

“A higher-concept and more clever version of Hollywood hits like ‘Love Actually’ and ‘Valentine’s Day,’ this rom-com leans on shrewd writing rather than star power in its nine interlocking love stories. [It] alternates beautiful, evocative prose with stutteringly awkward exchanges and often very funny sight gags.”

The New York Times (2014)

“ALMOST, MAINE is a series of nine amiably absurdist vignettes about love, with a touch of good-natured magic realism, and the current production at TheaterWorks Hartford does a lovely, witty job of showing off its romantic but unsentimental heart. This is a beautifully structured play, with nifty surprise endings (most but not all of them happy) and passing references to characters from other vignettes, which slyly tell us more about them. Mr. Cariani, describes the play’s subject as ‘falling in and out of love.’ It is just as much about pain.”

The New York Times (2013)

“A whimsical approach to the joys and perils of romance. Magical happenings bloom beneath the snowdrifts. ALMOST, MAINE explores the thunderclap of love and the scorched earth that sometimes follows.”

The New York Times (2006)

“Mega-hit ALMOST, MAINE lands somewhere between Norman Rockwell and ‘Our Town.’ Unabashedly unhip. There is no pretense of an edge here — the show offers a sweetness and decency that’s become rare at the theater. At this point, it’s a welcome breath of fresh air.”

The New York Post (2014)

“Thornton Wilder crossed with ‘The Twilight Zone.’ When the northern lights appear in the sky and the characters shine with the joyfulness of love, it’s hard not to believe that the wintry air of northern Maine isn’t the cure for heartache.”

The New York Post (2006)

“ALMOST, MAINE’s charm is real. [It] packs wit, earns its laughs and, like love, surprises you.”

The New York Daily News (2014)

“Sweet, poignant, and witty. Nearly perfect.”

The New York Daily News (2006)

“A comic romantic roundelay.”

The Wall Street Journal

“Ordinary romances...take on an element of enchantment.”

Variety

“ALMOST, MAINE offers a refreshing trip out of New York City. Trade the city’s cold edginess for the softer, snowy...sweetly innocent...charms of ALMOST, MAINE.”

NY-1 News

“Entirely charming. Hilarious. Sweet but not cloying. ALMOST, MAINE is a fairy tale, or a collection of them, and it’s quiet enough, subtle enough, funny enough...that we believe.”

The New York Observer

“A snowy charmer. These nine tales of love in the time of frostbite have a winning glow that proves surprisingly contagious.”

The New York Sun

“Just about anybody who has a beating human heart and blood in his, or her, arteries will find this romantic caper delightful. A heart-warming play that can restore your optimism and belief in love, in life, and in second chances.”

CurtainUp.com (2014)

“Escape from cell phones and city tensions to a world where a kiss is not just a kiss, but a life changing big deal.”

CurtainUp.com (2006)

“Bewitching. Unashamed warmth emanates through every minute of ALMOST, MAINE. A heady antidote for the frostbitten cynicism that is currently defining our world.”

TalkinBroadway.com (2014)

“ALMOST, MAINE is lyrical, lively — what a sweet Valentine’s Day gift. Comic and resonant. Whimsical...and poignant. This is not a sketch after sketch scenario. Rather, it is a well-designed theatrical fabric.”

TalkinBroadway.com (2006)

“Utterly endearing...with a faint dusting of snowbound magical realism. A place as distinct as Lake Wobegon or Cicely, Alaska.”

Broadway.com

“With its snowcapped setting and quietly quirky and plainspokenly poetic characters, ALMOST, MAINE [resembles] the TV series ‘Northern Exposure’ and the popular indie film, ‘ Fargo.’ It’s wicked romantic and funny.”

BroadwayWorld.com

“Heartwarming and comedic. Complex. Complicated. [ALMOST, MAINE charts the] search for intimacy in the midst of ennui and profound loneliness.”

TheaterReviews.com (NY)

“Catchy and creative. The perfect date show for young and old alike.”

AM New York

“A gem. Funny and moving. An excellent date play.”

Playboy.com

“Brings the audience from guffaws to misty eyes and back again.”

Alaska News-Miner

“Guaranteed to warm the hearts of even the most cynical theatergoers, John Cariani’s ALMOST, MAINE offers up a wonderful collection of vignettes about the magic and mystery that is love—with more than a bit of whimsy and a hint of ‘The Twilight Zone’ thrown in. Just as the show is about meetings and new beginnings, it’s also about endings, loss, regret...”

The Stage (NY/London)

“Romantic whimsy meets magic realism. Imagine ‘Love Actually’ crossed with ‘Our Town.’”

The Guardian (UK)

“Delightful. Provides plenty of warming charm.”

The Daily Mail (UK)

“Charming without being saccharine or sentimental. Touches of wistful sadness and gentle humour...flower into hilarity. An enjoyable Christmas bonbon for London audiences.”

British Theatre Guide

“Love is all around but it’s far from syrupy in John Cariani’s cult assemblage of a score of characters splintered by passion.”

TheStage.co.UK

“An effervescent yet deeply felt tragicomedy. A romantic comedy with a dash of the absurd.”

The Melbourne (Victoria, Australia) Age

“Theatrical, surprising and engaging throughout, balancing sweet and tart.”

The Los Angeles Times (2014)

“A sweet-natured valentine to fools and idioms”

The Los Angeles Times (2008)

“ALMOST, MAINE lets in a cold blast of hot love! This is a play to love—for its quiriness and its unabashed romantic spirit.”

The Los Angeles Daily News

“Melancholy and magical. Cariani turns common literal expressions into smart visual stage puns.”

The Denver Post

“There’s a frosty sparkle to the stories told in ALMOST, MAINE.”

The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Truly sweet and charming...a crowd-pleaser.”

The Boston Globe

“ALMOST, MAINE works like a charm.”

The Orlando Sentinel

“[ALMOST, MAINE] offers a lovely sequence of imaginative theatrical metaphors.”

The Dallas Morning News

“This snowy play will leave you much warmed, and in more ways than you may have expected.”

The Des Moines Register

“Joyful, sad, haunting. Delivers unexpected twists. Clever ALMOST, MAINE is a bouquet of love stories. From the pointed fir country of Sarah Orne Jewett to the western border regions haunting Stephen King, there’s something about Maine that propels its writers beyond the comfy campfire and into the woods, where anything can happen – and often does.”

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

“An unapologetically romantic fable. These tales of stoical Mainers falling in and out of love has just enough bitter to cut the sweet, and enough charm to at least partially thaw any cold hearts in the audience. Contains one of the best visual puns ever.”

The Arizona Republic

“Midwinter mayhem. Hilarious...and very satisfying. [ALMOST, MAINE] is sweet without being sentimental, and although it is at times heartbreaking, it is never bleak.”

The Detroit Examiner

“A gem. In the vein of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, certain metaphors are made fantastically literal and upend natural laws.”

Fort Worth Weekly

“A charmer. [But] for all its sweetness, ALMOST, MAINE is no place to escape the truth. Audiences who shrug off ALMOST, MAINE as cute and quirky just aren’t paying attention. Underneath ALMOST, MAINE’s sweetness and surface good humor, as in Frank Capra’s Bedford Falls, lies a recognition of disappointment and loneliness. Cariani, another sunny Italian, helps us to overcome the gloom.”

Syracuse (NY) New Times

“A genuinely sweet and funny romantic comedy with a touch of originality. ALMOST, MAINE proves clever, wistful, funny, sweet-natured, warm-hearted, and poignant. The stories in ALMOST, MAINE start fast and funny...and sustain [themselves], whether through the offbeat characters, an original observation or apt touch. Ultimately, [they] strike some recognizable truth that may be familiar, yet winds up expressed in a fresh way.”

The Houston Chronicle

“At a time where so many of us think of ourselves an urban sophisticates with jagged personalities, snarky ‘tudes and a heightened sense of the ironic, it’s, well, just nice, to be reminded that there’s another, gentler, American story-telling tradition. It’s one that includes O. Henry, Thornton Wilder and James Thurber, writers of amusing tales that spoke not to our wizened selves, but to our more vulnerable ones. This play reminds me of that tradition... [The stories in ALMOST, MAINE] have some dandy twists. They all have a fable-like quality. Sweet, open-hearted and goofy, this brrrrromantic comedy is the perfect theatrical Valentine’s Day treat.”

The Hartford Courant

“Funny, romantic, light, sweet, with a bit of bite and a nice afterglow. Falling in love never looked bruising in quite the way it does in ALMOST, MAINE.”

The Omaha World-Herald

“A surprisingly charming, genuinely romantic evening. ALMOST, MAINE reminds even the most bitter among us of the poetry in first love.”

Las Vegas Review-Journal

“ALMOST, MAINE delivers love stories with laughter. It’s like a postcard from the edge with a forever stamp of love. It’s the Coen brothers without a drop of sarcasm. Quirky, warm, human, and hilarious...smart, poignant, and magical, yet with an uncanny sense of realism. Some of the sweetest fun I’ve ever had.”

The Rochester (NY) Democrat Chronicle

“ALMOST, MAINE is laced with an honest richness and profound humor.”

The Los Angeles Post

“A fresh, off-beat comedy. ALMOST, MAINE scores with ironic poignancy. [The play] has an ‘Our Town’ sensibility...seasoned by situations and dialogue more reminiscent of Cicely, Alaska (‘Northern Exposure’) than of Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire.”

The Syracuse Post-Standard

“Wistful. Sweet, funny, and frequently touching. Cariani’s characters and plot would not be out of place in a Wes Anderson film. A gentle, satisfying evening.”

Examiner.com (Connecticut)

“Touching and amusing. Blends emotionally luminous dialogue and hilarious physical slapstick. Sweet, poignant. ALMOST, MAINE charms.”

The Columbus Dispatch

“Conjures Robert Frost and Thornton Wilder in its depth. A most enjoyable and thought-provoking evening.”

KDHX Saint Louis

“Comedic and touching. Love’s successes, failures, and tentative first steps unfurl delightfully in ALMOST, MAINE.”

Twin Cities Daily Planet

“A winner. Charming. Just when you think you know where Cariani is going, he changes direction, throwing in some oddball humor or adding unexpected heartbreak.

San Jose Mercury News

“A sure thing. Humor, romance, poignancy and surrealism...flow throughout the show.”

Quad City Times (Iowa/Illinois)

“Pure enchantment. Plays don’t get any more magical, nor any more unabashedly romantic (with just enough salt to keep things from getting sappy) than John Cariani’s ALMOST, MAINE.”

StageSceneLA.com

“Almost, Maine wears its charm on its sleeve. Manages to stay the right side of cloying sentimentality, with a touch of irony never too far away.”

TheArtsDesk.Co.UK

“Hilarious. Charming. Four stars out of four.”

The Daily Republic (Solano County, CA)

“Wistful, amusing, warm, sweet-natured and sometimes melancholy. It is impossible not to be charmed by ALMOST, MAINE.”

TucsonStage.com

“ALMOST, MAINE is now the ‘Our Town’ of the 21st century.”

The Troy (NY) Record

“A quirky cross between ‘Northern Exposure’ and ‘Six Feet Under’.”

Danbury News Times

“Almost Perfection! A real winning gem of entertainment.”

BroadwayWorld.com (LA)

“Delivers one magical moment after another. More modern and disarming than Garrison Keillor’s ‘A Prairie Home Companion.’ ALMOST, MAINE is almost perfect.”

Electric City Weekly (Scranton, PA)

“Cariani combines humor and quick character development to make the stories [OF ALMOST, MAINE] heartwarming and real in the face of a mystical, almost ‘Twilight Zone’ feel. The play has warm love stories, cool charm, blustery humor, and just enough frostbite to keep it from being too sweetly romantic.”

CTarts.blogspot.com

“A romantic escape from (sur-) reality. Salvador Dali would feel at home in ALMOST, MAINE.”

The Other Paper (Columbus, OH)

“In this jaded social reality, the earnest hopefulness of ALMOST, MAINE is almost avante garde. See ALMOST, MAINE and remember a time before ‘Sex and the City’ and urbane independence became the yardstick for healthy adult relationships.”

The Journal Newspapers (Northville, MI)

“Contains a set of reversals worthy of O. Henry. A twin of the whimsical TV hamlet of ‘Northern Exposure.’ ”

The Hub Review (Boston, MA)

“Reminiscent of David Ives’ All in the Timing and a Peanuts comic strip.”

Topix.com (Schenectady, NY)

“Recommended. Serves up a slick and delectable series of comic turns.”

Stage Raw (LA)

“This play is a gem. The Twilight Zone does exist...in northern Maine”.

The Advocate Weekly.com (Syracuse, NY)

“ALMOST, MAINE smartens up Valentine’s Day. Brings the funny and the Freudian. Cariani’s literal dissection of romance is pretty brilliant and often hilarious.”

The Newark (OH) Advocate

“Cariani’s Twilight Zone is in the town of ALMOST, MAINE.”

Bergen County (NJ) Daily Record

“Whimsical and satisfying. Cariani has an almost O. Henry sensibility, injecting the unexpected everywhere. With plenty of laughs and...heartfelt moments, this is a comedy that really brings the romance.”

Richmond Times-Dispatch

“Delightful.”

WCVE (Richmond, VA)

“Five stars!”

DCMetroTheaterArts.com

“First-rate.”

Long Beach Press Telegram

“Poignant and hilarious.”

San Diego City Beat

“Absolutely hilarious.”

WPRO (Providence, RI)

“Magical and heart-warming.”

ioCapeCod.com

“Deceptively simple.”

Tacoma (WA) News Tribune

“Entirely magical.”

Severna Park Voice (Maryland)

“A delightful play.”

The Poughkeepsie (NY) Journal

“A tingling success.”

The Chagrin Valley (OH) Times

“So simple. So elegant. So powerful.”

UNC Mirror (CO)

“Full of humorous surprises.”

The Portsmouth (NH) Herald

“Run, don’t walk, to this delightful play.”

Nashville Theatre

“ALMOST, MAINE warms the heart.”

Long Beach Gazette

“Lots of humor, wit and kisses.”

Youngstown (OH) Vindicator

“Quite simply, enchanting.”

Fenceviewer.com (Ellsworth, ME)

“Wow! Fresh and original.”

The Weekly Herald (Everett, WA)

“One enchanted evening.”

The Berkshire Eagle (Pittsfield, MA)

“Delightful. Truly excellent.”

ShowBizRadio (Washington, DC)

“ALMOST, MAINE glows.”

Northshorefootlights.com (Boston)

“Mysterious. Otherworldly.”

Broadwayworld.com (Boston, MA)

“Comedy, pathos, and a pinch of lunacy.”

The Flint (MI) Journal

“Delightfully unbelievable. Shouldn’t be missed.”

The Oklahoman

“Full of surprises. A charming experience.”

WRCT (Pittsburgh, PA)

“Somewhat surreal...charming...genuine...sincere.”

newjersey.com

“ALMOST, MAINE works something close to magic.”

BackStage LA

“4 out of 5 stars. Comic. Awkward. Timeless.”

theupcoming.com (UK)

“A transporting evening of theatre.”

The Courier Press (Evansville, IN)

“Delightful. Whimsical. Off-beat. Hilarious.”

The Davidson (NC) News

“Winning. Worth seeing.”

Times Herald-Record (South Fallsburg, NY)

“A buoyant and unexpectedly beautiful fantasy.”

River City (IL) Reader

“Sweet ...comic...poignant. A must-see.”

Fox Cities Hub (Appleton, WI)

“Compelling. Artfully written. An almost perfect show.”

The Coloradoan

“Uncanny things transpire in ALMOST, MAINE.”

The San Antonio Current

“Elegant theatrical magic.”

Northern Dutchess (NY) News & Creative Living

“ALMOST, MAINE reminds me why I love theatre.”

The Collier (FL) Citizen

“An offbeat comic valentine. Hilarious. Strange. Astute.”

Ventura County Star

“A singularly satisfying experience. Go, and be captivated.”

NH Theatre Forum

“It’s what happens to your heart when the stars fall.”

Press (Seoul, South Korea)

“Full of laughter, tears...and tremendous fun.”

The Times Argus (Colchester, VT)

“ALMOST, MAINE warmed this city-slicker’s heart.”

BroadwayWorld.com (LA)

“Wonderfully whimsical, poignant, funny and smart.”

North Country Public Radio

“Funny and touching. Not to be overlooked.”

The Press Democrat (Santa Rosa, CA)

“ALMOST, MAINE is more than almost compelling.”

CTpost.com (Bridgeport, CT)

“Clever and inventive. Full of surprises. A charming experience.”

WRCT (Pittsburgh)

“Refreshingly off-kilter. Clever and inventive. Full of surprises.”

Pittsburgh City Paper

“Fall-down funny. A charming Valentine to theatergoers.”

The LaCrosse (WI) Tribune

“Even the most jaded will walk out feeling a little lighter.”

Tacoma (WA) News Tribune

“A funny, warm and oh-so-human romantic comedy.”

The Portland (ME) Press-Herald

“Surreal, literalized metaphors provide sudden jolts of unexpected laughter.”

LA CityBeat

“Delightful. Imaginative. Sparkles with slivers of magic.”

The Capital Times (Madison, WI)

“A total delight, with heart, soul, and...a touch of sadness.”

marinscope.com (Kentfield, CT)

“Clever material with a great deal of charm. Touchingly sweet... touches a nerve.”

WYPR (OH)

“Tender and comforting...but wonderfully, seriously askew.”

The Lincoln (NE) Journal Star

“Winning. A delight. Very funny and unexpectedly compelling.”

The Midland (MI) Daily News

“Charming. ALMOST, MAINE shines, offering humor and pathos.”

The Pasadena Star-Times

“ALMOST, MAINE is a great place for a good time.”

The Winfield Daily Courier (Winfield KS)

“Surreal. Magical. Comical. Makes for a great date night.”

The Sun Chronicle (Providence, RI)

“Sweet-natured, charming, and wistful...with a touch of surprising fantasy.”

The Sacramento Bee

“Delightful...sometimes whimsical, sometimes heartbreaking... full of charm.”

The Alexandria Gazette

“ALMOST, MAINE [makes] falling in love surreal and real at the same time.”

The Times Union (Albany, NY)

“Recommended. This drama has ways of getting inside you and challenging you.”

DCTheatreScene.com

“Poignant, funny, and smart. Wonderfully whimsical [yet] so down-to-earth.”

North Country Public Radio

“Often absurd...consistently hilarious...delightful from beginning to end.”

The Greenville (SC) News

“Wry. Marvelously poignant. Completely unpretentious. A novel little valentine.”

The Washington Examiner

“A charming, sweet, off-beat comedy about love lost and suddenly discovered.”

Delaware County News

“Pure joy. Brilliant. Just brilliant. Filled with glorious insights on the human condition.”

The Saginaw (MI) News

“A thoroughly entertaining midwinter’s tale of love lost, found, and confounded.”

The Kalamazoo (MI) Gazette

“ALMOST, MAINE gives the same head lightening flutter that love produces.”

The Burlington (VT) Free Press

“Refreshing. Charming. A gem of a play. As splendidly unpredictable and magical as falling in love.”

Florida Weekly

“Near perfection. Surreal and poignant, fast and funny. Paradise by the northern lights.”

The Pacific Sun (Sausalito, CA)

“ALMOST, MAINE is smarter than the rom com that’s playing at the mall.”

The Pacific Northwest Inlander (Spokane, WA)

“Sweet, tender and quirky. These wistful stories of love all have an element of the mildly bizarre.”

The Poughkeepsie Journal

“Most imaginative...breath-taking...beautiful...stunning...mind-blowing...unique and wonderful.”

Maryland Theatre Guide

“Wry, endearing ALMOST, MAINE is a charming, entertaining look at love and relationships.”

The Waco (TX) Tribune

“Surprising. Delightfully funny and insightfully sensitive. Loneliness looms close by.”

The Republican-American (Waterbury, CT)

“ALMOST, MAINE effectively examines the awkward, conflicted, painful imperative of love.”

Seacoastonline.com (Portsmouth, NH)

“ALMOST, MAINE dazzles. A profoundly thoughtful play. A comedy steeped in rumination.”

The Standard (Springfield, MO)

“Hilarious, surreal, otherworldly and downright sad, but, in the end, [ALMOST, MAINE] is all quite magical.”

Housatonic (CT) Times

“A pitch perfect script. Fun for a rom com audience...but...more for those wanting and willing to see more.”

theatrebubble.com (UK)

“ALMOST, MAINE is not almost fun, almost clever or almost a hit. It truly IS all those things.”

The Journal and Courier (Lafayette, IN)

“An effervescent yet deeply felt tragicomedy. A romantic comedy with a dash of the absurd.”

The Melbourne (Victoria, Australia) Age

“ALMOST, MAINE is a delightful evening of entertainment that warms the heart and tickles the funny bone.”

TCpalm.com (Jupiter, FL)

“A smart, modern, funny and surreal look at the uncertainty, the desperation, the wonder, and the joy of love.”

The Valdosta (GA) Daily Times

“Fantastic. One of the most delightful plays you will experience. A simply wonderful romantic comedy.”

High Plains Reader (Fargo, ND)

“A captivating comedy. Full of wholly unexpected and utterly enchanting surprises. A woolly midwinter night’s dream.”

The Dallas Observer

“Most romantic comedies seem rather more of the same, but ALMOST, MAINE is not like most romantic comedies.”

The Chelsea/Clinton News

“Enchanting. Breathtaking. Superb. Hilarious. Heartbreaking. ALMOST, MAINE is anything but ‘almost.’”

Newsreview.com (Sacramento, CA)

“Something new and completely different. A delightful study of the vicissitudes of love. Well worth seeing.”

The Hudson Valley Times Herald-Record

“A thoughtful, quirky, snappy look at love in its most contemporary incarnation. Often painful; often sidesplitting; always rewarding.”

Nashville Pride

“Enchanting. A charming comedy. Features moments of heart-wrenching sadness, bitterness and poignant tenderness.”

The Greeley (CO) Tribune

“Don’t miss this show! It will make you laugh, maybe even cry a little, but I guarantee it will make you feel like a million bucks!”

WBEE-Rochester, NY

“ALMOST, MAINE is...magical...heart-warming...entertaining... slightly surreal...[and] completely splendid.”

Broome Arts Mirror (NY)

“ALMOST, MAINE is just right. Sweet and simple. Delightful. Whimsical. Filled with surprises...fantasy...and magic.”

Lewiston (Maine) Sun Journal

“ALMOST, MAINE is clever, charming, delightful, and sweet. It is also poignant, sad, powerful, and harsh.”

inthespotlight.com (West Springfield, MA)

“Filled with wonder...good humor...and truth. It’s magical. Almost supernatural. ALMOST, MAINE is a show with a big heart.”

Salisbury (NC) Post

“Refreshing. Surprising. Priceless. Hilarious. Free from the edgy cynicism and boredom so prevalent in modern commentaries on love.”

Napa Valley Register

“A smart, funny play. Guaranteed to chase those winter blues away. A cheerful tonic for these dreary winter months.”

Independent Press (Bergen County, NJ)

“Wonderfully written. ALMOST, MAINE’s bittersweet tales of love are punctuated by brilliant moments of theatricality.”

Archikulture Digest/Ink 19 (Orlando)

“As ALMOST, MAINE unfolds, the deft comedy of the piece becomes more like punctuation to an overriding pathos.”

Third Coast Digest (Milwaukee, WI)

“Almost anyone will think ALMOST, MAINE is funny. Most will find it touching. Some may note the longing, the wistfulness, the sense of loss.”

Houston Arts Week

“Romantic, poignant, and hilariously funny. Sometimes you won’t know whether to laugh or cry! Almost perfect. 4 ½ stars! (Out of five.)”

The Edmonton (Canada) Sun

“The scenes in ALMOST, MAINE are happy...sad...surprising, with a heaping helping of Maine whimsy, and it all works gloriously!”

THEATREVIEW.COM (Atlanta, GA)

“Like any good romcom, it really did make me laugh. Surreal. Heartwarming. Reminded me of Thornton Wilder’s ‘Our Town’... an American ‘Love Actually.’”

Exeunt Magazine (UK)

“Surprising. Unpredictable. Charming. Delightfully whimsical. Magical realism heightens both the humour and the pathos.”

Classical963fm.com (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

“ALMOST, MAINE was almost perfect. [It] had the audience roaring with laughter...sighing with contentment...and clearing the lump in their throats.”

Rome (NY) Sentinel

“ALMOST, MAINE is a heartfelt, sweet to bittersweet, gentle... warm...wry look at everyday people negotiating this thing called love.”

Half Moon Bay Review (Northern California)

“Offbeat. Atmospheric. Surreal. Mischief...and magic [are] in the air [in ALMOST, MAINE]. Sweetly on track, ALMOST, MAINE never goes for the saccharine.”

The Fresno Bee

“A charmer. Unexpected magic lingers in the air like someone’s breath on a cold winter’s night. ALMOST, MAINE aims for the heart by way of the funny bone.”

The Star-Ledger (Newark, NJ)

“The innocent, direct honesty of [the people of ALMOST, MAINE] presents a stark and welcome contrast to the sometimes insincere, air-kissing folks of places like Los Angeles.”

The Burbank Leader

“Delightful, whimsical, poignant and heart-warming. Perfectly strange and marvelous. Touches on the surreal and existential. A charming, sweet gem of a show.”

The Journal-Inquirer (North-Central Connecticut)

“Five stars! A real crowd-pleaser! Surprises lurk behind every corner. These aren’t ordinary love stories. [They] sink into sadness just as much as they do humor.”

DCMetroTheaterArts.com

“[This] frothy romantic comedy...[offers a] sprinkling of disappointment and regret. A charming diversion for fans of stories that are just about falling in love.”

Washingtoncitypaper.com

“Superb. ALMOST, MAINE is a delightful...sparkling...starry gem. A pinch of magic realism [makes] ALMOST, MAINE sparkle like stars on a clear winter night.”

Theatermirror.com (Boston)

“ALMOST, MAINE is a charming triumph. A wonderful comedy. Consistently engaging and humorous. ALMOST, MAINE is a fun surprise and should not be missed.”

The Green Bay Press Gazette

“A winner. Rich in physical metaphor. [Skip Greer and the cast of Syracuse Stage’s ALMOST, MAINE do not] gloss over this romantic comedy’s deeply mournful undercurrent.”

CNY.com (Syracuse, NY)

“ALMOST, MAINE navigates the fine lines of love’s ‘almosts’ with charm, humor, and compassionate grace. There’s no ‘almost’ in how much you will enjoy ALMOST, MAINE.”

The Manchester (VT) Journal

“The wistful, ironic, amusing, warm, sweet-natured and sometimes melancholy parables in ALMOST, MAINE blur the dividing line between the literal and figurative to great comedic effect.”

Pegasus News (Coppell, TX)

“ALMOST, MAINE is comedic, tragic, insightful...refreshing, original, and delightfully irrational. What more could you ask for? Sweeter, more endearing, and...more poignant than ‘Northern Exposure.’”

The Portsmouth (NH) Herald

“Fresh and funny. Touching. There’s plenty of whimsy and not a little magic in John Cariani’s unconventional script, which portrays both the angst and the wonder of romantic love.”

Asheville (North Carolina) Citizen-Times

“Superb. Funny...moving, and profound. ALMOST, MAINE is charming, delightful and utterly captivating in those evocative silences. Make the magical place known as ALMOST, MAINE... your destination.”

Bay Weekly (Annapolis)

“Every so often, and far too infrequently, some little play comes along about which we know nothing; hence, low expectations. Then it proves to be completely captivating. ALMOST, MAINE is such a show.”

The Riverfront Times (St. Louis, MO)

“Sublimely skewed. Totally entertaining. A real gem. Human nature is lampooned and honored in a delicious range of situations. A delight. ALMOST, MAINE leaves the audience with a warm theatrical afterglow.”

The Culture Buzz (Des Moines, IA)

“Magical. ALMOST, MAINE exudes optimism and hope, and it does so in a way that is never overbearing. I attended with a friend who proudly self-identifies as jaded, and even she had to admit that she enjoyed her visit to Almost, Maine.”

BoulderWeekly.com

“ALMOST, MAINE is more than cute, despite its unapologetic, adorable, delightful charm. [It is] thoughtful and oddly realistic. Maybe even believable. ALMOST, MAINE reminds us that the loveliest things are often the least expected.”

BuffaloNews.com

“Full of twists and surprises that give pleasure and sometimes poignancy. Cariani has woven an undertone of melancholy and yearning into the tales of love, with a sprinkle of magical realism. ALMOST, MAINE sparkles with good nature.”

The Epoch Times (Atlanta, GA)

“Modest in size, scope and spectacle, but simply dazzling in its comic and emotional impact. I was blown away by [how] this little romantic comedy’s deceptive simplicity and surface innocence can be peeled back to reveal so many truths about human nature.”

The Falmouth (ME) Forecaster

“ALMOST, MAINE bottles...magic like children catching fireflies. A treat. Whimsical. Poignant. Clever. Surreal. Quirky. Tender. Offbeat. Funny. Cute. ALMOST, MAINE doesn’t depend on flogging regional stereotypes to within an inch of their lives to achieve its humor.”

Charleston (SC) City Paper

“Even at my cynical age, I found myself sighing and saying, ‘Awwwww!!!’ at the end of almost every scene, no matter how happy or sad. I want life and love to be this simple again — this beautiful, where even the pain of love bursts forth into a beautiful, shimmering shooting star.”

Spartanburg (North Carolina) Herald-Journal

“ALMOST, MAINE is one of the best shows at the Fringe. [It] has a growing cult following [and] is tightly and hilariously written. If there’s any criticism, it’s that [it] ended far, far too early. Even the Maine humor hits home, and I’m from Louisiana. That’s saying something! Five stars! Pick of the Fringe!”

dctheatrescene.com

“ALMOST, MAINE is a real charm offensive! Cariani’s wit about the precariousness of love shines through. It’s a magical place, Almost, Maine—but magical places can be as dangerous as the real ones. ALMOST is fraught with the possibility of losing one’s big chance at love, even when it is staring you in the face.”

Chicago Theatre Blog

“Charming. Heartwarming. Hilarious. ALMOST, MAINE [is] infused with...fascinating characters...and unexpected twists and turns that make for compelling and concatenate coincidences and synchronicities. Take someone you love to ALMOST, MAINE. A Midwinter Night’s Dream has finally arrived.”

TheatreReport.com (Houston, TX)

“ALMOST, MAINE is a desperately cold place. The play’s other cold place is the damaged heart, made literal with wonderful, comic effect... ALMOST, MAINE’s variations on a theme offer enticingly hopeful ironies and disarming surprises... ALMOST, MAINE is a gift of a diversion when diversion may be almost the best gift of all.”

Rochester (NY) City Paper

“Would you like a Valentine Day’s present for your sweetie that is romantic and different, quirky and whimsical, that won’t set off your allergy to roses or tempt you with chocolate cravings? TheaterWorks of Hartford has teamed up with playwright John Cariani to package the perfect holiday treat for the heart: ALMOST, MAINE is a comedy about love. [It is full of] funny and often bittersweet tales, poignant and piquant portraits of love.”

The Middletown Press (Connecticut)

“ALMOST, MAINE is about love: sometimes lost, sometimes found but never neatly tied in a bow. It offers lots of questions, few answers and no ‘happily ever after.’ The best the audience can hope for is a lifted eyebrow, a suggestion of happiness to come or perhaps the flicker of a moment in which there might be hope for true love. Rich in allegory and metaphor— with characters we all know, situations we’ve all been in and conclusions that take unexpected turns—ALMOST, MAINE says a lot about love...and it speaks in beautiful, arresting and intriguing tones.”

The Kearney (NE) Hub

“When an off-Broadway play flops and then goes on to become the most produced play in North American high schools, supplanting ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream,’ you have to respect it. When it also becomes one of the most produced professional and non-professional regional theater shows, you have to take a large step away from judgmental stances and look at it with a different sort of critical eye. ALMOST, MAINE is that play. [It] has charm and wit and pathos. Wonderful. Beautiful. Every time I see a production of this play I am thrilled to find new things in it. If you’ve never seen it you are in for a real treat.”

THE EDGE.com (Providence)

“Tender, funny, and magical, [ALMOST, MAINE] has emerged as one of the most-produced contemporary scripts around the country, and for good reason. [It is] a crowd-pleaser without being predictable or saccharine. ...It makes actions literal and physical that we usually think of metaphorically. And playwright John Cariani has written one of the best love scenes for two young men yet — utterly credible, utterly theatrical, full of promise and hurdles. [ALMOST, MAINE] is sometimes compared to ‘Our Town,’ in that both encourage us to see the sacred embedded within our everyday lives. Here, the sense of community is less present, and the short-form storylines don’t provide the heroic arc we know from the 1938 classic. But ALMOST, MAINE in both those ways is much more a play of our times: individual lives intersect unpredictably within a loose collective, where all we can witness are moments rather than any sense of a grand design — but where, occasionally and without warning, the solar system itself provides an overarching aura of flickering awe to match our inner transports.”

CT.com