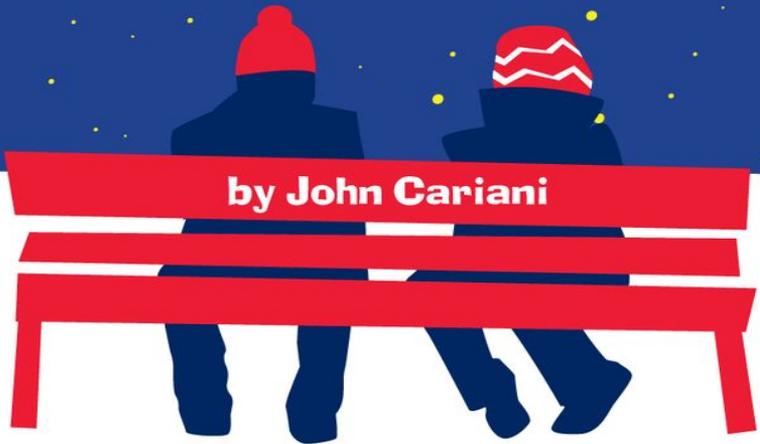


Hillsdale Drama Presents

Alm♥st, Maine

a real romantic comedy



by John Cariani

Directed by Allison Gamlen

Fall 2020

hillsdaledrama.com

Hillsdale High School, 3115 Del Monte Street, San Mateo



Jacklyn Kurth Orthodontics

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Hillsdale Drama Presents

Almost, Maine

by **John Cariani**

Almost, Maine was developed by The Cape Cod Theatre Project.

Professional Premiere Production: Portland Stage Company,

Anita Stewart, Artistic Director • Tami Ramaker, Managing Director.

Originally produced in New York by Jack Thomas/Bulldog Theatrical & Bruce Payne.

Allison Gamlen

Director

Almost, Maine will be performed virtually, with one intermission.

Almost, Maine is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc. New York.

Hillsdale High School Drama department acknowledges the generosity of the Campagna family whose support has helped make this production possible.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



I had no intention of directing a play this semester - it felt impossible and overwhelming. Yet, as we resumed school in August and I saw my group of students, new and returning, it became clear how much we all needed to do a show. The need for community, connection, and a creative outlet became painfully evident. So we began.

Some parts of directing a play on Zoom felt familiar - holding auditions, setting a schedule, finding a crew. And while no production is ever easy,

I soon learned that producing a show online presented a fresh set of challenges I couldn't anticipate. We've had to embrace and overcome many of the obstacles beyond just the normal technical glitches of meeting online (people freezing, robot voices, getting kicked out, etc). We've had to figure out how to hug over Zoom, how to read body language when we can't see each other, how to navigate props, costume selection, green screens, wifi, and video editing. And here we are.

Almost, Maine was a perfect choice for a virtual play. It's series of two person vignettes fit our goals and our online limitations well. Through internet magic, this play is available to family and friends across the globe, yet no matter what day you attend, it is Friday night at 9pm; Aurora Borealis is expected in the northern sky. In notes from the playbill, playwright John Cariani says: "This play is about one moment in time—what happens to people in a heartbeat. It is a play about people who are really, truly, honestly dealing with the toughest thing there is to deal with in life — love."

I'm not quite certain love is the most difficult struggle in life, especially this year, but it is often the most complicated. Many of those complexities appear in full view over the two-hour course of *Almost, Maine*. Considering the topic is so broad and so universal, Cariani—correctly—fragments his story, preserving only the unities of time, place, and theme. What is presented instead is a series of nine sketches, each focusing on different characters, but each taking on the transformation of love. These characters are each of us: they are poignant and complicated; at times they are simply ordinary people, boring even. Cariani's play works because we see ourselves in each character, and we relate to the world of *Almost*. It is in the interaction of extraordinary circumstances and ordinary life that we come to know the reality of a life that is ... *Almost*. It is in the fantastical *Almost*, that I find myself still captivated.

In his notes, Cariani describes the northern lights as a natural phenomenon in which normally stable atoms come into contact with each other, become unstable, and react in unpredictable ways. As our rehearsal process developed, it became so clear why the northern lights were chosen as the thread that ties our show together. On this particular night, we witness the typically stable people of *Almost, Maine* come into contact with each other and react in extraordinary and at times, unbelievable ways.

Creating the world of *Almost* was a challenge that required a patient, flexible, and devoted cast, crew, and team of family volunteers. I'm so grateful for everyone willing to join me on this journey into uncharted online theatre territory, with a special shout out to my Booster Leaders - Teresa Montgomery, Lea Papavasiliou, Zaf Kyriakis, Annette Kranzler, Marni Sloves, Keri Vancea and Josephine Taylor. Thank you all for sticking by me this semester and for helping to make this entire production happen.

Enjoy your visit to *Almost, Maine*.

— Allison Gamlen

ABOUT THE PLAY

On place:

Almost, Maine is not a coastal town. It is nowhere near the ocean. And it doesn't exist. It is a mythical composite of several northern Maine towns. Were it to exist, Almost would be located in the remote heart of Aroostook (say, "uh-ROO-stick") County, the sparsely populated, northernmost county in Maine. It would occupy unorganized territory that is officially designated as Township Thirteen, Range Seven, or T13- R7. T13-R7 is some seventy-five miles northwest of the northern terminus of Interstate 95; some two hundred miles northwest of the ocean (at its closest); some three hundred miles north of Portland ME; and some four hundred miles north of Boston MA. It is far away from things.

Winters in Almost, Maine are long, cold, and snowy. It often feels like winter up there from October to May. The area's average January temperature is nine degrees Fahrenheit; average annual snowfall is 115 inches. Winters can also be pretty bleak, because the days are short (less than nine hours at the winter solstice), and the town is in a rolling, empty land of wide open space and big sky. Potato farms dominate to the east; the expansive North Maine Woods are to the west. *National Geographic* once printed something to this effect: "They call Montana 'Big Sky Country.' Well... 'they' haven't seen Northern Maine."

On the northern lights:

The northern lights are brilliant, ribbon-like, other-worldly displays of light. Northern Mainers are fortunate: They live just inside the southernmost tip of a ring defining the area in which the northern lights regularly appear.

The northern lights occur when atoms become "excited." During solar storms, electrons are sent streaming towards the Earth. As these electrons enter the Earth's atmosphere, they strike and excite atoms, ionizing them - charging them by knocking out an electron. When this happens to enough atoms, the brilliant light display that is the aurora borealis hovers and streaks across the sky. When the aurora fades, it's because the affected atoms have returned to their grounded state.

Almost, Maine is a play about people who are normally very grounded, but who have become very excited by love... and other extraordinary occurrences.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MAINE

- Maine is the easternmost and northeasternmost state in the United States.
- Maine has 611 miles of international border with Canada, more than any other state except Alaska and Michigan.
- Maine is the only state in the country that's attached to only one other state.
- Maine is about the same size as the rest of the New England states combined, with a total area of about 35,400 square miles. The other New England states (Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island) have a total area of about 36,600 square miles. Although it comprises almost half of New England's total land area, Maine contains only 9% of the region's population.
- With 1.3 million residents, Maine is the most sparsely populated state east of the Mississippi River. It has 40 people per square mile. (Consider this: Vermont has 65 people per square mile; Massachusetts has 810; New Jersey: 1,100.)
- Maine's largest city is Portland, pop. 65,000. (Consider this: Greenwich CT has 61,000 residents.) Only Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming have smaller "largest cities."
- Maine's unorganized territories make up more than half of the state's total land area.
- Maine is more forested than any other state in the country. It is 90% woods.
- Maine has more moose per square mile than any other state.
- Maine contains the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail: Mt. Katahdin in central Maine.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Almost, Maine would be located 120 miles north of Mt. Katahdin, in the heart of Aroostook County. Aroostook is the largest county east of the Mississippi River, with a land area of 6,700 square miles. It is almost as big as Massachusetts, whose total land area is 7,800 square miles, and it isn't that much smaller than New Hampshire or Vermont, which are about 9,000 square miles each. Aroostook County is considerably larger than Connecticut (4,800 sq. mi.) and Rhode Island (1,045 sq. mi.) put together.

Aroostook County's population is about 72,000, making it one of the most sparsely populated counties east of the Mississippi. (Connecticut and Rhode Island's combined population is 4.5 million.) Aroostook has about 11 people per square mile, making it about as densely populated as the Dakotas.

- Population: probably about 300.
- Median annual household income: probably about \$25,000.
- Hours of daylight in mid-January: about 9.
- Average January temperature: 9 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Average annual snowfall: 115 inches.



CAST OF CHARACTERS

<i>Ginette</i>	Julieta Cubero Garcia
<i>Pete</i>	Owen Kalmbach
<i>East</i>	JT Waugh
<i>Glory</i>	Giana Papavasiliou
<i>Sandrine</i>	Isabel Vancea
<i>Waitress</i>	McKenna Whyte-Shearer
<i>Jimmy</i>	Owen Kalmbach
<i>Marvalyn</i>	Mae Montgomery
<i>Steve</i>	Max Kranzler
<i>Gayle</i>	Eva Montgomery
<i>Lendall</i>	Andi Taylor
<i>Randy</i>	JT Waugh
<i>Chad</i>	Enzo Marini Ferreira
<i>Phil</i>	Samuel Kemp
<i>Marci</i>	Lexi Kolb
<i>Hope</i>	Cassandra Singer
<i>Man</i>	Ian Wright
<i>Rhonda</i>	Jamie Sloves
<i>Dave</i>	Max Kranzler

SCENES

Almost, Maine takes place over a period of about ten minutes. Each scene starts around 8:50pm and ends a little after 9pm on a Friday night in the middle of winter.

ACT I

Prologue	Pete, Ginette
Scene 1: Her Heart	East, Glory
Scene 2: Sad and Glad	Jimmy, Sandrine, Waitress
Scene 3: This Hurts	Marvalyn, Steve
Scene 4: Getting it Back	Gayle, Lendall

Interlogue

ACT II

Scene 5: They Fell	Randy, Chad
Scene 6: Where it Went	Phil, Marci
Scene 7: Story of Hope	Hope, Man
Scene 8: Seeing the Thing	Rhonda, Dave

Epilogue

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

ALLISON GAMLEN

COMPOSER

JULIAN FLEISHER

COSTUMES, PROPS, SETS

JOSEPHINE TAYLOR

TERRI LIM

ADELA WRIGHT

MAINE PHOTOGRAPHY

PAUL CYR

TECHNICAL ADVICE

SUSANA GARCIA FERNANDEZ



STAGE MANAGER

HOLLY SHEK

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

JAMES SNOWBALL

SOUND DESIGNER AND OPERATOR

CHARLOTTE FENWICK

SET AND PROPS

KATHERINE LIM

JAMES SNOWBALL

COSTUME/HAIR/MAKEUP

MIA GUZMAN

MELINA NAZARIAN

ANNA VANDERFORD

PUBLICITY

GIOVANNA GHENO

ERIKA WENCESLAO



ABOUT THE CAST



JULIETA CUBERO GARCIA *
Ginette

Julieta is a freshman and really excited to do her first Hillsdale play! She has been in many ensembles, but her most major role was “Hermia” in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. She has done many theatre arts and vocal classes (like Ms. Gamlen’s beginning drama class), and loves to act, sing and make abstract art. She also plays basketball and does track and field. Julieta wants to thank her friends and family for their encouragement to keep going! :



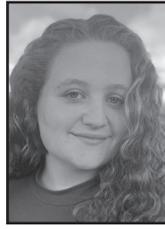
OWEN KALMBACH * *Pete, Jimmy*

Owen is a freshman and excited to perform in his first show at Hillsdale. Prior theater experience includes acting in the Abbott Drama Boosters’ productions of *Seussical* as “Horton the Elephant,” *Into the Woods* as “the Baker,” and *Mulan* as “Fa-Zhou,” Mulan’s father. Owen is a student in Ms. Gamlen’s Intermediate Drama class and a Drama Club member. In his free time, Owen takes vocal and piano lessons, practices martial arts, runs, and reads the *New York Times*. He would like to thank his family for their support of his passion for theater and Ms. Gamlen and Mr. Thaine for helping inspire and guide him. Enjoy the show!



SAMUEL KEMP * *Phil*

Samuel is a freshman at Hillsdale High and is really hyped to be a part of his first show at Hillsdale! He has also been “Cinderella’s Father” in *Into the Woods*, and a Wickersham Brother in *Seussical the Musical*. He really likes to play the piano in the school jazz ensemble as well as play the trumpet in the concert band. Samuel would like to thank his parents for supporting him as well as his directors and company.



LEXI KOLB * *Marci*

Lexi is a junior at Hillsdale who is eager to be in her first spring play at Hillsdale. Before coming to Hillsdale, Lexi took part in three middle school productions at Abbott Middle School and has acted in several Shakespeare plays at SFshakes Intersession. She had a blast playing “Mama Morton” in *Chicago* last year at Hillsdale. Lexi is happy to be Secretary of Drama Club this year and participating in various drama activities such as being in the Advanced Drama class at Hillsdale. She is also on the Hillsdale High School Mock Trial team as a Varsity Attorney. She is ecstatic to be in *Almost, Maine* this fall and is looking forward to experimenting with the Zoom style of performing.



MAX KRANZLER * *Steve, Dave*

Max is a senior at Hillsdale High School and is super excited to be part of his fifth Hillsdale show, *Almost, Maine!* Previous roles include “Ensemble” in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (at Foothill), “Officer Fogarty” in *Chicago*, “Maurice” in *Beauty and the Beast*, “Which Army Commander” in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and “Combeferre” in *Les Miserables*. Max enjoys playing guitar in the jazz ensemble and his combo! Max also is apart of Hillsdale’s improv team, the HIT Squad! Max would like to thank his company and directors for their support!

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>TheatreWorks Young Playwrights Project</i>	Mar 2021
<i>Spring Musical</i>	Apr 2021
<i>Student Directed One Acts</i>	May 2021

More info at:
hillsdaledrama.com

ABOUT THE CAST



ENZO MARINI FERREIRA * *Chad*

Enzo is a senior at Hillsdale High School and is very optimistic about being in Hillsdale's first virtual play! This is Enzo's fifth show at Hillsdale. You might recognize him from previous productions, like when he made the whole audience laugh with "Kiki/Darius/Sire" in Hillsdale's *The House On Mango Street*. Enzo's previous roles also include playing "Mind" in *Everybody* and "Ensemble" for *Chicago* and *She Kills Monsters*. Enzo is in Advanced Drama and is the Vice President of Hillsdale's Drama Club. He would like to thank all his friends, family, and Ms. Gamlen for all the support and for always believing in him. He hopes you enjoy our production of *Almost, Maine* as much as he does!



EVA MONTGOMERY * *Gayle*

Eva is a senior and thrilled to be performing in Hillsdale's first virtual show. She has previously been seen as "Gavroche" in Hillsdale's production of *Les Miserables*, "Senses" in *Everybody* directed by Amy Bruhns, and "Ensemble" in *Chicago*, *Les Miserables*, *Beauty & the Beast*, and Hillbarn's *Spring Awakening*. She is currently enrolled in Ms. Gamlen's advanced drama class and Co-President of Hillsdale High School's GSA. She would like to thank her friends, family, and the company of *Almost, Maine*.



MAE MONTGOMERY * *Marvalyn*

Mae is a senior and stoked to be performing in her 6th Hillsdale show. She has previously been seen as "Chuck" in Hillsdale's production of *She Kills Monsters*, "Stuff" in *Everybody* directed by Amy Bruhns, and "Ensemble" in *Chicago*, *Les Miserables*, *Beauty & the Beast*, and Hillbarn's *Spring Awakening*. She is currently enrolled in Ms. Gamlen's advanced drama class, the publicist for

Drama Club, and enjoying her last year on The HIT Squad. *Almost, Maine*?? More like Forever, Maine!!



GIANA PAPAVALSILIOU * *Glory*

Giana is a senior and is over the moon excited to be a part of her fourth Hillsdale High School production! You may have seen her as "Soupy Sue" in *Urinetown* (at Hillbarn), *Chicago*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe*. Giana is also in Ms. Gamlen's advanced drama class and treasurer of the drama club. She would like to thank Ms. Gamlen for this amazing experience over zoom, her family and friends for all the love and support.



CASSANDRA SINGER * *Hope*

Cassandra is a freshman and beyond ecstatic to be performing in her first show at Hillsdale. She has played various characters in productions in the past, including "the Wizard" in *Once Upon a Mattress Jr.*, "Whitney" in *Legally Blonde Jr.*, and "Mrs. Mayor" in *Seussical Jr.* Cassandra is currently taking beginning dance at Hillsdale, and is a member of the Drama Club. Besides drama, she is super excited for her first cross country/track season at Hillsdale, and is extremely grateful for all the support from her friends and family. Huge thanks to Ms. Gamlen, as well as the amazing cast and crew!



JAMIE SLOVES * *Rhonda*

Jamie is a sophomore and ecstatic to be performing in her second Hillsdale production! Previously with Hillsdale she was "Ensemble" in *Chicago*. With her middle school, Abbott, you may have seen her as "The Wolf" in *Into The Woods* or "Mushu" in *Mulan*. Jamie was previously in Ms. Gamlen's Intermediate Drama class, and is currently loving Advanced Drama. She is also a member of Drama club,

ABOUT THE CAST

but outside of drama, she loves swimming, biking, reading, singing, playing the piano, hiking, and is a part of the Mock Trial team at Hillsdale. She would like to thank her family for their support and Ms. Gamlen for making this production possible.



ANDI TAYLOR ❄️ *Lendall*

Andi is simply over the moon about performing in her second Hillsdale Drama show. Her past roles include “Tilly Evans” in Hillsdale’s *She Kills Monsters*, “The Baker’s Wife” in Abbott Middle School’s *Into the Woods Jr.* and “Laozi” in *Mulan Jr.* She is a sophomore in Ms. Gamlen’s Advanced Drama class, and also enjoys being a member of Bring Change to Mind and the Creative Writing Club. She would like to thank the fabulous company of *Almost, Maine* and her directors of both the present and past. Enjoy the performance!



ISABEL VANCEA ❄️ *Sandrine*

Isabel is beyond excited to be performing in *Almost, Maine* with Hillsdale Drama! This is her second show at Hillsdale, she is a sophomore in Ms. Gamlen’s Advanced Drama class. She has most recently been seen in *She Kills Monsters*, last year as “Evil Gabbi”, and has been in other shows with her middle school such as *Into the Woods*, *Mulan*, and *High School Musical*, along with several shows at Hillbarn Theatre. When not performing, she enjoys dancing and singing, and is also a part of Hillsdale’s JV Cheer Squad. She would like to thank Ms. Gamlen for being an amazing director, and her friends and family for always believing in her and supporting her. Enjoy the show!



JT WAUGH ❄️ *East, Randy*

JT is a senior and thrilled to be a part of Hillsdale’s first virtual show, and his 5th Hillsdale Drama Production, *Almost, Maine!* He is a proud Stage Manager of Hillsdale’s Drama and Dance

productions with some credits including *Chicago*, *Knight Moves XXI* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Recent theatrical roles include “Love” in *Everybody* and “Marco” in *Bloodlust* and film credits including “AA Leader” in *Taking Responsibility* and “Rich” in *6 Feet*. He’s also a proud 3 year member of The HIT Squad and an active member in Hillsdale’s Student Leadership. He’s so fortunate to be continuing theatre in this virtual setting and sends a huge thanks to the talented cast, crew and production team. Forever, MAEine <3.



McKENNA WHYTE-SHEARER ❄️ *Waitress*

McKenna is a sophomore at Hillsdale High School and is exhilarated to be a part of her first play at Hillsdale, especially over new scenery with Zoom! She has been in previous productions such as *Into the Woods* as “The Witch”, *Mulan Jr.* as “Zhang”, and *Madame Butterfly*, as “Sorrow”. She is currently enjoying her Intermediate Drama class with Ms. Gamlen at Hillsdale, remote vocal lessons every other week, and listening and playing music such as singing, piano, guitar, and ukulele in her free time, as well as art and tennis. McKenna would like to thank the immense support from relatives, instructors, directors and company.



IAN WRIGHT ❄️ *Man*

Ian is a sophomore who is excited to be in his second Hillsdale High School production. He has previously been in the ensemble of *She Kills Monsters* and has played the roles of “Mysterious Man” in *Into the Woods* and “Ensemble Member” in *Mulan*. Currently, he is in Ms. Gamlen’s intermediate drama class. He also enjoys playing *Dungeons and Dragons*. He would like to thank his friends and family. Enjoy the show.



ABOUT THE CREW



CHARLOTTE FENWICK * *Sound Designer & Board Operator*

Charlotte is super excited to take part in her fourth Hillsdale High School production! Charlotte is currently a junior at Hillsdale and Middle College. She has

done crew for *The House on Mango Street* and *Chicago* for Hillsdale as well as for *Matilda* with Pied Piper Players. She also sound designed for *She Kills Monsters* with Hillsdale. While she loves to spend time backstage, Charlotte also has some onstage experience with St. Charles School as well as being a member of the H.I.T Squad. Charlotte would like to thank her friends and family for all their support and love. Enjoy the show!



GIOVANNA GHENO * *Publicity*

Giovanna is currently a Junior at HHS and is very excited to help in this year's play. She participated in the production of *The House On Mango Street* as Lois /Ensemble. Although she did not get in the cast

this year, she decided it would be fun to be apart of the crew as she had helped with a few shows in the past such as *Alice in Wonderland* and a combination of *The Lion King*, *Into The Woods*, & *Wizard of Oz* and *She Kills Monsters*. When she is out of the theater you can find her acting completely insane with her friends. She would like to give some little written hugs to her friends and family, especially during these troubling times.



MIA GUZMAN * *Costumel Hair/Makeup*

Mia is a junior at Hillsdale High School and is thrilled to be working on her first Hillsdale Drama production, *Almost, Maine!* She is a new student at Hillsdale who could

not be more excited to work with her peers in order to make this production remarkable. Mia is involved in various different clubs, as well as Ms.Gamlen's beginning drama class. Outside of school, she enjoys watching

movies, and going on adventures as often as she can. She would like to thank her friends and family, the hardworking cast and crew, and the director for all that they put into this. Enjoy the show!



KATHERINE LIM * *Stage Crew*

Katherine is a current sophomore and thrilled to be in her second Hillsdale production! Katherine was on stage crew for *She Kills Monsters* last year and she has previously been seen on stage in *Mulan Jr*, *Into the Woods Jr*, and *High School Musical Jr*, all with Abbott Middle School. At school, Katherine is part of the Chamber Singers and is in Bring Change to Mind club which works to break the stigma around mental health. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music, hanging out with friends and family, and baking. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support and encouragement! :)



MELINA NAZARIAN * *Costumel Hair/Makeup*

Melina is a freshman and is super excited to be working on her first show ever! She has always wanted to be a part of something special like a play. She is part of Ms.Gamlen's beginning drama class. She is also a part of the H.I.T squad. Melina loves to talk to her friends, journal, and act. She plays basketball and runs cross country. She wants to thank everyone who has been kind to her and hopes you like the show!



HOLLY SHEK * *Stage Manager*

Holly is a junior and ecstatic to be part of Hillsdale's *Almost, Maine!* She has previously been stage manager for Hillsdale's *She Kills Monsters*, *The House on Mango Street*, and *Everybody!* As well as assistant stage manager for *Chicago* and *Beauty & the Beast*. Holly is a proud member of Hillsdale's Leadership. She loves helping her community in any way possible and going out

ABOUT THE CREW

on spontaneous adventures. Huge thanks to her friends and family! Big shout out to the entire cast, crew, and production team for all the work they put into this! Enjoy this lovely, warm-hearted show!



JAMES SNOWBALL * *Assistant Stage Manager/Sets & Props*

James is a senior and is excited to be taking part in *Almost, Maine*. James has previously been crew for Hillsdale's *Les Miserables* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Beauty and the Beast, The House on Mango Street, Chicago, and She Kills Monsters*. He is looking forward to applying the skills he has learnt to contribute to the success of the show. He hopes everyone who comes to the show enjoys it. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.



ANNA VANDERFORD * *Costume/Hair/Makeup Lead*

Anna is a senior and is super excited to be working on one of her last Hillsdale productions! She has been involved in Hillsdale performances since her Freshman year, including being a part of Dance Ensemble. Anna has also recently performed as a "Merry Murderess" in *Chicago* and as a dancer in *Beauty and the Beast*. Outside of performing, Anna enjoys

hanging out with her friends, buying clothes, and being a part of Ms. Gamlen's advanced Drama class. She wants to thank her family, friends, wonderful Director, and the rest of the *Almost, Maine* company for their hard work and support. Enjoy the show!!!



ERIKA WENCESLAO * *Publicity*

Erika is exhilarated about being in Hillsdale Drama's production of *Almost, Maine*. She is currently a junior and this will be her fifth show with Hillsdale Drama. She has done cast including "Monster ensemble" in *She Kills Monsters*, "Judge" in *Chicago*, "Aunt Lala/Ensemble" in *The House on Mango Street*, but this is her second time on crew! Offstage, Erika loves learning ASL, is Outside Advisor for drama club, obnoxiously singing alone, talkin' w/ friends and currently trains with Ms. Gamlen in Advanced Drama! She would like to thank Ms. Gamlen for this opportunity, the company and her friends+family! She hopes you kick back, relax, & enjoy the show!



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CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!



left to right: Giana Papavasiliou, Enzo Marini Ferreira, Max Kranzler, Eva Montgomery, Mae Montgomery, JT Waugh, Anna Vanderford, James Snowball (not shown)

Thank You

To the Neuendorff Family for your generous support of the
Hillsdale High School Drama program



DRAMA BOOSTERS COMMITTEES

Thanks to all our volunteers!

Almost, Maine has been a great experience thanks in part to the support of our cast/crew families. Many thanks to all for giving what they could!

The extraordinary efforts of the family members listed below pushed the show into the category of extra amazing.

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ADELA WRIGHT

LOVE NOTES

TERESA MONTGOMERY

PROGRAM

KAREN GHENO

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Thank you Boosters!

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COSTUME, PROP, SET LEAD

JOSEPHINE TAYLOR

Messages from the Drama Board

This performance is different from all that came before it. Way different.

We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the numerous unique challenges faced and solutions discovered during the weeks leading up to opening night. And, we'd be foolish not fill this page with expressions of gratitude; especially towards our director, Allison Gamlen, who wouldn't give up. Our individual messages follow below:

"I am truly grateful to be member of this amazing Hillsdale Drama Community. We have the most talented kids led by the best director, Allison Gamlen, and the most wonderful parents. Through the years we have made lifelong friendships and have had experiences that will last a lifetime. Everyone has been hit hard with COVID but I am so excited that we can virtually bring *Almost, Maine* to the Bay Area. I am truly honored to be part of this.

-LEA PAPAVALIOU, CO-PRESIDENT

"Disembodied heads, robot voices, dropped zoom connections, choreographing ironing board whacks and prop pass-offs so cast members appear to be together and not miles apart. The list of challenges is long but Allison tackled them all. She deserves a medal and 1,000 bags of love!"

-TERESA MONTGOMERY, CO-PRESIDENT

"I am truly thankful to be part of this spectacular drama community. And an especially heartfelt thank you to Ms. Gamlen for choosing to take us on the wonderful journey to the town of "*Almost, Maine*" and give our students an experience to remember.

-MARNI SLOVES, CO-VICE PRESIDENT

"I am thankful for our friends and family who have surrounded our communities with support and love."

-ANNETTE KRANZLER, CO-VICE PRESIDENT

"I am so fortunate and thankful to be a part of this drama community. It is so special to see all these amazing and talented kids performing on stage and now virtually! Also, very appreciative of Allison Gamlen who has always gone above and beyond to give our kids the best experience possible."

-ZAF KYRIAKIS, CO-TREASURER

"In this time of isolation for many, I am thankful that our kids had the opportunity to come together and create something to bring a sense of joy and love to the community. Thank you, Allison, for making this happen :)"

-KERI VANCEA, CO-TREASURER

"I cannot tell you when the cheering precisely started, but I can say that it was caused when Ms. Gamlen announced she was doing *Almost, Maine*. Thank you for your vision and drive to lead this unforgettable and exciting virtual production. Honestly Allison, it helped fulfill a deep longing your students were feeling during these unique times. More importantly, you gave them a sense of normalcy, community and pride. Take a bow and accept our gratitude and love!"

-JOSEPHINE TAYLOR, COSTUME/PROP/SET LEAD

LOVE NOTES

CAST & CREW

Cast and Crew - thank you for taking this journey with me and for all your hard work bringing this beautiful play to life. Working with you has been the highlight of my year. Looking forward to being back onstage soon!
- Love, Ms. Gamlen

Congratulations cast and crew of *Almost Maine!* I love and miss you guys!
- Vickie

SENIORS

I'm so proud of you! From *Les Miserables* to *She Kills Monsters*, I've loved working with you during these last four years in classes and in shows. Your dedication, talent and leadership has made our department what it is today. Congratulations on *Almost, Maine!* Looking forward to what comes next in the Spring!
- Love, Ms. Gamlen



JULIETA CUBERO GARCIA

Julieta, no te puedes imaginar lo orgullosos que estamos de todo el camino que has recorrido y el esfuerzo que has puesto. ¡Te queremos mucho!
- Mamá y papá.

CHARLOTTE FENWICK

Way to go, Charlotte!
♥ The B's

ENZO FERREIRA

Son, we are so proud of you! You are so special and important in our lives. Every day I see how much you have developed and shine in everything you do. Mom and Dad love you very much. You are our treasure. Good vibes for your new project. Success always!

GIOVANNA GHENO

Giovanna (Gianni!): So appreciate you sharing this love of theatre with us: "If I had a penny for everything I love about you, I would have many pennies."

♥ Love you, proud of you! Mom, Dad, Elly, Bruno (+b, n & !!)

MIA GUZMAN

So proud of you Mia and know this is just the start of what your future will be!
- Mom and Dad



OWEN KALMBACH

Owen — Congratulations on your first HHS production! We are so proud of the hard work and dedication you've put into Pete & Jimmy.
- xoxo — Mom, Dad, Kellen & Schuyler

SAMUEL KEMP

Samuel, great work! It's fun to see you jump into drama with both feet in your freshman year.
- Love mum, dad, and Audrey

ALEXANDRA KOLB

Lexi, We always love and enjoy watching you in your performances. You did an amazing job as Marci - so serious and well acted. We love you!
- Mom, Dad, and Jacob.

MAX KRANZLER

We are so proud of you Max!! We love u!! What an amazing four years of hillsdale drama !!!

KATHERINE LIM

Katherine - We love you and are so proud of you. Keep reaching for the stars.
- Love, Daddy, Mommy, Caroline and Harrison.

LOVE NOTES

- MAE & EVA MONTGOMERY** Street urchin, “lovely ladies,” nun, dishes, villagers...every fall you’ve made us proud!
- XO, Mom & Dad
- MELINA NAZARIAN** Meli - Congratulations on your first production! We are so proud of you!
- Love Mom, Dad & Daron
- GIANA PAPAVALIOU** GG, We are so proud of you. We love you !
- Love, Dad, mom and Paul
I love you so much, “Patrick” and I are so proud of you! You’re amazing!
- Vickie
- HOLLY SHEK** You rock, Holly!!!
- Love, Mom, Dad, Carson & Mira
- CASSANDRA SINGER** Cassandra: The family loves seeing you perform and having fun, loving what you do. We are so proud. Xo

- JAMIE SLOVES** Jamie- Jeezum Crow- you are truly amazing!
- Love, mom and dad.
- JAMES SNOWBALL** We are so proud of you James !
- Love Mom, Dad, Sam and Will xx
- ANDI TAYLOR** We’re your biggest fans, Andi!! And that’s not just coming from us but the entire fam bam! We’re so proud of you.
- Love, Mom and Dad
- ISABEL VANCEA** Isabel, Congratulations!! We are so proud of you and always love to see you perform!! Keep following your dreams
- xoxo Mom, Dad and Ramona
- ANNA VANDERFORD** Anna - You make us so proud whether you’re onstage or backstage. Great job on Costume Crew! We love you so much! XOXO
- Gavin, Shay, and Mom

- JT WAUGH** We are SO PROUD of you JT! Such an amazing 4 years of theater work and we can’t wait to see what your future holds! Sky is the limit ♥
We love you,
Dad, Mom, Erick, Georgie and Jessie
- ERIKA WENCESLAO** As your parents, we admired you’re being flexible studying hard and joining such beautiful, learning and enjoyable extra activity in sch. Keep up the good work.
- MCKENNA WHYTE-SHEARER** McKenna, you are an exceptional young woman. No words can describe the love and pride we have for you. All the world’s a stage you are an amazing player!
- IAN WRIGHT** Ian: You are the bright spot in this crazy year. P.S. You rock that top hat.

You rock Andi!!!

Congratulations on a job well done portraying Lendell – virtually!
You, the cast and the crew rose to meet the challenge and succeeded.
Bravo! We're so proud of you!

Love, Mom & Dad



IT'S A TOP
HAT.

I WEAR A
TOP HAT
NOW.

TOP HATS
ARE COOL.



Max

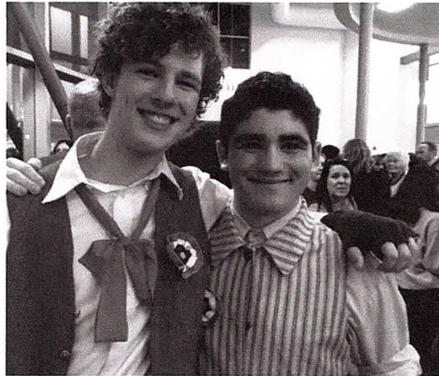
Congratulations on 4 FABULOUS years
of Hillsdale Drama...

From **Les Mis** to **Almost, Maine** you
are and always will be our shining star!!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Jordan & Aaron



Beauty & The Beast



Les Mis

Owen

from your first middle school role
to now your first high school role,
you are a joy to watch as an actor!



love, your fan club

(parents, brother, grandparents,
aunts, uncles, cousins, dogs & cat)

FAMILY

Jamie

Great Job on always making the most of a situation. This was not the fall you expected, but you pushed yourself (virtually rehearsing even after staring at a screen all day). We are proud of you and loved running lines with you for "Seeing the Thing."

Love, Mom and Dad



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give to the Family Partnership Program.
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a standing ovation!**

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