



Youth Ensemble Theatre Inc.

Almost, Maine

by: John Cariani



Directed by: Jason White
Assistant Directed by: Joshua Huggins

January 20th-29th

Childsplay Campus of Imagination & Wonder

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 and Bruce Payne.

A note from the director...



Almost, Maine is a really fun show and a unique challenge for actors. It tells so many story's about love and loss with such unique and magical characters that it presents challenges to the actors on how to embody people that have this sense of whimsy. Not only are the characters magical, but the way John Cariani writes the location of Almost, Maine, and the northern lights make this play feel like something between a fairy tale and reality. I think this is why it's a really popular play for high schools to do. So how do you make a unique experience for both the audience and the cast? When the YETI ensemble selected Almost, Maine we knew that it would be performed here in the Schilling. So my concept from the beginning was to not fight the space that we have. We are in a very intimate space that doesn't have a light grid, so let's just let the show be very intimate and not make this into a massive show and let the people of Almost, Maine be the focus of the story. Almost, Maine has been one of my absolute favorite plays for a very long time so getting to direct it with these young people has been a dream come true. Thank you for coming to the show and thank you for continuing to support YETI!

Cast

Prologue, Interlogue, Epilogue

Pete.....Griffin Hicks

Ginette.....KC Rawlings

Her Heart

East.....Finn Wisdom

Glory.....Ella Kenney

Sad & Glad

Jimmy.....Palmer Bowen

Sandrine.....Grace Gass

Waitress.....Ella Kenney

This Hurts

Marvalyn.....Piper Smith

Steve.....Finn Wisdom

Getting Back

Gayle.....Sadie Benavidez

Lendall.....Nik Good

They Fell

Deena.....Alexandria Cloonan-Schulte

Shelly.....Palmer Bowen

Where it Went

Phil.....Fern White

Marci.....KC Rawlings

Story of Hope

Hope.....Alexandria Cloonan-Schulte

Man.....Griffin Hicks

Suzette.....Fern White

Seeing the Thing

Rhonda.....Mariah Ledesma

Dave.....Nik Good



- Meet the Cast -



Alex Cloonan-Schulte is a sophomore at Desert Vista High School, and she is so excited to be doing her second show with Yeti! She has previously done This Girl laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl does Nothing with Yeti, and has also graduated from Childsplay's conservatory program. Other acting credits include Alice in Wonderland and Mamma Mia at Desert Vista's Thunder Theatre Company and Fiddler on the Roof at Altadena Middle School



Ella Kenney is 14 years old and has been involved in Childsplay classes since she was 7. She has completed the 5 year Conservatory program and is in her second season of YETi. Last season she was Beatrix in This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing (YETi). She has also taken advantage of every performance opportunity at school as well. She is now in her sixth year of school choir, currently in advanced chorus at Marcos de Niza high school and in advanced theater and dance classes as well. Two of the many roles she has portrayed in the past are Veruca Salt in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Cat in HONK! Jr. (Kyrene Middle School) as well as roles in elementary school and other shows. She is currently in the Marcos Fine Arts Academy on track to get the seal of proficiency in Musical Theatre.



Fern White is in tenth grade at Tempe Preparatory Academy, and is playing Phil (Where it Went) and Suzette (Story of Hope). They have been spending their summers at Childsplay since they were four years old. Since then, they have acted in many Childsplay summer camps, school productions, and other plays and musicals, including four years of Childsplay conservatory. Fern has played Mrs. Andrew in Marry Poppins, the Narrator/father in This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing (Childsplay), Naphtali/the baker in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Tempe Preparatory Academy), Zazu in the Lion King (Phoenix Youth Theater), and Charlie Cowell in The Music Man, among others.



Finn Wisdom has never done anything with Childsplay/YETi and this is his first show he will ever be in. He is a Freshman at Corona del Sol and is very excited to be apart of this show.



Grace Gass is very excited to be joining the cast of Almost Maine. This is her Childsplay YETI debut and is ready to show the world her acting skills. Grace is an eight grader at Our Lady of Mount Carmel school. She enjoys watching tv and hanging out with her friends in her free time. Thank you to Jason White for casting her and taking a chance with her. Thank you to the cast and crew for being supportive and encouraging. Thank you to her sister for helping her with all of her acting.



Griffin Hicks joined the Childsplay program in 2022, this is his first play with the ensemble. He is in the 8th grade in the Paradise Valley Unified School District. He has been studying drama with the North Valley Arts Academy for the past year. His interest in drama began in the third grade with a school theatre program and ignited his love for the arts.



KC Rawlings joined Childsplay through the Conservatory program in 2017. They graduated this previous semester and are glad to be back and working as a part of YETi. Their previous productions with Childsplay include Ensemble in The Life Of Virginia Woolf (Childsplay), Grande Dame in The Murder Mystery (Childsplay), and Ruth in Sweet Goodbyes And Bitter Hellos (Childsplay), Aunt Josephine/Ensemble in A Series Of Unfortunate Events (Keystone Montessori), and Rhoda/Beth in A Haunting We Will Go (Keystone Montessori).



Mariah, who's playing the role of Rhonda in 'Almost Maine' is overjoyed to have joined the YETi ensemble this year. This will be her first ever production with YETi, and she is thrilled to be working with a new cast! Previous productions she's been in include The Audition as Sarah, This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing as Carmen, Rehearsal for Murder as Sally, and Two Gentlemen of Verona as Lucetta. Mariah is actively involved in theatre projects at her school and has even designed posters for the productions This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing, as well as the audition poster for Rehearsal for Murder. She is excited to follow a new path and act with amazing actors, in this production.



Nikolas Good is a senior at Horizon High School and is elated to be in his first YETi production at Childsplay. He was an intern in the summer of 2022, where he was Assistant Technical Director for Freaky Friday Jr., and is currently a YETi ensemble member. Along with Childsplay, Nik has been a part of the theater world since he was 8, where he began acting at Scottsdale Preparatory Academy, and quickly fell in love with Technical theater. He is currently Stage Managing his 4th show, The Addams Family at Horizon High School. Nik is excited to attend The OpenJAR Institute TECH Intensive in New York City this summer, where he will get the opportunity to work with Broadway technicians and designers for 7 days. He'd like to thank Ms. Batres, Thomas Underdal and his family, for all their mentorship and encouragement to pursue theater throughout his youth.



Palmer Bowen is excited to be part of Almost Maine, as Waitress and Shelly. This will be Palmer's second show with Youth Ensemble Theatre Inc.(YETi). Her Previous shows include: Carmen in This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries and This Girl Does Nothing (YETi), The Cowardly Lion in The Wizard of OZ, Murren in HONK jr, Narrator in A Night with Shel Silverstein (Kyrene MS Theatre Ensemble). Along with these shows, and many others, Palmer has Also participated in 4 semesters of Childsplay musical theatre conservatory and is a current YETi member.



Piper Smith is 14 years old and is a freshman at Corona. She started acting in 5th grade and some of her previous roles include Winifred in Mary Poppins (Childsplay), an Oompa Loompa and a reporter in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Pocahontas in Stuck!, and Dot in Honk! Jr. (Kyrene Middle School.) She is currently in her 6th year of school choir and is also participating in TheatreWorks, Corona's theater club. This is her 1st year in a YETi show and she is excited to perform!



Sadie Benavidez is a sophomore at Horizon High School. She is very excited to be apart of her first show through YETI. Sadie has been performing in theater around the community for many years. Some of her favorite roles include Cookie Cusack in Rumors, Olive Ostrovsky in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Jimmy Awards: Best Female Lead Nominee 2022), Mollie Ralston in The Mousetrap (Horizon High School), Big Fish (AriZoni Award: Best Overall Production), White Christmas (Almost Famous Theater Company), Elsa in Frozen, Ariel in The Little Mermaid, Violet Beauregard in Willy Wonka, and Annie in Annie (Art and Sol), as well as many others. Sadie is so grateful to be apart of this production.

- Meet the Crew -

Director.....Jason White
Assistant Director.....Joshua Huggins
Intimacy Director.....Jacob Buttry
Stage Manager.....Alexis Nomorosa
Assistant Stage Manager.....Zoe Garner
Scenic & Props Design.....Thomas Underdal
Scenic & Props Apprentice.....KC Rawlings
Costume & Makeup Design.....Briannah Simmons
Costume & Makeup Apprentice.....Ella Kenney
Lighting Design.....Dylan Prentis
Lighting Design Apprentice.....Nik Good
Sound Design.....Brianna Fallon
Sound Design Apprentice..Alexandria Cloonan-Schulte

- YETi Ensemble -

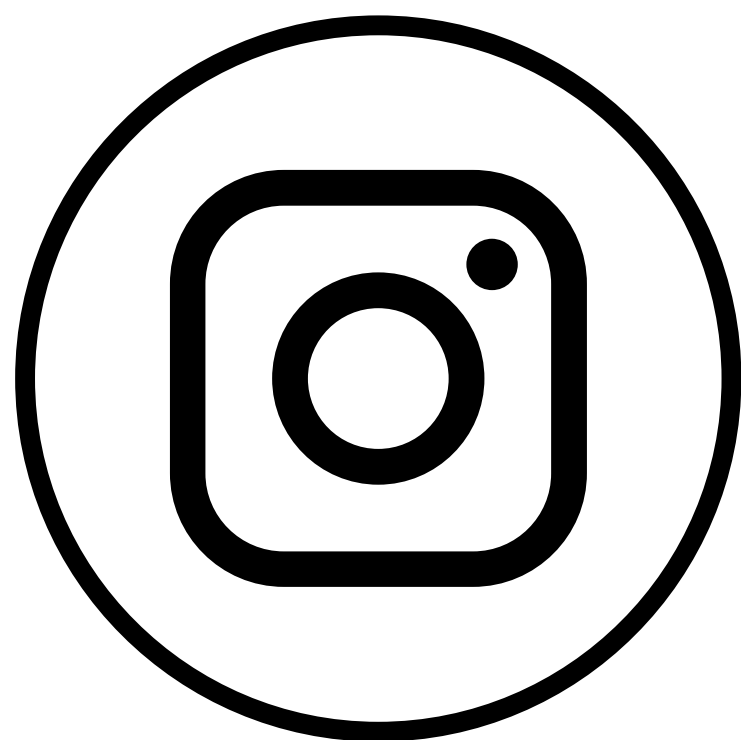
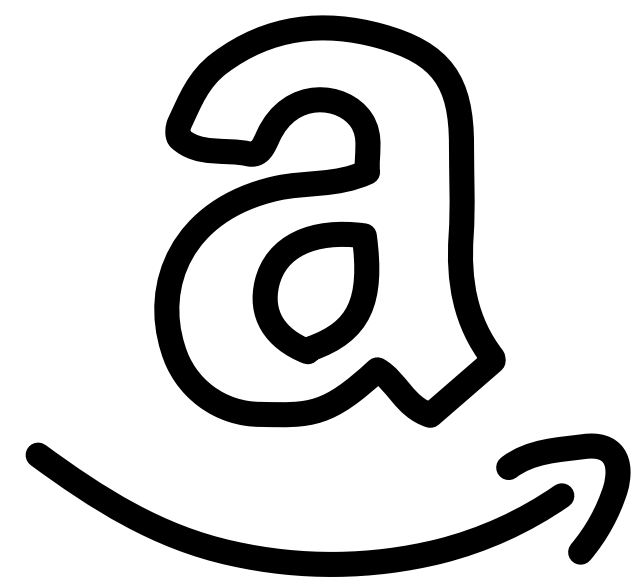
Events & Fundraising.....Alexandria Cloonan-Schulte
Social Media & Marketing.....Ella Kenney
Admin.....Josh Huggins
Events & Fundraising.....KC Rawlings
Social Media & Marketing.....Mariah Ledesma
Admin.....Nik Good
Events & Fundraising.....Palmer Bowen
Events & Fundraising Mentor.....Dylan Prentis
Social Media & Marketing Mentor.....Brianna Fallon
Admin Mentor.....Jason White

Other ways to Support YETi



Visit
childsplayaz.org/donate
for donations

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Wishlist**



Follow us on
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-Special Thanks-

To all of the amazing caregivers who drive the actors to and from rehearsals and making this opportunity accessible to your child.

The YETi ensemble for selecting this show and putting in the work and raising funds to produce It!

Childsplay for sharing your resources with us and being our older sibling showing us the ropes.

Places! Productions for lending us your lighting equipment.

Calvin Legassie for helping us gather supplies and get the space set up.

Thomas Underdal for all of your extra help on all the little things that people might not notice.

Gail Wolfenden for ALWAYS being there for literally anything we need.

Joel Segraves for always letting us grab random things from your shop.

Johnny Pickett for building the flats and making time for us to grab set pieces.

**Join us for our upcoming
production!**

Directed by Bertha Cortes

**Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a
Certain School of Magic and Magic**



**Auditions will
be In March!
Sign up to be
the first to
hear about it!**

**Performing at the Tempe
Center for the Arts Studio
June 22nd - June 30th**