

Almost, Maine



Maiden High School
Hickory, NC



Laura Voytko

Almost, Maine: John Cariani

- ❖ Premiered at the Portland (Maine) Stage Company in 2004
- ❖ 2 act romantic-comedy comprised of multiple, independent but related scenes.
- ❖ Takes place in the fictional setting of Almost, Maine. It's in the northernmost part of Maine (almost Canada,) and is not quite a town because the residents haven't really gotten around to organizing it...it's just *Almost*.
- ❖ The aurora borealis casts a strange and mystical glow on the residents of Almost, engaging them in unusual, romantic conversations and circumstances.

Maiden High School- Maiden, NC

In 2014, the drama students of Maiden High School were preparing to put on this celebrated play when then principal, Robert Bliss, insisted on shutting the production down due to public outrage over a scene which involves two homosexual men



“They Fell”

- Six minute scene where two men earnestly discuss their love lives, and quite literally fall in love with each other
- An abstract look at LOVE...not explicit or suggestive
- Among scenes where heterosexual couples kiss, shed clothing and leave the stage in anticipation of sex



The show must go on...

- The production was moved to the SALT Block auditorium and produced privately
- Kickstarter fund raised \$1,000 in hours, and went on to raise \$6,600 from 289 donors.
- Attracted attention of ACLU, UNCSA, Dramatists Legal Defense Fund, OutRight Youth of Catawba Valley,
- In attendance were John Cariani, Howard Sherman, John Thomas and Keith Martin
- https://youtu.be/5rTXw_1lQq0?t=340



References

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