

ALMOST, MAINE

AUDITION NOTICE

The MCT Education Department is thrilled to announce auditions for Almost, Maine! This play will serve as the main fundraiser for our 2023 senior scholarship.

THE STORY:

Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada. And it's not quite a town, because its residents never got around to getting organized. So it almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, 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—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

THE CHARACTERS:

The Prologue (and later the Interlogue and Epilogue) features two characters, **Pete** and **Ginette**, sitting on a bench. They have been dating for a bit but have not gone to the next level. Ginette makes the first move in that direction, telling Pete she loves him, and Pete eventually tells her he loves her back. This joyous moment is ruined when Pete gets lost in a theory he's just come up with about distance, causing Ginette to get frustrated and leave. After trying to salvage the moment, the Prologue ends either with Pete sitting on the bench or with him attempting to go after Ginette.

Act One, Scene One, titled "Her Heart," brings an out-of-town hiker, **Glory**, to an Almost, Maine native East's yard. Glory has come to Almost in the hopes of seeing the northern lights, which she thinks will mark the passing on of her recently deceased husband. **East**, confused as to why she has set up camp in his yard, strikes up a conversation, during which he ends up kissing her, almost as if it is outside his control. After the kiss, Glory reveals that her husband left her, broke her heart (which she has been holding in a paper bag throughout the scene), tried to come back, and then died after she refused, so she feels guilty. As the northern lights play overhead, the scene ends with East, a repairman, taking the bag with Glory's heart in it, saying he can repair it.

Act One, Scene Two, "Sad and Glad," follows **Jimmy** and **Sandrine**, who had split up a while ago, running into each other at a local hangout. Over the course of their

conversation, Jimmy tries to see if Sandrine will come over because he misses her, but Sandrine tells him she's getting married the next day. The conversation grows even more awkward as Jimmy tries to get the waitress's attention to order celebratory drinks, and Sandrine sees he's gotten a tattoo—Villian, a misspelling of villain—after they broke up. Sandrine leaves and the scene ends with Jimmy's realization that the waitress's name is Villian, which gives him something to **hope** for.

Scene Three, "This Hurts," follows a conversation in a boarding house laundry room between **Steve**, a man who can't feel pain and carries a notebook where he writes down things that can hurt one, so he can learn what to be afraid of, and **Marvalyn**, who is doing laundry for her and her boyfriend. Marvalyn accidentally knocks Steve in the head with the ironing board, and he explains his condition and how his brother is helping him learn what causes pain. During the conversation, Marvalyn reveals she thinks Steve's brother is overly controlling, and Steve reveals he hears Marvalyn and her boyfriend fighting all the time. During the course of the conversation, they share a kiss, and the scene ends with Marvalyn again accidentally hitting Steve, but this time he cries out, as though in pain.

Scene Four, "Getting It Back," which concludes Act One, has **Gayle** showing up at Lendall's door in order to break up with him, because she thinks he never wants to get married, even though they've been together eleven years, and she's there to give him back the **love** he gave her and wants the love she gave him back, too. When all the love is piled on the stage, Lendall's love for Gayle dwarfs Gayle's for **Lendall**, (which is just a small red pouch), but it is revealed that the pouch contains a wedding ring that Lendall was going to give Gayle.

The Intermission ends with the Interlogue, which again features Pete onstage looking after Ginette and then down at his snowball. The scene fades with him either still on the bench or slowly going after Ginette.

Act Two begins with Scene Five, "They Fell." There are two versions, one for two male friends, and one for two female friends. As they talk about how awful their recent heterosexual dating experiences have been, one of the friends, **Chad/Shelly**, reveals that the other, **Randy/Deena**, is the only good thing in his/her life, which freaks the other friend out. Eventually, upon eye contact, Chad/Shelly literally falls (collapses) in love with Randy/Deena, and, after first being upset by this, Randy/Deena also falls (collapses) in love, and the scene ends with them trying to get to one another but collapsing each time their eyes meet.

In Scene Six, "Where It Went," **Phil** and **Marci**, a married couple, are having an argument. Phil thinks Marci has been mad all evening, but she insists she hasn't. Through the catalyst of a missing shoe, Marci reveals she is indeed mad because it is their anniversary and Phil has forgotten, and she feels like he doesn't pay attention. This makes Phil mad, because if Marci won't admit she is mad, Phil can't fix the problem. The scene ends with the missing shoe falling from the sky, and Marci driving off.

Scene Seven, "Story of Hope," opens with a woman, **Hope**, knocking on a door, trying to reconnect with her old boyfriend after having left several years prior. He had just proposed, and Hope never gave him an answer, but she is there to give it, finally. When the man who opens the door does not look like her old boyfriend, she ramblingly explains her mistake. Finally, it is revealed that this is her old boyfriend, **Daniel**, but he looks so different because he had lost hope in the intervening years, waiting for her answer. The scene ends with his wife calling Daniel inside, and Hope saying she will marry Daniel, after Daniel has gone inside and shut the door.

Scene Eight, "Seeing the Thing," is the final full scene of Act Two, and follows the developing relationship between **Dave** and **Rhonda**. Dave has been interested in Rhonda for a long time, but she does not seem to understand that he, or any man, might be interested in her, so Dave tries to reveal his feelings by giving her an abstract painting he made. Rhonda doesn't take it well, but eventually, Dave convinces her he's serious and all their friends are rooting for them. They eventually kiss and go inside the house.

The play ends with the Epilogue, in which Pete again appears on stage, either starting at the bench or standing looking after Ginette. Eventually, she approaches from the other direction, having apparently gone all the way around the world to get close to him.

CASTING:

Almost, Maine is an ensemble play about 9 different couples in various stages of falling in or out of love. In the original production, the nine couples were played by two female and two male actors. The number of actors we plan to include in our production will not be determined until after auditions, as we have the flexibility to adjust the cast size to our needs.

You must be a high school student to audition for this show. If you are too young to audition for Almost, Maine, we encourage you to take a look at the other opportunities available to our youth this season.

There will be a \$20 fee collected upon casting to help offset the cost of costumes and scripts. The scripts will be yours to keep after the show.

HOW TO PREPARE:

Auditions and callbacks will consist of cold readings from the play. You do NOT need to prepare anything, but we highly encourage you to read the play in advance. You can read it for free [here](#).

WHEN:

AUDITIONS will be held on December 15 at 7 PM. Callbacks, if necessary, will be held on December 16 beginning at 6 PM.

REHEARSALS will be flexible and scheduled based on the availability of our actors. Please be prepared to list all of your possible conflicts, including school activities, on your audition form.

SHOWS will be February 16-18 at 7 pm and February 18 at 3pm. Cast members are required to be at every performance, *no exceptions*.

Any questions regarding Almost, Maine may be directed to Carolyn Billingsley at education@marshfieldtheatre.org.