



CONEJO PLAYERS
THEATRE

Almost, Maine

by John Cariani

**WIN an original work
of art featured in the show!**

Bidding will take place at the
end of each performance.

See artist's statement
on p. 6

Welcome to **CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE**



I want to welcome you to Conejo Players Theatre. This has been a very special place in my life for the past 34 years! I'll never forget receiving an audition notice for *Evita* when we first moved to Agoura Hills; I had no idea then how enriched our lives would be with our amazing CPT family.

I have learned so much from these special people who support our theatre in so many ways: producers, directors, choreographers, actors, technical crew, stage crew, orchestra members, staff, and the incredible volunteers who make this all possible.

We are truly blessed to have Conejo Players Theatre in our community. CPT not only brings the best of theatre to us, but each volunteer has also helped build an inspiring and magical place where everyone can take a journey that will enhance and change their lives forever. **Whatever your passion is — whether it be seeing a great show, building sets, costuming, performing, directing, producing, ushering, etc. — we invite you to take this journey with us and become a part of our family.**

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CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE

presents

Almost, Maine

by **John Cariani**

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service

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**

Original Music by **Julian Fleisher**

Conejo Players Theatre • Thousand Oaks, CA

Sep 7 - Oct 3, 2021

Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm

Thur Sep 23 at 8:00pm

Production **STAFF**

Director	Beth Eslick
Producer	Elena Mills
Stage Manager	Mark Joseph Suarez
Set Designer	Rick Steinberg
Lighting Designer	Jack Allaway
Lighting Designer Assistant	Jim Diderrich
Costume Designer	Betty Fuhrmann
Sound Designer	Jeremy Zeller
Props & Set Decorator	John Eslick
Original Artwork	Robert Chambers
Sound Board Operator	Abigail Reeves
Light Board Operator	John Eslick
Promo Photos	Aaron Kirsch
Lobby Board	Stacy Mills
Construction Crew	Bob Jackson, Lee Marks, John Holroyd, Rick Steinberg, Max Honigsberg
Painting Crew	Rick Steinberg, John Eslick, Carl Garcia, James Coblentz, Eric Pierce, Mark Suarez, Elena Mills

Special Thanks

Carl Garcia, Patrick Rogers, Jill Dolan, Tina Marconi at Iceoplex

From THE DIRECTOR

Often, people don't get to do what they dream about doing. What they spend their time figuring out, planning, and hoping to execute. What an immense pleasure it is that I got to work with these six amazing humans and direct them in this beautiful show. I am beyond grateful to Elena Mills, my amazing producer, Mark Suarez, the ultimate Stage Manager, and my incredible staff and crew. Their hard work is what helped make my dream come to life.

Since the first time I saw *Almost, Maine*, I was drawn in by the "realness" of every single character, the "every-dayness" of every situation, and the amount of love each scene shows us. Love isn't always pretty. Love doesn't have all the answers. Love often doesn't turn out like we think it should. But love will always prevail. Love is what makes us human and sets us apart from other creatures. Feeling love for someone can cause us to leap over the highest mountain or crawl through the deepest valley (okay, usually figuratively)...but love is what help us see clearly into each other's hearts.

Please sit back, relax, and feel the love that each of these residents of Almost is showing you. And take some of that love with you – store it in your heart, share it with a friend, keep it for yourself. We all deserve it.

With all my love,

- *Beth Eslick, Director*

The CAST

Robert Chambers Jimmy/Steve/Lendall (also Chad/Man 9/25-26)
James Coblentz Waitress/Marvalyn/Rhonda/Voice of Suzette
Carl Garcia East/Randy/Dave (also Pete/Phil 9/25-26)
Rose Hunter Ginette/Gayle/Marci (also Waitress/Voice of Suzette 9/25)
Eric Pierce Pete/Chad/Phil/Man
Heather Smith Glory/Sandrine/Hope (also Marvalyn/Rhonda 9/25)

Scene BREAKDOWN

Prologue - Pete, Ginette
Her Heart - East, Glory
Sad and Glad - Jimmy, Sandrine, Waitress
This Hurts - Steve, Marvalyn
Getting It Back - Lendall, Gayle
Interlogue - Pete
INTERMISSION
They Fell - Randy, Chad
Where It Went - Phil, Marci
Story of Hope - Daniel, Hope
Seeing the Thing - Dave, Rhonda
Epilogue - Pete, Ginette



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The **SETTING**

Almost, Maine, a town that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States—it's almost in Canada. And it almost doesn't exist. Because its residents never got around to getting organized. So it's just...Almost.

Meet **THE CAST**



Robert Chambers (Jimmy/Steve/Lendall) It's been three years since Robert last appeared on stage, which was as the riotous Phelim O'Shaughnessy in *Mark Twain's Is He Dead?* Before that, he was seen as Patrick in Agatha Christie's whodunit *A Murder is Announced*. Even though it's been three years since being ON stage, Robert has not been MIA as he has been behind-the-scenes on many productions, mostly directing sound. If you thought to yourself, "wow, the show sounds amazing!" - chances are Robert was behind the dials. Robert wishes to thank Beth Eslick and Elena Mills for the opportunity to tell these stories. Shout out to his KPWH CCM crew for their support and encouragement, friends who checked in over the last year, WW for the motivation and inspiration, and lastly — you the audience, for being here. Thank you all!!



James Coblentz (Waitress/Marvalyn/Rhonda/Voice of Suzette) is thrilled to be joining the Conejo Players Family! She recently was a prop intern at Seattle Rep Theatre after getting her theatre degree at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. There she had the honor of playing Anne in *All My Sons*, Phoebe in *As You Like It*, and was nominated for an Irene Ryan Award for her portrayal of Myrtle Webb in *Our Town*. She currently spends her days as a high school teacher and hopes none of her students are in the audience today! She wishes to thank her ever supportive family for all their love and a big thank you to anyone taking the time to read her bio! Enjoy the show!



Carl Garcia (East/Randy/Dave) is happy to be back at Conejo Players for the second time. A few of his favorite previous performances include Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice* at the California Shakespeare Company, Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors* at Glendale Centre Theatre, and Tony in *You Can't Take it With You* at Conejo Players Theatre. He has also been working as an actor with the LA Troupe Theater in Education for the past 4 years and has worked as a cinematographer and director for many productions over the past 12 years. Carl would like to extend his thanks to Beth and Elena for giving him a shot to be on stage with this insanely talented cast and crew, to Molly for being so supportive through all of his meltdowns while preparing for this production, and to Robert, James, Rose, Eric, and Heather for being such a welcoming and awesome group of artists. You all make me better every day. www.imdb.me/carlgarcia



Rose Hunter (Ginette/Gayle/Marci) graduated with a BFA in Acting from The Chicago College of Performing Arts Theatre Conservatory in 2017. Originally from St. Louis Missouri, she currently resides in Los Angeles. Past favorite theatre roles include Jo March (*Little Women*), Mary Lennox (*The Secret Garden*), Helen Keller (*The Miracle Worker*), Charlotte (*Charlotte's Web*), and Ophelia (*Hamlet*). Thank you to Mom, for your unwavering support and love.



Eric Pierce (Pete/Chad/Phil/Man) having performed at theatres in Thousand Oaks, Long Beach, Pasadena, and everywhere in between, he is a veteran of the stage. Eric received his BFA in performance from the University of Michigan and migrated to Los Angeles in 2008. You may have seen him in that thing one time. Recent credits include: *That Thing You Saw That Was Kind of Okay*, and *That Thing You Didn't See That Was Really Really Good*.



Heather Smith (Glory/Sandrine/Hope) is thrilled to be back on the Conejo Players stage. She was last seen as Claire in 2019's Proof. Some of her favorite past credits are: *The Rainmaker* (Lizzy Curry), *The 39 Steps* (Anabella/Margaret/Pamela), *Cannibals, Alone* (Mags), Happy Armenians LA & Sacramento tour (Siran) and Theatre Unleashed's *It's a Wonderful Life: the Radio Play* (Melanie). Heather is a resident member of Theatre Unleashed in Los Angeles. Thank you to Beth and Elena and the entire cast and crew for bringing this beautiful story to the stage at a time we could all use a little more love in the world. To my friends and family who never miss a show, I love you and thank you for always encouraging my crazy dreams. And to my forever partner Ryan, thank you for all that you do for us. From turning line learning into charades (it helps!) to the late-night post rehearsal dinners and snacks, you're always there with an ear to listen and words of encouragement. I can never thank you enough. I love you! Follow Heather on Instagram @hlsyaaas

Artist's Statement:

When it comes to my art, I can't tell you how to look at it. All I can tell you is that each painting is an extension of myself as they are autobiographical in nature. I am not trying to make any particular statement with my work -- I am just existing in the here and now. I believe that something inside of you is always telling a story and art is the way to service the subconscious; to make something physically come into being that is inspired by emotions or needs. I don't know what painting teaches me. I just know that it frees me -- free from the future, free from the past, free from regret, and free from worry. - **Robert Chambers**

Meet THE STAFF

Beth Eslick (Director) Beth is taking a step away from costume designing, and she has enjoyed it immensely! This has been a wonderful experience, and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of so many. "Thank you, Elena, John, Mark, Rick, Betty, and so many more! And especially thank you, my precious cast. Thank you, amazing actors, for spending this time with me. I love that you all helped make my dream come true on our stage!"

Elena Mills (Producer) is happy to be a part of this wonderful show. Elena is thrilled to work with such a talented, dedicated and friendly cast and the production team! "Thank you, Beth, to let me be a part of this production!" Elena is very happy to have live audience and hope that people will love this play and enjoy the show. She wants to thank everyone on and back stage, people who come and see the show and she is sending her love to her wonderful husband Mike and daughter Stacy for their endless support.

Mark Joseph Suarez (Stage Manager) has worked with Conejo Players, on and off, for a decade. Since 2020, he has contributed to the Conejo Players Theatre's ability to safely providing entertainment for Thousand Oaks and the surrounding communities. A few of the works he has contributed to in this time include *Mark Twain's Adam & Eve*, *Last Train to Nibroc*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [Revised]*, and *Belle of Amherst*. When not contributing to productions in Ventura County, Mark produces his own work and other new works through his production company Seditious Apostate, on Theatre Row in Hollywood. His current projects include *Love Letters to Strangers*, *Chaste: A Radio Show*, and *27: An 11 Part Mini-series*. You can find him on Twitch @SATC_Artistic_Director and on YouTube as Seditious Apostate.

Rick Steinberg (Set Designer) has been involved with the Conejo Players, in one way or another since his first adventure in *Pipe Dream*, way back in 1981. He has been seen on stage in a variety of shows, He has won awards in both Directing and Set Design. He is an honorary lifetime member and multiple Harlequin Award recipient. He is also pleased that he is again serving as Executive Director of Conejo Players.

Jack Allaway (Lighting Designer) has been a member of CPT since 1978 and served as Executive Technical Director three terms. He has extensive experience in stage lighting, sound design and rigging. He has designed over 60 productions for CPT and is heavily involved in upgrading the theatre's technical capabilities.

Betty Fuhrmann (Costume Designer) was introduced to the Conejo Players in 1973 when her 12-year-old son was asked by Dick Johnson to run lights for Buddy Ebsen's play, *Champagne General*. She helped out in props and costumes for a couple of years, and then moved away. When she retired, she returned to CPT and has been helping Beth with costumes.

Jeremy Zeller (Sound Designer) is the Executive Technical Director for the Conejo Players and the lead cat herder of the Conejo Improv Players. He hopes you enjoy this production.

John Eslick (Props & Set Decorator) has designed and constructed props for many CPT productions, the last being *The Mountaintop*. John has many years experience as a prop and model maker for special effects and entertainment companies. He is the Props Custodian for the theatre. Keep shining, Sunshine!

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 **Sharon Caswell**
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 Costume Custodian **Beth Eslick**
 Furniture Custodian **Rick Steinberg**
 Props Custodian..... **John Eslick**
 Graphic Designer **John Eslick**
 Pre-Show VO..... **John Eslick**
 Key Master **Jim Diderrich**
 Theatre Ghost **Albert**

NEXT ON THE BOARDS

CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE

Baby

THE MUSICAL

Book by Sybille Pearson
 Music by David Shire
 Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.

Based upon a story developed with Susan Vorkowitz
 Originally Directed on Broadway by Richard Maltby, Jr.
 Produced on Broadway by James B. Fryberg and Ivon Bloch
 Kenneth John Productions Inc., Suzanne J. Schwartz in association with Manuscript Productions

Nov 5 - 21, 2021
 Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm
 Sat Nov 20 at 2:00pm

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Making It Home

A Holiday Musical

by **Annie Block-Weiss & Chris Stivers**

CONEJO PLAYERS THEATRE

Dec 10 - 12, 2021
 Fri & Sat at 8:00pm • Sun at 2:00pm