

Eagle Theatre Company
presents

Almost, MAINE

by JOHN CARIANI

Directed by Payton Sam Mitchell



PERFORMANCE DATES

January 26, 27 and February 3 & 10 at 8 p.m.
January 28 and February 4 & 11 at 2 p.m.

ALL PERFORMANCES AT
Eagle Performing Arts Center
1125 E. State St., Eagle



Winter 2024

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York
www.dramatists.com

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Message from the Mayor



As the new Mayor of the City of Eagle, I want to welcome you to Eagle Theatre Company and their exciting 2023/2024 season! It's only their second season, but they continue to provide lively, entertaining, and enjoyable theater for our Community. The Arts bring people together, and this show, *Almost, Maine*, by John Cariani, has a way of doing just that. There's laughter, love, and moments that will move you - everything that good theater is all about. Eagle Theatre Company is a non-profit organization that is run and supported solely by volunteers who want to impact the Eagle Community positively. Please join me in supporting their efforts to grow and enrich the local Arts Community and be a part of what makes Eagle such a special place to be. Enjoy the show!

Mayor Brad Pike
City of Eagle

Welcome to Eagle Theatre Company!



It's been an exciting, whirlwind of a year as we come off our stellar, inaugural season! As a new community theatre, we couldn't have succeeded without the support of our patrons, charter members, cast /crew and directors, and the generosity of our donors and sponsors.

To all of our supporters past, present, and future, thank you for helping us share our love of theatre and build a strong connection to the arts community of Eagle. We have worked toward making a positive impact through theatrical opportunities that “enrich, educate, entertain, and engage” our audiences.

We are thrilled to bring you our 2023-2024 second season of plays and invite you to join the ETC family whether onstage, backstage, or in the audience. Your support makes our all-volunteer organization possible as we continue to grow and provide live, quality theatre.

Our sincere thanks to Eagle Performing Arts Center (EPAC) for their Black Box Theatre that we call home. And now...Curtain up! Light the lights! Let the magic of theatre begin.

With much gratitude,
Deborah Hertzog
President, Eagle Theatre Company

Welcome to Eagle Performing Arts Center



Eagle Performing Arts Center (EPAC) welcomes Eagle Theatre Company (ETC) to our Black Box Theatre! EPAC is a classical ballet school, training dancers ages 3-1/2 through adult. Since 2004, we pride ourselves on providing the highest caliber of ballet and dance training in the Treasure Valley. With a nurturing and humanistic approach, we strive to instill a lifelong love for the art form. Since the inception of EPAC's Black Box Theatre

in 2020, my vision for our ballet school has been to become a true “Performing Arts Center” and community partner. ETC is the first organization outside of EPAC and Idaho Regional Ballet to utilize the space. We welcome ETC with open arms and look forward to many ENCORE performances!

Elizabeth Keller
Director, Eagle Performing Arts Center
Artistic Director, Idaho Regional Ballet



Eagle Theatre Company is a proud member of
American Association of Community Theatre (AACT)
and Idaho Association of Community Theatre (I-ACT)



Eagle Theatre Company Organization

Board of Directors:

PRESIDENT: Deborah Hertzog
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Meet Our Board of Directors



Deborah Hertzog



Linda Odom



Bethany Bertulis



Irina Kazakova



Karen Arguello



Kathryn Hendricksen



Susan Hume

Almost, Maine

By John Cariani

Directed by Payton Sam Mitchell

Show Synopsis

“...the sentimental person thinks things will last – the romantic person has a desperate confidence that they won’t.” –F. Scott Fitzgerald

Almost, Maine is for romantics—not sentimentalists.

Welcome to *Almost, Maine*. It’s a place that’s not quite a town, because its residents never got around to getting organized. So it almost doesn’t exist. And it’s so far north it’s almost in Canada. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights dance in the star-filled sky above, the residents find themselves falling in and out of love, in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – almost. This delightful mid-winter night’s dream is a series of nine vignettes about love, with a touch of good-natured mysticism. Both heartwarming and heartbreaking.

Cast

In order of appearance

GINETTE	Michele Savage
PETE	Norb Murray
GLORY	Lyndee Guy
EAST	Michael Vessel
JIMMY	Einar Schelin
SANDRINE	Kennedy Williams
WAITRESS	Bethany Bertulis
MARVALYN	Julianne Resnick
STEVE	Dave Meadows
GAYLE	Michele Savage/Kennedy Williams
LENDALL	Les Curvey/Houston Nye
RANDY	Einar Schelin
CHAD	Michael Vessel
PHIL	Les Curvey/Houston Nye
MARCI	Julianne Resnick/Kennedy Williams
HOPE	Bethany Bertulis
DANIEL	Dave Meadows
RHONDA	Lyndee Guy
DAVE	Houston Nye

Scene Breakdown

PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

Scene 1: Her Heart

Scene 2: Sad and Glad

Scene 3: This Hurts

Scene 4: Getting It Back

INTERLOGUE

ACT TWO

Scene 5: They Fell

Scene 6: Where It Went

Scene 7: Story of Hope

Scene 8: Seeing the Thing

EPILOGUE

Place

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

Time

Not too long ago—or maybe a long time ago—on a cold, clear, moonless, slightly surreal Friday night in the middle of the deepest part of a Northern Maine winter.

*Permitted by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services, Inc., New York
www.dramatists.com*

- Please silence your phones/watches, and remain seated to keep the aisles clear during the performance
- The use of any audio/video recording device and any photography, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited
- This play has 2 Acts with a 15-minute intermission
- Refreshments available before the performance and during intermission
- Meet and greet with the cast after the show, in the lobby

Who's Who

Director

Payton Sam Mitchell has been involved in theatre for 15 years and started directing in 2018. The first play he directed was as an assistant on a youth production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has since directed six plays and won Best Director for *Atypical Boy* at the 2023 I-ACT Festival. *Almost, Maine* is his seventh play and his first with Eagle Theatre Company. He is hugely grateful for the opportunity and hopes to make Eagle proud!

Director's Note

I am beyond grateful for the opportunity that Eagle Theatre Company has provided me in letting me direct their production of *Almost, Maine*. It has allowed me the chance to meet new people, gain new experiences and really come into my own as a director. The story of *Almost, Maine* intrigued me, given the quirky nature of the stories, as well as the unusual structure of the play itself. It's an anthology piece, all centered around love. Being from a small town, the setting of the show was close to my heart and allowed me to really tap into the mindsets of the eclectic group of characters. It is a fascinating study on how different things can happen at the exact same moment – some with enlightening consequences, and others that are dire. I cannot wait for audiences to see our production come to life!

Production Staff

Director	Payton Sam Mitchell
Set Design	Payton Sam Mitchell
Set Crew	Chris Mackenthun, Payton Sam Mitchell
Construction Assistance	Chris Mackenthun
Prop Acquisition	Susan Hume, Cast
Prop Assistant	Susan Hume
Light Design	David Garrison
Tech Operator	Roger Hart
Sound Effects	David Garrison
Marketing/Publicity	Kathryn Hendricksen
Photography	Susan Anderson
Graphic Design	Susan Anderson, Christine Erwin
Opening Night Reception	Karen Arguello
House Staff	Linda Fulkerson, Mary Rogers, Siobhan Reynolds Heidi Prigge, Danielle Salmi, Marianne Robinson Bev Haglund, Katy Rogers, Sean Rogers, Fred Plassman Debbie De Paul, Kathleen Cookman, Shari Gonzales

Acknowledgements

Boise Little Theater • Idaho IceWorld • the Chocolat bar

Who's Who

Cast

Norb Murray as PETE

Norb “dared to audition” for *South Pacific* some forty years ago while stationed on Whidbey Island in Washington, and discovered a new way to enjoy theatre – onstage. A Marine Corps career allowed participation in community theatre in Carmel, Virginia, and the Portland area. He is excited and honored to be cast in *Almost, Maine*, and, as a member of the Eagle Theatre Company, wishes ETC a bright future. He says, “Performing arts are an important part of a community’s culture.”

Michele Savage as GINETTE/GAYLE

Michele was cast as the lead in her school Christmas play when she was 6 years old. Since then, she estimates performing in 80 productions. She says that *Almost, Maine* “is different for me as I usually play wacky comedic characters.” She thanks Peyton for his guidance.

Michelle always devotes her performances to her Mother, who was always exposing her to professional theatre, driving her to never ending lessons, ferociously clapping from the audience, and giving her love. “For you Mom, as always.”

Lyndee Guy as GLORY/RHONDA

Lyndee has had a passion for theatre since she was very young. Her most recent role was Madame de la Grande Bouche in Music Theatre of Idaho’s production of *Beauty and the Beast* (2023) . Musical theatre is where she thrives, but she loves theatre in general. She loves being a part of something that is so special and heartfelt. Big shout-out to her husband for being so supportive, patient, and loving throughout this process.

Michael Vessel as EAST/CHAD

Michael is thrilled to join the extremely talented cast of *Almost, Maine* for his first-ever Eagle Theatre Company show! He is a recent graduate of The College of Idaho with degrees in Theatre and Creative Writing. Some of his favorite past productions include *Twelfth Night*, *Bike America*, and *Pinocchio*. Michael can be seen in the locally made feature film *Beautiful Missing People*, and he also semi-regularly releases music under the stage name Sir Vessel.

Einar Schelin as JIMMY/RANDY

Einar is originally from Sweden and moved to the United States in 2021. His experience before this has mainly been in short film and video, and he attended the School of Acting for the Screen in Brisbane, Australia in 2016.

He is currently based right here in Eagle and is thrilled to be performing with such a wide troupe of fellow actors. *Almost, Maine* will be his debut play, but he certainly hopes that it won't be his last!

Who's Who Cast (continued)

Kennedy Williams as SANDRINE/GAYLE/MARCI

Kennedy has been a part of theatre since she was young and through the years her roles have included a lamb for a church play, the lead in *Cinderella* in high school, doing paid gigs, and film, and community theatre! "This has been an enjoyable experience to get to work with the cast and do this show. We hope you enjoy the production and get the love we've been given. Oh, look! A shooting star!"

Bethany Bertulis as WAITRESS/HOPE

Bethany has been acting since she could talk! She was in a theatre company all through childhood and in college received a BFA in theatre for her undergraduate degree. She acted professionally in Los Angeles and Chicago, and now teaches kindergarten at Seven Oaks Elementary. She is a proud co-founder of Eagle Theatre Company and a proud mama of two (love you Bianca and Dabe)! She is very excited to make her debut performance for Eagle Theatre Company in *Almost, Maine*. "This is for everyone who has hope!"

Julianne Resnick as MARVALYN/MARCI

Julianne is relatively new to theatre and her history with character development stems from her first love, writing. In her words, "acting is a sharp departure; it's two parts thrilling to a bazillion parts terrifying, yet somehow rewarding. I urge anyone interested to go for it!" Julianne is co-author of an award-winning screenplay currently in negotiations to be optioned for production. "It's long been my goal to bring a force of powerful women to life on the big screen."

Dave Meadows as STEVE/DANIEL

Dave and his wife moved to the United States from South Africa in mid-2020—in the middle of COVID! He has been involved in amateur theatre in various forms ever since middle school, mainly as an actor, but also as a singer, director or even occasionally a scriptwriter. The time demands of life and work have kept him off the stage for the last 15 years, and he is very happy and grateful to be a part of this production.

Les Curvey as LENDALL/PHIL

Les started his acting career with his senior high school class play. After a 50-year hiatus he felt it was time to re-engage into the art of acting. He is very thankful for this opportunity with *Almost, Maine* and is looking forward to other opportunities to participate in local theatres.

Houston Nye as DAVE/LENDALL/PHIL

Houston (he/him) is thrilled to be a part of his first performance with Eagle Theatre Company! He can't wait for you to see this incredible show that so many talented people have worked on. Past work includes Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, Jonathan in *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Starlight Mountain Theatre). "Enjoy the show!"

Almost, Maine Director and Cast



Payton Mitchell
Director



Michele Savage
as Ginette/Gayle



Norb Murray
as Pete



Lyndee Guy
as Glory/Ronda



Michael Vessel
as East/Chad



Einar Schelin
as Jimmy/Randy



Kennedy Williams
as Sandrine/Gayle/Marci



Bethany Bertulis
as Waitress/Hope



Julianne Resnick
as Marvalyn/Marci



Dave Meadows
as Steve/Daniel



Les Curvey
as Lendall/Phil



Houston Nye
as Dave/Lendall/Phil

Get Involved with Eagle Theatre Company

- Become a Member Donor and support our vision and purpose.
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 - **Committees:** Budget and Finance, Fundraising, Marketing, Membership, Play Selection/Play Production, Volunteers

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Cyndi Grafe • Laila Hedberg • Payton Sam Mitchell • Heidi Prigge

Upcoming Events

Blithe Spirit Auditions—February 16-17

Community Gathering—March 25

Blithe Spirit Performances—April 12-28

Visit eagletc.org/events for more information

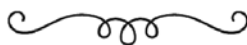


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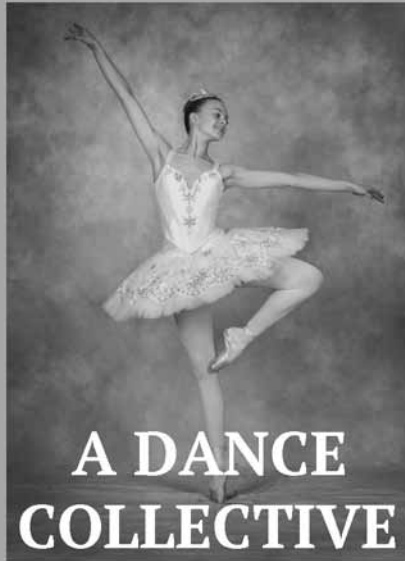
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November 2023

Making God Laugh

Written by Sean Grennan

Directed by Rick Anderson

Making God Laugh spans decades of family holiday gatherings starting in 1980. Grown children return, sharing aspirations, while aging parents face their own changes. Holiday traditions and old memories replay, and deep-seated tensions flair. The family discovers despite what is envisioned, we often arrive at unexpected destinations.



January 2024

Almost, Maine

Written by John Cariani

Directed by Payton Sam Mitchell

Almost, Maine, is the setting for love's whimsical dance under the northern lights. On a cold, clear winter night, residents stumble into amusing and heartfelt connections in nine enchanting vignettes. This midwinter night's dream offers good-natured magic realism, blending poignancy with heart-warming and heartbreaking moments.



APRIL 2024

BLITHE SPIRIT

Written by Noel Coward

Directed by Frank White

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Blithe Spirit tells the story of finicky novelist Charles, who is haunted by the ghost of his first wife, Elvira, who has been summoned by the eccentric medium Madame Arcati. As chaos ensues, Charles's second wife, Ruth, unexpectedly dies, leaving both ghosts to haunt him forever. This much revived classic is a witty, conflict-filled tale rich in humor.