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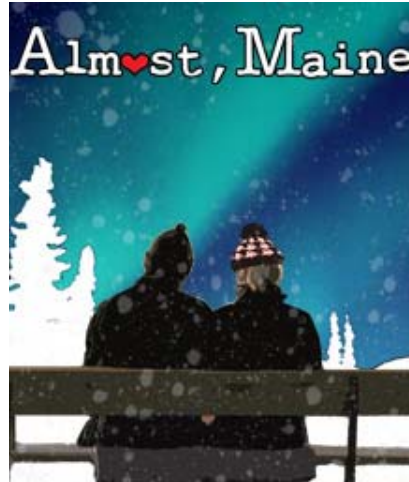
Monday, March 15, 2010

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## Almost, Maine

*Romantic Happenings Bloom Beneath the Aurora Borealis*



By John Cariani

Directed by Skip Greer

ARCHBOLD THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE

Running Dates: March 24 - April 11

Press Opening: Friday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m.

(Syracuse, NY)—It's all about love, and like love, it is never what you expect. Meet the people of *Almost, Maine*, a tiny town so far north Vermont is considered the South. One winter night with the aurora borealis creating celestial enchantment, eight couples fall under the spell of that funny little unpredictable thing called love. By turns touching, comic, warm, gentle and altogether surprising, *Almost, Maine* is a funny Valentine of a play that will make you smile with your heart.

*Almost, Maine* is co-produced with Geva Theatre Center of Rochester, NY, where the production played to sold out audiences earlier this season. Running March 24-April 11 at Syracuse Stage, tickets can be purchased online at [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org), by phone at 315-443-3275 or in person at 820 East Genesee Street. *Almost, Maine* is sponsored by J.R. Clancy, Residence Inn Marriott, and the Syracuse Stage Board of Trustees. The *Syracuse New Times* is the media sponsor. Syracuse Stage season sponsors are *The Post-Standard* and Time Warner Cable.

Playwright John Cariani is an actor and playwright best known for his role as CSU Tech Julian Beck on television's *Law & Order*, and for his performance as Motel the Tailor in the 2004

Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* for which he received the Outer Critics' Circle Award and a Tony Award nomination. After establishing his career as a stage and screen actor, Cariani began his playwriting career in 2004 with *Almost, Maine*, which debuted at the Portland Stage Company and was named one of the best plays of the year by *The Wall Street Journal*. In 2006, *Almost, Maine* opened off-Broadway and has since been produced by some 300 theatres all over the U.S., Mexico, Korea, Germany and Australia.

## REVIEWS

"Flawless execution." - *Democrat and Chronicle*

"A snowy charmer. These nine tales of love in the time of frostbite have a winning glow that proves surprisingly contagious." - *The New York Sun*

"Sweet, poignant, and witty. Nearly perfect." - *The New York Daily News*

The perfect date show for young and old alike." - *AM New York*

"Utterly endearing...with a faint dusting of snowbound magical realism." - *Broadway.com*

"Truly sweet and charming...a crowd-pleaser." - *The Boston Globe*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Prologues (New!) - 1 hour before each performance**

A free, 20-25 minute, intimate pre-show conversation with a member of the cast held prior to every performance of *Almost, Maine*. Starting time: one hour prior to curtain, except Wednesday matinees when patrons may enjoy the Wednesday @ 1 Lecture Series. Get more out of your Syracuse Stage experience. Prologue is supported by the Grandma Brown Foundation.

### **Tues 3/23 @ 7:30 p.m. - M&T Bank Pay What You Can Night**

\$9 suggested minimum donation to watch the final dress rehearsal. Tickets available in person at the box office, day of performance only.

### **Thur 3/25 at 6:30pm - LGBT Pride Night**

Get IN with the OUT crowd - a pre-show reception.

### **Fri 3/26 - LIVE in the Sutton Series**

Come for the show, stay for the music

### **Sun 3/28 - Actor Talkback Series**

A comfortable Q&A with the cast

### **Wed 3/31 - Wednesday at 1 Lecture Series**

1 p.m. before the Wed. matinee

### **Sat 4/3 at 3pm - Welch Allyn Signed Interpreted Performance Series**

In Memory of Susan Thompson

*\*Special event programs are additionally funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the National Organization for the American Theatre.*

## TICKETS

Single Tickets: \$24-\$48

Children (under 18): \$16

Under 40: \$20 all tickets, all performances.

Rush: \$15-\$25 general public, \$10 with valid student ID, subject to availability

*\*Rush tickets available day of performance, by phone (\$5 fee) or in person (no fee)*

*\*Discounts available for seniors, students, groups and subscribers*

Online: [www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org)

Call: 315-443-3275

In person: 820 East Genesee Street

Groups (10 or more): 315-443-9844

## PLAYWRIGHT

John Cariani (*Playwright*) is an actor as well as a playwright. *Almost, Maine*, his first play, was developed by the Cape Cod Theatre Project in 2002, premiered at Portland (Maine) Stage Company in 2004, and went on to become the most successful play in Portland Stage's 32-year history: it sold out its run and garnered critical acclaim. *The Wall Street Journal* recognized *Almost, Maine* as one of best regional theatre productions of the 2004-2005 season, and the new American National Theatre honored *Almost, Maine* as one of the outstanding plays of 2004-2005. *Almost, Maine* opened off-Broadway in early 2006 at the Daryl Roth Theatre (produced by Bulldog Theatrical - Jack Thomas/Bruce Payne) and is featured in Smith and Kraus' *New Playwrights: Best Plays of 2006*. As an actor, John has appeared on and off Broadway, and in several films and television shows. Originally from Presque Isle, Maine, he is a graduate of Amherst College, and now lives in New York. DIRECTOR

## DIRECTOR

Skip Greer (*Director*) serves as Artist in Residence and Director of Education at Geva Theatre Center. His directing credits at Geva include the world premiere of *The House in Hydesville*, *Doubt*, *American Buffalo*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Key West*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Lobby Hero*, *Below the Belt*, *The Weir*, *Women Who Steal*, *Beast on the Moon*, *Triumph of Love* and *Geometric Digression of the Species*. He directed *King Lear* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz. Other regional directing credits include Studio Arena Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Sacramento Theatre Company, State Theatre of Austin and Gary Marshall's Falcon Theatre, where he directed *Golf with Alan Shepard* starring Jack Klugman and Charles Durning. Mr. Greer has also been an actor at Geva appearing in *Evie's Waltz* (Clay), *Our Town* (the Stage Manager), *Hamlet* (Ghost/Player King), *1776* (John Hancock), *House and Garden* (Giles), *Art* (Serge), *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror #1), *A Girl's Life* (Ken and Louis Pasteur), *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor* (Alexander), *The Illusion* (Alcandre), *Picasso at the Lapine Agile* (Sagot) and *State of the Union* (Spike McManus). Regional credits include seven seasons in the resident acting company of Sacramento Theatre Company, San Jose Repertory Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts. Film and TV credits include *Bloodhounds*, *LA Law* and *VR5*.

Mr. Greer has toured Europe, Africa, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia and the Cook Islands, teaching and performing.

## CAST

**David Mason** (*Pete, Steve, Lendall, Chad, Dave*) makes his Syracuse Stage debut in *Almost, Maine*. Other regional credits include *Almost, Maine* at Shadowland Theatre; *Last Gas* by John Cariani at Portland Stage Little Festival; *The Last Mass At St. Casimir's* and *Almost, Maine* at the Public Theatre in Lewiston; *Enchanted April, It's A Wonderful Life* and *Lumberjacks in Love* at the Majestic Theater; *Arcadia, Arsenic and Old Lace, Kimberly Akimbo, Kong's Night Out, Sight Unseen, The Underpants, Lobby Hero, The Boys Next Door, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, An Inspector Calls, The Big Apple* and *All in the Timing* at the New Century Theatre and *Jerry Finnegan's Sister* at Mt. Holyoke Summer Theatre, Foothills Theatre. Recent NYC credits include *The Three Hagi Sisters* at the Japan Society; *Sky* at Impact Theatre Festival; *Two Rooms* at Red Fern Theatre; *Barbara Bush Never Slept Here* and *Kalighat* at Circle East; *L'esprit D'escalier* at the Chip Deffaa Invitational; *New York* at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, Civilian Studios National Theatre for the Handicapped; *Mae and Her Stories* at Primary Stages; *The Breaking Light* with Present Company and *This Will Be the Death of Him* for NativeAliens.

**Alexis McGuinness** (*Glory, Waitress, Marvalyn, Marci, Suzette, Rhonda*) makes her Syracuse Stage debut in *Almost, Maine*. Recent credits include *The 49 Project* (Fringe NYC), *Waxing West* at La MaMa, Bucharest and Sibiu, Romania and Stockholm, Sweden, *The Lacy Project* at the Ohio Theatre, *Half of Plenty* at SPF, The Drama League's Directors Project of Itamar Moses' *Authorial Intent* and *Abandon* at La MaMa. Regional credits include *Twelfth Night* at Milwaukee Shakespeare and *Safe in Hell* at Yale Repertory Theatre. She has studied at the NTI/Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and the Guthrie Theatre, has a B.A. in Theatre from Dartmouth College and an M.F.A. from the Yale School of Drama.

**Regan Thompson** (*Ginette, Sandrine, Gayle, Woman*) is thrilled to be making her Syracuse Stage debut. Off-Broadway credits include *Theophilus North* with Keen Company. NYC and other regional credits include *A Christmas Story* at Pioneer Theatre Company, *Bad Dates* at Hangar Theatre, *The Elephant Man* and *The Crucible* at Northern Stage, *Crimes of the Heart* at Playmakers Repertory Company, *Theophilus North* at Dorset Theatre Festival, *As You Like It* and *Julius Caesar* at North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, *Vanities* at Penguin Repertory Company, *Deja Vu* at Caldwell Theatre Company, *Dracula* at Tennessee Repertory Theatre, *Proof* at the Depot Theatre, *I Vermin* at NYC Fringe Festival, *A Midsummer Night's Dream, King John,* and *Julius Caesar* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Television appearances include *As the World Turns* and *Law & Order: SVU*. Ms. Thompson received her M.F.A. in Acting from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival P.A.T Program/University of Alabama.

**Patrick Noonan** (*East, Jimmy, Randy, Phil, Man*) makes his Syracuse Stage debut in *Almost, Maine*. He performed *Almost, Maine* off-Broadway and is excited to be playing in that world once more with such a fantastic company. A proud veteran of the longest running play in America, he starred in over 1,500 performances of *Shear Madness* and just finished another successful run over the summer with the Capital Repertory Theatre. Mr. Noonan spent the prior year working extensively with the Florida Studio Theatre starring in *Jewtopia, The Mystery Of Irma Vep* and *Edward Albee's Occupant*. TV credits include *30 Rock*, several *Law & Orders, Life on Mars, The Black Donnellys, Hope and Faith,* and *The Guiding Light*. Film credits include *The Princess Diaries, Frame of Mind,* and the soon to be released horror movie *Choose*.

## DESIGNERS

Dipu Gupta (*Scenic Designer*) makes his Syracuse Stage debut with *Almost, Maine*. He is a Bay Area set designer and architect and has designed for companies throughout the country including for the Santa Fe Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Opera Pacific, Berkshire Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, San Jose Rep, the Julliard School, the Manhattan School of Music, the Gotham Chamber Opera, and two productions for Opera Africa in Johannesburg. As an architect, he has designed buildings in New York, New Hampshire, California, Montana and New Mexico. His interior design work in New York City has been published. He studied art history and architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, went on to earn a Masters of Architecture at the University of Virginia and a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is on the faculty of the University of California as an Artist in Residence.

Pamela Scofield (*Costume Designer*). Previous Syracuse Stage credits include *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, *Three Sisters*, *Awake and Sing*, *Finding Donis Anne*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, and *Androcles and the Lion*. She has designed for regional theatres across the country, including Actors Theatre of Louisville, Geva Theatre Center, Asolo Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Theatreworks Palo Alto, Goodspeed Opera, and Berkshire Theatre Festival. New York credits include off-Broadway productions of *Almost, Maine*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *A Fine and Private Place*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and *The Summer of '42*. Ms. Scofield designed the national tour and Madison Square Garden productions of *Cinderella*, starring Eartha Kitt, and has designed several editions of the Grammy Awards at Radio City Music Hall. She is the designer for dramatic dancer Joan Evans, who performs internationally, and with whom she shares a Fringe First Award from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and an NEA grant for collaborative performance. Presently she is working on designs for *Touch(ed)*, a new play for Salt Lake City's Pioneer Theatre.

Kendall Smith (*Lighting Designer*). Theatre credits include Indiana Repertory Theatre; Pioneer Theatre; Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C; Weston Playhouse; Merrimack Repertory Theatre; North Shore Music Theatre; Brunswick Music Theatre; Connecticut Repertory Theatre; Barter Theatre; and American Stage Festival. Regional Opera companies include San Diego Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Michigan Opera, Minnesota Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, San Antonio Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Virginia Opera, Dayton Opera, and Eugene Opera. As the Resident Designer for Michigan Opera Theatre for the last twenty years, Mr. Smith has designed over 55 productions.

Dan Roach (*Sound Designer*). Most recent productions include *Almost Maine*, *Evies Waltz*, *A Christmas Story*, *Dracula: The Shape of Evil*, *Doubt*, *Dial M for Murder*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Underpants* and *9 Parts of Desire* at Geva Theatre Center. He studied sound at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and has been applying that knowledge to theatre over the past two decades. He is looking forward to working on this show at Syracuse Stage and greatly appreciates being surrounded by the dedicated actors, designers, directors and staff that have been a hallmark of their productions. His last production at Syracuse Stage was *Golf with Alan Shepard*. He currently works full-time for the Hillside Family of Agencies as their webmaster and is grateful for their flexibility in providing time to pursue his love of theatre and sound design. He lives in Rochester with his lovely wife Jing, who he found at the end of his journey around this wonderful world.

John Zeretzke (*Composer*) returns to Geva where he composed music for *9 Parts of Desire*, *Beast on the Moon* and *Death of a Salesman*. He has composed music for the Royal Danish Ballet, the Ohio Ballet, the Ice Theater of New York, and Ballet Folklorico del Pacifico. Mr.

Zeretzke's score for the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago was featured in Robert Altman's docu-drama *The Company*. He has composed original scores to *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *King Lear* for Shakespeare Santa Cruz. He's recorded for Paramount Pictures, Disney, Discovery Channel and Kushner-Locke Productions for *Sleepy Hollow*, *Cold Sassy Tree*, *The Crow*, *AmericaEast*, *Solomon and Sheba*, *Streetfighter*, *Mortal Combat* and *Delta of Venus*. In 1999, he won the P.A.S.A. Award, (Professional Artist Service Award), a lifetime achievement award for his work in arts education in the state of California. He is associated with numerous educational organizations including the Music Center of Los Angeles County, Orange County Performing Arts Center, The California Arts Project and Ronald McDonald's Summer Camps for children with cancer. Mr. Zeretzke received the highest Medal of Honor from the White Helmets of the United Nations for peace keeping in the world today for his program, *Flutes Across the World*, during its July 2009 humanitarian mission to the southern Philippines.

## SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded in 1974, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 36 seasons including a number of world, American, and East Coast premieres. Each season 90,000 patrons enjoy an adventurous mix of new plays and bold interpretations of classics and musicals featuring the finest theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. A solid core of subscribers and supporters helps keep Syracuse Stage a vibrant artistic presence in Central New York. Additional support comes from the government, foundations, corporations and Syracuse University. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Arts and Cultural Leadership Alliance (ACLA), the University Hill Corporation and the East Genesee Regent Association. Syracuse Stage is a member of The League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the largest professional theatre association in the country.

Fact Sheet:

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SHOW SPONSOR:  
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Syracuse Stage Board of Trustees

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*Syracuse New Times*

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**Kendall Smith** (*Lighting Designer*)  
**Dan Roach** (*Sound Designer*)  
**John Zeretzke** (*Composer*)

### PRODUCTION

**Stuart Plymesser** (*Stage Manager*)

The names in bold are actors and stage managers who are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

### TICKETS:

**Single Tickets:** \$24-\$48  
**Children (under 18):** \$16  
**Under 40:** \$20 all tickets, all performances.  
**Rush:** \$15-\$25 general public, \$10 with valid student ID, subject to availability

*\*Rush tickets available day of performance, by phone (\$5 fee) or in person (no fee)  
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SHOW CALENDAR: March/April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			24 7:30 P	25 7:30 P, G	26 8:00 O	27 3:00 8:00
28 2:00 7:00 D	29	30	31 2:00 W 7:30	1 7:30	2 8:00	3 3:00 S 8:00
4 2:00	5	6 7:30	7 7:30	8 7:30	9 8:00	10 3:00 8:00
11 2:00						

P=Preview G=LGBT Pride Series O=Press Opening, LIVE in the Sutton Series  
 D=Actor Talkback Series S=Signed Performance Series W=Wednesday @ 1 Lecture Series

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Syracuse Stage | Producing Artistic Director: Timothy Bond | Managing Director: Jeffrey Woodward  
 820 E. Genesee St. | Main: 315-443-4008 | Box Office: 315-443-3275 | [www.syracusestage.org](http://www.syracusestage.org)