

PLAYBILL®

Sam Barlow High School
April 23 - May 3, 2026

Almost, MAINE

by JOHN CARIANI



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SCENE BREAKDOWN

PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

- Scene 1: Her Heart
- Scene 2: Sad and Glad
- Scene 3: This Hurts
- Scene 4: Getting It Back

INTERLOGUE

ACT TWO

- Scene 5: They Fell
- Scene 6: Where It Went
- Scene 7: Story of Hope
- Scene 8: Seeing the Thing

EPILOGUE

PLACE

Various locales in Almost, Maine,
a small town in far Northern Maine that isn't actually
a town and that doesn't quite exist.

TIME

Not too long ago—or maybe a long time ago—
on a cold, clear, moonless, slightly surreal Friday night
in the middle of the deepest part of a Northern Maine winter.

DIRECTORS NOTES

On a cold winter night in Maine, love shows up in the most unexpected ways. This collection of stories create a snapshot of human connection across the small town of *Almost*. The story unfolds over seventeen minutes of real time, beginning with the *Prologue* at 8:43 P.M. and continuing through scenes set between roughly 8:50 P.M. and just after 9:00 P.M. Though presented one at a time, all of the stories are happening at the same time in different locations.

Each vignette explores a different moment of love—falling in love, falling out of love, or healing from it—often with a touch of magical realism. Characters physically carry broken hearts and are literally swept off their feet. The play reminds us that even in the quietest, most unexpected corners of life, something extraordinary can happen: people connect, hearts shift, and love—messy, magical, and mysterious—finds its way in. At its core, *Almost, Maine* is about shared experiences. It explores love in all its forms, new love, lost love, awkward love, enduring love, and reminds us that even when life feels uncertain, there is still beauty in reaching out to one another. This play allows us to step into a world where emotions are honest, moments are meaningful, and even the simplest interactions can feel profound.

What has made this journey truly special is the remarkable student cast. These actors have embraced the difficult challenge of playing more than one character. Their talent, dedication, and willingness to take risks have brought these stories to life with honesty and heart. Their work is filled with nuance, humor, vulnerability, and truth, and I could not be more proud of what they have accomplished. They have supported one another, grown together, and created a rehearsal space full of creativity, trust, and joy.

As you watch tonight, I hope you allow yourself to slow down, to laugh, to feel, and to recognize a little bit of your own story in these characters.

-Jeff Schroeder

COMPANY

CREATIVE TEAM

Director Jeff Schroeder
Assistant Director Heidi Thies
Costume Designer Wendy Hull
Hair & Makeup Designer Heidi Thies
Costume Assistant Carrie Matheny
Hair & Makeup Assistant Missy Thies

CAST

Pete William Baumgarden
Ginette / Waitress / Suzette Bella Schroeder
East / Randy Nico Spillet
Glory / Hope Kamryn Michaelsen
Jimmy / Phil Grant Cynor-Ford
Sandrine / Rhonda Emily Behnke
Steve / Man Truth Salamone
Marvalyn / Marci Callie Waibel
Lendall / Dave Lee Sare
Gayle / Shelly Paige Capitano

CREW

Stage Manager Ollie VanOrsow
Stage Manager Charlie Babjar
Lights & Sound Operator Emma Cunningham
Costume Crew Jade Matheny
Stage Crew Mya Burgess

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PRODUCTION

SUPPORT

Lighting & Sound Design	Jeff Schroeder
Stunt Coordinator	John Armour
Set Construction	Caleb Salmon
Scenic Painter	Stab Stone
Props	Heidi Thies
Costume Team	Callie Waibel Liz Koetje Stefanie Bayles
Photographer	Brook Hryciw
Barlow VIPs Board	Stefanie Craft Wendy Hull Kari Karlgaard Carrie Matheny Heidi Thies Missy Thies Maria Tovar Avery White

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WHO'S WHO



William Baumgarden

Pete

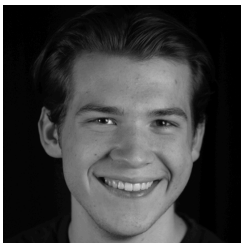
William is thrilled to be part of his second production here at Barlow! He was last seen in *Anything Goes* (Sailor) earlier this year. William is a sophomore and is currently involved in choir. He also competed at regionals for theatre with a duet musical and the large group musical. He loves being part of both choir and theatre and would like to thank all of his family and friends for always being there. Enjoy the show!



Bella Schroeder

Ginette / Waitress / Suzette

Bella is a freshman and is super excited to be part of *Almost, Maine!* She has been in multiple productions before this, including *Anything Goes* (Ensemble), *The Secret Garden* (Mary Lennox), *Annie Kids* (Ms. Hannigan), *Frozen Kids* (Anna), and *Newsies Kids* (Newsie). She is very grateful to be part of this production and would like to thank everyone who made this show possible, as well as her friends and family for their constant support!



Nico Spillett

East / Randy

Nico is a senior and his previous roles include *The Wizard of Oz* (Crow, Jitterbug, Ozian), *12 Angry Men* (Juror #12), *Hadestown* (Ensemble), *Our Town* (Howie Newsome and Baseball Player), and *Anything Goes* (Moonface Martin). Nico is feeling many emotions all at once with this being his final show at Barlow. He is excited to move on to the next step in his life and grateful to have been part of such a great community, but also sad to leave behind this wonderful department and its fantastic people. Being part of this is something he will never regret. He would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder for seeing something in him that he could not and for giving him the time and encouragement to grow into a new person. He does not know where he would be without them. They have made every person's journey a welcoming one, and for that, Nico will never forget them or this incredible community that has continued to blossom each year. Thank you, and enjoy the show!

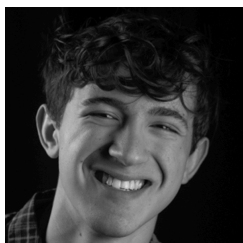
WHO'S WHO



Kamryn Michaelsen

Glory / Hope

Kamryn is feeling bittersweet about taking on her final roles as a high schooler. She has previously been seen in *Our Town* (Mrs. Gibbs) and *Anything Goes* (Evangeline Harcourt). Last year, she showcased at the 2025 State Thespian Festival in Duo Acting and recently competed in Duo Musical at the 2026 State Thespian Festival. Kamryn would like to thank her mom for all she has done for her—she wouldn't be here without her support. She would also like to thank her best friends, Ty and Atya, for their endless love and encouragement. Finally, she hopes you enjoy this heartwarming show just as much as she has.



Grant Cynor-Ford

Jimmy / Phil

Grant is both excited and saddened to take part in his final Barlow production. Throughout his four years, he has been involved in theatre in some capacity, whether through competitions or performances. Notably, he has performed duo scenes with Callie Waibel for three years and has advanced to State each time. He is incredibly excited to perform again with Callie in this production, as well as with Emily Behnke. He couldn't have asked for better scene partners and thanks them for putting up with all of his antics. He would like to thank Schroeder for the continuous support, encouragement, and opportunities he has provided. He would also like to thank Callie, Maddy Green, Spencer Neighorn, and Corbin for their incredible contributions and care. He hopes you enjoy the show!

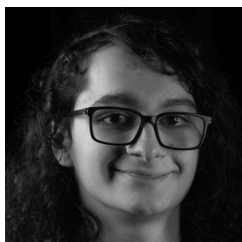
WHO'S WHO



Emily Behnke

Sandrine / Rhonda

Emily is beyond excited to be a part of *Almost, Maine* this year! This will be her fourth show at Barlow. She has been hyped since the show was announced, especially because she was a regional finalist when she competed with a scene from this play just last year alongside her scene partner, Lee. You can find Emily around the department participating in musicals, competition season, and the choir program. She is sad to part with her seniors, but she couldn't think of a better show to share with them. She is so thankful to everyone who has come to watch the nine performances and is so proud of her fellow cast!



Truth Salamone

Steve / Man

Truth is a sophomore and is excited for the opportunity to play a comedic role in a Barlow show. They have previously performed as the Stage Manager in *Our Town* and served as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Anything Goes* (confusing, they know). They particularly love this play for how personal and real it feels and are excited to bring it to you in an intimate setting. They're also happy to wear winter clothes, which is their best style. Truth is grateful for what has come before and excited for what lies ahead in their entertainment career.



Callie Waibel

Marvalyn / Marci

Callie, after six productions, is finally saying goodbye to the Barlow stage. *Almost, Maine* is a beautiful show, and she couldn't choose a better way to end her senior year than being surrounded by a wonderful cast and crew full of friends. The theatre community is like no other, and she hopes to have made her mark in the Barlow Theatre Department through her work on the Thespian Board over the past two years, the connections she's formed, her state-qualifying duo scenes, and, of course, helping backstage with costumes and quick changes. She wouldn't be anywhere without the support all around her—especially her duo partner Grant; Wendy, for taking her under her wing; Lee, Heidi, and Missy; her family; and the Schroeders.

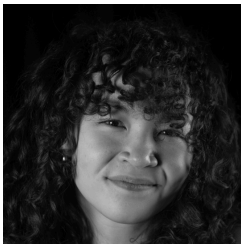
WHO'S WHO



Lee Sare

Lendall / Dave

Lee is a junior and is excited to return to the stage for his second straight play. Although he has only acted in one other show—as George Gibbs in *Our Town*—he stage managed *Anything Goes* this past fall and served as Assistant Stage Manager for *Hadestown: Teen Edition* the year before. This season, he competed in the Large Group Musical and Contrasting Monologues events, earning the Showcase Award for monologues at Districts, and will be taking both pieces to State. Lee is a current Troupe Board member and is also actively involved in Barlow's choir program, where he is enrolled in Concert Choir and Barlow Sound. Outside of the arts, he enjoys spending quality time with friends and family. He would like to thank his supportive friends, his amazing girlfriend, the Schroeders, Heidi and Missy, and, most importantly, his parents for being excited about all that he does. Thank you for coming, and enjoy! :)



Paige Capitano

Gayle / Shelly

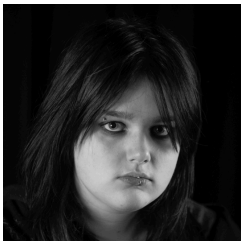
Paige is so excited to be in her third show at Sam Barlow High School. Her previous roles include Hippolyta (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Wadsworth (*Clue*), Ensemble (*Our Town*), and Erma (*Anything Goes*). She is proud to be part of Barlow Theatre productions and thrilled to be working with this amazing cast. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Ollie VanOrsow

as Stage Manager

Ollie is a junior and is overjoyed to stage manage again! You might recognize them from *Anything Goes* (Lightboard Operator), *Our Town* (Stage Manager), *Hadestown* (Stage Manager), *12 Angry Men* (Guard/Assistant Stage Manager/Light & Soundboard Operator), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Deck Crew). They would like to thank their family for always being there and encouraging them, as well as their boyfriend, David, for waking up early and staying up late to take them to rehearsals. Enjoy the show!



Charlie Babjar

as Stage Manager

Charlie is a junior, and this is his third show at Barlow. He has previously worked on *Our Town* (Soundboard Operator) and *Anything Goes* (Camera Operator), and he's very excited to step into a larger role behind the scenes. Charlie would like to give a shout-out to the American nu metal band *Korn*, his best buds Lily and Fia, and Freak Baby for always sticking it to the man.

WHO'S WHO



Emma Cunningham

*as Lights & Sound
Operator*

Emma is so happy to be part of this wonderful cast and crew! This is her freshman year and her second time working on tech at Barlow. She was on stage crew for *Anything Goes* in the fall. Currently, she enjoys Treble Choir and Acting class. She would like to thank the Schroeders, her family, and all of her friends. Theatre is very important to her, and she is grateful for every opportunity she has to be a part of it!



Jade Matheny

as Costume Crew

Jade is excited to be joining the Barlow backstage for the first time! This is her fifth and final show at Barlow—she was previously seen in *Mary Poppins* (Park Stroller, Customer, Toy, Chimney Sweep), *The Wizard of Oz* (Ozian, Tree, Jitterbug), *Our Town* (Ensemble), and *Anything Goes* (Chastity). Working backstage with the adults is a very different experience, but one Jade is glad to have before she graduates this year. As she waves goodbye to the theatre program, Jade would like to thank everyone in the theatre family for all the magical moments over her four years.

Please enjoy the show!



Mya Burgess

as Stage Crew

Mya is ecstatic to be working behind the scenes for *Almost, Maine*. After making her debut on deck in *Anything Goes* as a passenger, she fell in love with the theatre community and hasn't looked back since. Earlier this year, her solo acting piece was selected to compete at the state level, and she is beyond grateful for the opportunities she's been given. Outside of theatre, Mya participates in the school's choir and softball programs and volunteers with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue as a certified member. Mya would like to thank her family for their constant support, the Schroeders for the opportunities they've given her, and her friends for always being there.

Jeff Schroeder

Jeff Schroeder (Director) has taught acting at Barlow since 2014, directing over twenty-five productions and leading the program to success at regional, state, and international Thespian festivals. Barlow's mainstage shows were chosen for the State Thespian Festival in 2019 and 2025, and the department earned *Honor Troupe* recognition in 2022 for excellence in theatre arts. Mr. Schroeder holds a Master of Education from Portland State University, where he also studied Theatre and Music. Before Barlow, he performed with Broadway Rose Theatre Company and Mock's Crest Lyric Opera and directed more than twenty productions at East Hill Church. He sang with the PSU Chamber Choir, Portland Symphonic Choir, Oregon Bach Festival, and Tilikum Community Choir. He's been honored as an *Oregon Teacher of the Year* nominee, *K103 Honor Roll Teacher*, and *Rex Reybold Memorial Award* recipient. Jeff and his wife Amber live in Gresham and have three kids: Andrew, Camden and Bella.

Heidi Thies

Heidi (Assistant Director / Hair & Makeup Designer) is thrilled to return for her eighth year designing hair and makeup and her second year as Assistant Director with the Barlow Theatre Program. A proud 2017 graduate of the program, Heidi performed in memorable roles such as Rizzo in *Grease* and Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*. When she's not directing, styling, or helping with props, playbill editing, quick-change coordination, or any other creative need that arises, Heidi serves as the Vice President of the Barlow VIPS nonprofit and works full-time as an office administrator and notary for an estate planning company. The Barlow Theatre Program holds a special place in her heart, and she is honored to continue giving back to the community that shaped her love for the arts.

Wendy Hull

Wendy (Costume Designer) began assisting with costume alterations in 2016 and designed several pieces for *Mamma Mia!* in 2018. After coordinating costumes for the show's performance at the Oregon State Thespian Festival in 2019, she stepped into the role of costume coordinator. Since then, she has built an incredible team of volunteers and couldn't create the amazing looks seen on stage without their help. Wendy loves seeing students transform into their characters through costuming.

Missy Thies

Missy Thies (Hair & Makeup Assistant) is celebrating her tenth year with the Barlow Theatre Program. Supporting students and being part of this incredible community are among her greatest joys. She loves contributing to the welcoming, creative, and safe environment that defines the department. Outside of the theatre, Missy serves as the President of the Barlow VIPS nonprofit, continuing her dedication to supporting the arts and student success.

Carrie Matheny

Carrie Matheny (Costume Assistant) began volunteering with Barlow in 2019 and started assisting Wendy in 2022 with *Mary Poppins*. She serves as the bookkeeper for Barlow VIPS and runs her own bookkeeping business. Carrie enjoys singing and playing the piano, is a board game enthusiast, and loves crocheting. Each Halloween, she creates original costumes for her entire family based on a new theme; past masterpieces have included *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Mulan, Beauty and the Beast, and Aladdin*.



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