

Director's Note

While searching for a play to apply for, I was immediately drawn to *Almost, Maine*. Not only is it a hilarious and well-known show that offers a lot of possibilities, it also offers the specific potential to show off the lighting. I knew in our department we had the personnel to be able to put on a fantastic light show that could successfully amplify John Cariani's already incredibly vibrant script. I also knew that our black box, furnished with some of the newest lighting equipment, would be the perfect performance space for it.

As shown throughout history, the northern lights mean something different to every culture. For me, it was important to show that the lights are attached to the character's emotions. Because *Almost, Maine* is a collection of stories about couples, past lovers, and potential lovers, I wanted to show the lights being aroused when two characters have a special moment between them. Their excited energy parallels the excited electrons in the cold winter air, and that creates something magical in the sky and within themselves.

Almost, Maine is a youthful play that utilizes the absurdity that exists just beyond reality to display the stories of nine different pairs, at the same time, on the same night. However, hidden between the lines, and behind the fantastic light show, at its core, *Almost* is a play about discovery, heartbreak, love, and above all else, humanity.

Thank you for coming, and please enjoy the show!

Special Thanks

Firstly, I want to thank the Department of Theatre at GVSU. I am so thankful to have this opportunity and for everything I have learned about theatre and myself. Secondly, I need to thank my mentors in the Grand Rapids Theatre Community: Allyson Paris, Noddea Skidmore, Mary Jo Denolf, Lynne Brown Tepper, Charles Hutchins, Erin Kacos-Pott, and Caitlin Cusack. I will never be able to thank you all enough for how you have shaped my life and all the opportunities you have given me. And finally, I have to thank my incredible cast, crew, and production team. The show is yours now - break legs!