

Laguna Hills High Schools “Almost, Maine” is the Main(e) Event!  
written by Charlize Goubran, a senior Santa Margarita Catholic High School

Set in an undisclosed town of Almost, Maine, This play explores the triumphs and heartache that love may bring.

Mia Gasca comes in with a bang. Literally. As Marvalyn, Gasca hits Steve, played by Joseph Mulrooney, clean in the head with an ironing board. Gasca’s frantic yet caring responses to Mulrooney contrast hilariously with Mulrooney’s hunched over physicality, and a stuttered but monotone delivery as Mulrooney explains that he cannot feel pain.

Elisa Wager as Ronda and Matthieu Fuller as Dave hilariously explore the confessions of two friends. Wager's rough-and-tumble, tomboyish energy is well complemented by Fuller's relaxed and confident physicality, showcasing the conflicting yet harmonious dynamic of their relationship. Ronda deftly dodges the developing confession with a string of creative diversion and side-splitting pranks while Dave opens his heart. With Wager’s natural sense of physical comedy combined with Fuller’s comedic delivery, you can’t help revel in the charm of their playful banter as they tiptoe around their feelings.

The deck crew gracefully executes counterclockwise changes resetting the story, showcasing how each scene is happening at the same time within the play. This makes the appearance of the aurora borealis lighting even more beautiful as we realize each scenes love is occurring at the same time. Lighting intricately designed by, Elliott Watson and the lighting team, was crafted to ensure the deep rich colors of the night while also ensuring their actors were properly lit. With deep and rich colors, the audience is transporting into the cozy town of Almost.

Love flourishes in Almost, Maine, as seen by the use of red in the costumes and props. This use of red is evident in several instances, such as when Gayle (played by Mia Perdoza) begs Lendall (played by Alex Mendoza) gives Lendall his love back. Perdoza stubbornly delivers Mendoza clear garbage bags that are filled with crimson and illuminated with fairy lights to symbolize his devotion. Red beanies, scarves, and even chairs are examples of more subdued approaches to maintain the continuity of red. By creating a homey atmosphere with flannel, thick boots, coats, and scarves, costumes contribute to the creation of this charming town.

Laguna Hills High School’s Almost Maine, may be set in a cold town, but with hilariously actors and intricate props, lighting, and costumes, this show will warm your heart.