditioning.
- When practicing your monologues, think about what the character wants. What do they want? How are they going to get it? And how badly do they need this? When you think about these questions and apply it to your monologue, you'll be surprised how many options are opened up to you as a performer vocally, physically, and emotionally.
- Warm up. It's always a good idea to do some tongue twisters, stretching, and breathing exercises before performing.

VIRTUAL AUDITION TIPS AND TRICKS



The following are only suggestions, not requirements, to help make your audition process smoother. At the end of the day, you can decide what helps you feel confident and ready for audition!

Camera Setup

- Make sure you can securely set up your camera where it will not fall or lean
- It is suggested to use a laptop or computer camera for stability, but if you are using a phone or tablet, make sure to set up a secure spot for it
- The camera should frame the mid-chest to the top of the head
- The camera should be facing you flat out instead of being tilted upwards or downwards
- Make sure to wipe your camera lens so it's clean
- For eyeline, it is recommended to look at the camera instead of the screen or down at a script. If you still need your script, it is recommended to either print the sides and tape them above the camera or to pull up a digital copy on your screen to follow along.

Mic Setup

- If you have an external mic that can be plugged into your device and set up outside the frame, this is suggested so we can hear you clearer. If not, many phone headsets have a mic built in.
- If you do not have or decide to not use an external mic, locate where the mic is situated on your device. Make sure during set up that the mic is not blocked or covered. Also make sure to clearly project to the mic.

Background

- You will want to choose a well lit area so we can clearly see your facial expressions. If you own a ring light, it would be a good idea to use it.
- It is recommended to set up your space in front of a blank wall. You would want your background to be clean and not distracting.
- You would want to set up your audition in a space where background noise would be limited, people would not be able to accidentally interrupt, and you feel confident and ready!

Helpful Tip: Make sure all of your devices are ready to go at least 10 minutes before your audition. If you experience any tech issues, feel free to contact us and we can walk you through it. Break a leg!