



PRESENTS

Almost  *MAINE*

BY JOHN CARIANI

AUDITION PACKAGE



Audition Information

Dates: Wednesday, 17th of December and Saturday, 20th of December 2025

Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, and 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Address: The Hut , 10 Jean Howie Drive, Seven Hills QLD 4170

Play Synopsis

A woman carries her heart, broken into nineteen pieces, in a small paper bag. A man shrinks to half his former size after losing hope in love. A couple keep the love they have given each other in large red bags, or compresses the mass into the size of a diamond. These playful and surreal experiences are commonplace in the world of John Cariani's *Almost, Maine*, where on one deeply cold and magical Midwinter Night, the citizens of Almost -- not organised enough for a town, too populated for a wilderness -- experience the life-altering power of the human heart. Relationships end, begin, or change beyond recognition, as strangers become friends, friends become lovers, and lovers turn into strangers. Propelled by the mystical energy of the aurora borealis and populated with characters who are humorous, plain-spoken, thoughtful, and sincere, *Almost, Maine* is a series of loosely connected tales about love, each with a compelling couple at its centre and its own touch of sorcery.

About Villanova Players

Villanova Players is a community theatre group in Morningside, QLD.

Established in 1948, we perform four Mainhouse shows a year, and two Intermezzo productions. We produce plays of all varieties from classics to contemporary and have also been known to do the occasional musical.



Villanova Players acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we rehearse and perform, the Yuggara and Turrbal people. We pay respect to elders past, present, and emerging, and are proud to continue important traditions of storytelling on this land. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

Audition Requirements

The characters within the show are real people experiencing the most real thing we can experience as humans: love. The script is sincere, and we want to see that sincerity brought out in each character.

As this is a show so heavily based around relationships, the audition will be held as a group call, consisting of cold reads where we can observe actors interact with one another.

If you're unable to make it to the in-person auditions, please submit an expression of interest form [HERE](#).

Please email Isabelle at izzystone02@hotmail.com with any questions.

Meet the Creative Team

Director - Isabelle Stone

This production marks Isabelle's directorial debut with Villanova Players. Isabelle has been an active member of the company for several years, performing in productions including *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *My Fair Lady*, and most recently *A Murder is Announced*. Her time on stage has fostered a deep appreciation for the collaborative spirit of community theatre and the creative process that brings stories to life.

Assistant Director - Ella Uhlmann

Ella completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drama) at QUT in 2023, and since then, she has been actively engaged in the Brisbane theatre scene both behind the scenes and on stage. She has directed several projects, the most recent being *Pitching A Tent* at BackDock Arts. On the stage, she performed with Phoenix Ensemble in their production of *Bare*, and with Hanson Creative in their production of Starkid's *Trail to Oregon*. A brilliant comic, Ella brings a real lightness to each production she is a part of.

Important Dates

Auditions	Wednesday 17 th of December Saturday 20 th of December	7:00pm - 9:00pm 10:00am - 12:00pm
Rehearsals	Commence Monday 12 th of January 7pm	Monday 7:00pm - 9:30pm Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:30pm Sunday 11am - 4pm**
Tech Week*	Commences Monday 16 th of March	Bump-in - Sun 15 th March 2026 Tech Reh - Monday 16 th March 2026 Dress Reh - Tuesday 17 th March 2026 Final Dress - Thursday 19 th March
Performances*	Friday 20 th of March to Sunday 22 nd of March	Friday 20 th March 7:30pm Saturday 21 st March 2:00pm Saturday 21 st March 7:30pm Sunday 22 nd March 2:00pm
Bump Out*	Sunday 22 nd of March	After Sunday matinee

*These dates require compulsory attendance

** Subject to change

Roles

Almost, Maine was written with the intent of a small cast. We are seeking six strong actors (three male-presenting, three female-presenting) who can portray a range of characters, emotions, and life stages. It should be noted that one of the male actors should be short to play the role of Man/Daniel to emphasise the meaning of the scene.

Villanova Players and the creative team of *Almost, Maine* are committed to diverse and inclusive casting. We strongly encourage performers from diverse backgrounds, including those of various races, ages, genders, disabilities, and neurodiversities.

A notable aspect is that this play portrays genuine chemistry among the characters and those around them. Actors will need to perform great emotion over long scenes.

Character Descriptions

Male Characters

- Pete - Almost pessimistic but he truly loves Ginette although it's hard for him to admit.
- Steve - Open, clueless and kind. He is clueless about the world due to his inability to feel pain, which is attributed to his disorder.
- Jimmy - A guy whose broken heart makes it hard for him to speak his mind.
- Randy - Broke his date's face while dancing. Ends up having feelings for his best friend Chad, but it's hard for him to admit it.
- Dave - Not so tough, but loves Rhonda for who she is.
- East - A repairman, calm and sincere.
- Lendall - Longtime best friend to Gayle, an understanding and collected person who is trying to understand his girlfriend.
- Chad - Was told he smelled by his date. He tells his best friend he has feelings for him.
- Phil - A working man who gets in a fight with his wife after ice skating.
- Man/Daniel - The ex of Hope, who has left the town, but his life has gone on and changed without her.

Female Characters

- Ginette - Optimistic and loving toward Pete. A bit of a chatterbox who rambles on when she's nervous.
- Sandrine - Jimmy's Ex who left him suddenly but is put together and sensitive towards Jimmy.
- Gayle - Longtime girlfriend to Lendall, short-tempered, passionate and flustered woman who wants to be married.
- Hope - A jittery woman who left her boyfriend to go off into the world, and has come back to see him.
- Glory - A vulnerable, nervous and guilty hiker.
- Waitress/ Villian - No nonsense, sassy waitress, who is meant for Jimmy.
- Marvalyn - A self-protective nurse who is in a rough patch in her relationship.
- Marci - The hardworking wife of Phil, who is angry with him over all the things his work has caused him to miss.
- Rhonda - A tough, closed-off, and nervous woman who is awkward around Dave.
- Suzette - Wife of Daniel

Content Warning

Multiple scenes require actors to be intimate with one another, particularly the characters East and Glory, Marvalyn and Steve, Lendall and Gayle, and Dave and Rhonda. Dave and Rhonda undress down to their undergarments; the comfort level and potential changes of this can be discussed with the directors.

Female Monologue

WOMAN. Yeah: My *husband*. Wes. I just wanted to say goodbye to him, 'cause he died recently. On Tuesday, actually. And, see, the northern lights — did you know this? — the northern lights are really the torches that the recently departed carry with them so they can find their way to heaven, and, see, it takes three days for a soul to make its way home, to heaven, and this is Friday! This is the third day, so, you see, I *will* see them, the northern lights, because they're *him*: He'll be carrying one of the torches. And, see, I didn't leave things well with him, so I was just hoping I could come here and say goodbye to him and not be bothered, but what you did there just a second ago, that bothered me, I think, and I'm not here for that, so maybe I should go // and find another yard —

MAN. No! No! I'm sorry if I — ... if I've behaved in a way that I shouldn't have —

Male Monologue

MAN. (*This speech is not an attack. It's more of a rumination — one that doesn't do much to make the woman feel better.*) Oh, come on. You give yourself too much credit. He was young. That's all you need to get your hopes dashed: Be young. And everybody starts out young, so ... everybody gets their hopes dashed, and besides ... I don't think you really *dashed* his hopes. 'Cause if you *dash* somebody's hopes — well that's ... kind of a nice way to let 'em down, 'cause it *hurts* ... but it's quick. If you'd have said, "No," *that* woulda been "dashing his hopes." (*Beat. Maybe a little pointed here.*) But you didn't say, "No." You said nothin'. You just didn't answer him. At all. And that's ... killin' hope the long, slow, painful way, 'cause it's still there just hangin' on, never really goes away. And that's ... kinda like givin' somebody a little less air to breathe every day. Till they die.