



Scenic Designer
Eric Rudy

Lighting Designer
Matthew Kopans

Costume Designer
Erin Fenton

Sound Designer
Anne-Marie Baker

Properties Designer
Christina Toppin

Production Stage Manager
Janice Baird

Assistant Director
Liam Pickett

Almost, Maine is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.
The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Almost, Maine

Setting and Time:

The mythical town of Almost, Maine / The Present

The Company

Toni Anderson-Sommo

Bill Geltzeiler

Joelle Malinowski

Michael C. Mensching

Joan Meyer

Linda Mizeur

Scenes:

Prologue / Interlogue / Epilogue

Pete.....

.....Bill Geltzeiler

Ginette.....

.....Joelle Malinowski

Her Heart

East.....
..Michael C. Mensching

Glory.....
Toni Anderson-Sommo

Sad and Glad

Sandrine.....
.....Joelle Malinowski

Jimmy.....
Michael C. Mensching

Waitress.....T
oni Anderson-Sommo

This Hurts

Steve.....
.....Bill Geltzeiler

Marvalyn.....
.....Joan Meyer

Getting It Back

Lendall.....
.....Bill Geltzeiler

Gayle.....
.....Joelle Malinowski

They Fell

Deena.....
.....Joan Meyer

Shelly.....
Toni Anderson-Sommo

Where It Went

Marci.....
.....Joan Meyer

Phil.....
...Michael C. Mensching

Story of Hope

Man.....
.....Bill Geltzeiler

Hope.....
.....Linda Mizeur

Seeing the Thing

Rhonda.....
.....Joelle Malinowski

Dave.....
...Michael C. Mensching

The will be a 15 minute intermission

The Production Staff

General Manager / Scenic

Design.....Eric Rudy

Business Manager.....Erin

Nicole Harrington

Artistic

Coordinator.....
.Dawn Oesch

Technical

Director.....

.Kevin Miller

Director.....

...Michael McDermott

Assistant

Director.....

.Liam Pickett

Stage

Manager.....

.....Janice Baird

Lighting

Designer.....Matt

hew Kopans

Costume

Designer.....

.Erin Fenton

Sound

Designer.....Anne

-Marie Baker

Sound

Assistant.....

.....Tom Moeller

Light Board

Operator.....Michelle

Fulford

Running Crew.....Jane Grenier, Melena Scott,

Christina Toppin

Costume Assistant /

Dresser.....Libby Brennesholtz

Fight

Choreography.....

.....Molly Waters

Administrative

Associate.....Christine MacLellan

Accountant.....Joseph

P. LaFiura, CPA, P.C.

Audition Assistants.....Christine MacLellan,

Irma Somich,

Sue Tiffany, Kate Van Buren

Prompters.....Marilyn Detmer, Theresa Hughes,

Diane Leske

Scenic Assistants.....Ed Amyot, Karin Borelli,

Jesse Hunter,

Erik Keating, Jacob Pickett, Jim Pickett,

Jenny Sinnott, Christina Toppin

Publicity.....Karin Borelli, Joan Jackson, Cecelia Kilb, EJay

McTiernan,

Alex Rojinski, Kirk Starczewski, Maria Starczewski

Ushers.....Alan Ellis, Kathleen Ferjanec, Don Hughes, Chris

Knight,

Cathy Krylowicz, Gloria Marceau, Jim Mizeur, Irene Orton, Marilyn Phillips,

Katherine Richiazzi, Sally Sheldon, Irma Somich, George Szlasa, Kate Van Buren

Special Thanks

Stephen Tobin, Beth Tobin Harmer, Pine Grove Community Church, Pastor Mark

Kehrer, Tom Moeller, the Staff of Saratoga Arts

and



Who's Who

The Cast

TONI ANDERSON-SOMMO teaches English Lit and Creative Writing at SUNY Adirondack and supervises student teachers for SUNY Cortland. She has acted and directed for numerous plays at The Charles R. Wood Theater in Glens Falls, as well as Home Made Theater. Before *ALMOST, MAINE*, two of her favorites were *Rumors* (Claire Ganz) and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Lorraine Sheldon.) In February 2018 her original play *U R Here* was produced at The Wood Theater to sold out audiences. She has also starred in numerous independent films (none of which you'd recognize) and will be acting alongside Robert Clohessy, (TV's *Blue Bloods* and *The Avengers*, and Broadway's *Pal Joey*, and *Twelve Angry Men*) in April 2022, starring in his original play, *Welcome Home Johnny!* She'd like to thank her incredible husband, Phil, as well as McD for the opportunity ... finally!!!! and the incredible cast and crew of *ALMOST, MAINE* as well as Eric Rudy and the Board of Home Made Theater for making her feel like, despite everything, she has a home. And it's where her heart is.

BILL GELTZEILER After 22 long months of not doing this, Bill Geltzeiler is thrilled (yeah, that's right, *thrilled*) to be returning to the stage and making his Home Made Theater debut. Previous credits include *Heathers: The Musical* (Ram's Dad 2019 & J.D. 2016), *Sweeney Todd* (Pirelli), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Aldolpho), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (King Herod), *Avenue Q* (Rod), *American Idiot* (Johnny), *Spamalot* (Sir Lancelot and others), *Michael C. Mensching's 'The Register'* (Frank), *The Curious Case of Watson Intelligence* (Watson) and probably a bunch of others that he can't remember right now. He has been a teaching artist with Proctors Theatre of Schenectady for the past 4 years, and also bartends in Albany! He wants to thank his friends, his family, his lady, and his pup for their undying support, and putting up with Bill's silly voices for the past 31 years. I really do hope and believe this production of *Almost, Maine* will help us feel almost normal, again.

JOELLE MALINOWSKI is excited to be a part of a Home Made Theater production. Most recent parts she has performed were as Meg in *Crimes of the Heart* with Classic theater Guild, *Faith in The Register* with Troy Civic Theater, and Mrs. Andrews in *Mary Poppins* with Spot lighters Theater. You may have also glimpsed her on many of Benita Zahn's Health Beats as the Media Spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

MICHAEL C. MENSCHING is pleased to be back at Home Made Theater. Previously he directed *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and co-directed *Boeing-Boeing* for Home Made Theater. He also co-emceed *On The Fly* for this theater. Favorite directed shows also include *Parade*, *Aida*, *Next to Normal*, *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, *The Producers*, and *A New Brain*. Favorite roles include Man in Chair (*The Drowsy Chaperone*), Cinderella's Prince and Narrator (*Into the Woods*), Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*) and Tobias (*Sweeney Todd*). Michael was lucky enough and proud to have his play, *The Register*, produced by Troy Civic Theater just before the pandemic.

JOAN MEYER is glad to be back treading the Home Made Theater boards, once again letting McD boss her around! Her most recent role was in SLOC's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Domina), which was an unfortunate early casualty of the COVID pandemic. Previous area appearances include *Barefoot in the Park* (Mother), *Inspecting Carol* (Zorah), *The Game's Afoot* (Madge), and *Calendar Girls* (Chris) at Home Made Theater; *A Comedy of Tenors* (Tatiana Racón), *The Dixie Swim Club* (Vernadette), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Julia), and *Elvis Has Left the Building* (Trudy) at Curtain Call Theatre; *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lady Bracknell [TANYS award for Excellence in Acting]) at Classic Theater Guild; *Les Misérables* (Madame Thénardier) at Troy Acting Guild; *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Jewel) at Local Actors Guild of Saratoga; *A Piece of My Heart* (Maryjo), *Othello* (Emilia), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Eunice), and *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* (Mrs. Bob) at Confetti Stage; and *Hairspray* (Matron/Gym Teacher) at CAPS. A graduate of West Virginia University's College of Creative Arts (BFA-Theatre/Acting), Joan is a freelance voiceover artist, a cantor at

Albany's historic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, and a singer who has performed the US and Canadian national anthems and "God Bless America" at several area venues, including historic Saratoga Race Course, the Times Union Center (Albany Devils), and Joseph L. Bruno Stadium (Tri-City ValleyCats). She dedicates this show's performances in gratitude to Diva (#LivinLaDivaLoca 2003 - 2020) and Tessie (#TessOMyHeart 2010 - 2021). "Take your broken heart and make it into art." (Carrie Fisher) She is honored to raise a Natty Light in fond and humble tribute to this dedicated and incredibly supportive cast, crew, and production team. www.voxdiva.com.

LINDA MIZEUR is thrilled to return to Home Made Theater with this wonderful cast and crew in this beautifully written play. She has appeared in numerous productions at Home Made Theater, Schenectady Civic, Curtain Call Theater, Not So Common Players and ACT. She has most recently been seen on stage in musicals, comedies, and original short plays at The Naples Players in Naples, FL, and at the Bonita Springs Arts Center in Bonita Springs, FL. Much love to my most supportive husband Jim, family and friends.

The Staff

ERIC RUDY (General Manager) comes to Home Made Theater after an extensive career in commercial theater. His many wardrobe management credits include Assistant Wardrobe Master for the prestigious New York City Ballet and for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. He served as Wardrobe Supervisor for the Broadway production of *Fela!*, and for Cirque du Soleil's *Banana Schpeel*. While on the board of IATSE TWU Local 764 he served on two negotiating committees with the Broadway League of Producers. He also served on the board of The Crossroads HDFC as Treasurer and Building Manager.

ERIN NICOLE HARRINGTON (Business Manager) is happy to be entering her fifth season at Home Made Theater, but it's not all "just business" with Erin as she is

also active in the artistic aspect of theater. As a playwright her produced works include *Transfigured Night*, *Individual Toes*, and most recently *The Rite of Intervention*. As a director and designer her work was last seen on stage with the summer 2019 “HMT to Go” pilot production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at Caffè Lena. Erin is also a graduate of SUNY Potsdam where she majored in both Theatre and English with a concentration in Dramaturgy. She would like to thank Jacquie, and her family for all their love and support.

DAWN OESCH (Artistic Coordinator) has been involved with Home Made Theater as an actor and director. She now serves as the Artistic Coordinator. Favorite shows she’s been a part of at Home Made Theater as an actor include: *Cabaret*, *Curtains*, and *Into the Woods*. Directing credits include: *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Addams Family*, *Shrek*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Mamma Mia*. Professionally Dawn owns Saratoga Candy Co. and is past President of the Saratoga Downtown Business Association. Thank you for being a part of our Home Made Theater family in this odd time. Enjoy!

KEVIN MILLER (Technical Director) is happy - and a tad bewildered - to be celebrating his 11th season as Technical Director at Home Made Theater. Kevin has served locally as the TD for Saratoga Shakespeare Company and iTheatre Saratoga/The Creative Place International, and - many, many years ago - was occasionally on stage at ACT, SLOC, and SCP. After attending SUNY New Paltz, Kevin meandered on a 12 year sojourn through Chicago’s professional theater/event/television scene where he worked the spectrum of positions from carpenter to Stage Manager with institutions such as Criterion Productions, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Royal George Theatre and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

MICHAEL MCDERMOTT (Director) last directed *Barefoot in the Park* at Home Made Theater, where he has also directed *The Game’s Afoot* and (co-directed) *Boeing, Boeing*. He designed sets for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at Home Made Theater and *In the Heights*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cabaret*, *Caroline or Change*, *Curtains*, *Aida*, *Anything Goes*, *Seussical*, *South Pacific*, *Beguiled Again*, *39 Steps*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Clue the Musical*, *Anything Goes*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Next to Normal* at other venues. He produced *Aida*, *Next to Normal*, *The*

Drowsy Chaperone, The Kiss of the Spider Woman, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, and Jane Eyre. He was last onstage at Home Made Theater in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and has toured in the summer with the Shakespeare company Will Kempe's Players. In his day job he works as the training director for the NY State Attorney General where he currently is developing a new training curriculum on Inclusive Leadership and Avoiding Bias in Hiring.

LIAM PICKETT (Assistant Director) is very excited to be taking on his first community theatre directorial role and would like to thank Mike McDermott for this incredible opportunity and for entrusting him with so many aspects of this production. Liam works as a director, theatre teacher, and chemistry teacher at The Doane Stuart School in Rensselaer. In that role he has directed productions of *Annie, Cinderella, Newsies, and Little Shop of Horrors* and has taught and worked with students on directing their own productions as well. His previous Home Made Theater production credits include: *New Jerusalem* (Stage Manager), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Props Designer), *Barefoot in the Park* (Props Designer), and *A Chorus Line* (Assistant Stage Manager). Outside of theatre Liam enjoys being outdoors, spending time with his family, reading, writing, and building with Legos. He would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work and hopes that you all fall in love with this play as he has done. Enjoy the show!

JANICE BAIRD (Stage Manager) This is the first time that Janice has worked with Home Made Theater and she is grateful for this chance. Janice has been involved with the theatre since high school. When working in theatre Janice can be found backstage in many different roles, including Stage Manager, Producer, in the booth running lights and sound, or assisting with props and dressing. Janice has worked with Schenectady Civic, SLOC, and other places in the area. Janice is a retired social worker, and lives in Ballston Spa with two of her sons and their dog Zoey.

MATTHEW KOPANS (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to make his Home Made Theater debut with *Almost, Maine*. A native of the suburbs of Boston, he worked in theatre and opera in New York City, Cooperstown, Boston, and Pittsburgh before

moving to Saratoga in 2006. When not designing lights, he raises twins with his wife, and money for Planned Parenthood of Greater New York.

ANNE-MARIE BAKER (Sound Design) is in her 11th season with Home Made Theater. She has worn many hats both on and off stage at Home Made Theater since her first show in 2011. Some of her favorites have been *39 Steps* (Sound Op); *Addams Family* (Ancestor); *Calendar Girls* (Ruth); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Spot Op); and *Dial M for Murder* (Sound Design). She is grateful to Barry and Tom for their constant humor and support.

ERIN FENTON (Costume Designer) is just thrilled to be designing yet again at Home Made Theater. Her credits at Home Made Theater include *Barefoot in the Park*, *Dial M for Murder*, *Cry It Out* and most recently *New Jerusalem*. Some of her other favorite past costume design credits include *Songs for a New World*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, and *The Diviners*. Since graduating back in 2007 from Wagner College with a BA in Design, Technology and Management for Theater, Erin has done a variety of costuming work including working as a Costume Tailor for Colonial Williamsburg. Erin is so thrilled that Home Made Theater has given her the opportunity to become involved in local theater again, not only in design but also serving as the Costume Coordinator and as the newly appointed president of the Board of Directors.

CHRISTINA TOPPIN (Properties Designer) is in her third season designing props with Home Made Theater. A lifelong crafter, she loves putting her glue gun to use, and the more odd the director's requests, the more fun she has. She especially enjoys musicals, and had the most fun designing props for *Young Frankenstein* at Home Made Theater. Christina has also enjoyed performing with the Baker School of Dance. In her free time, she enjoys ballet dancing, crocheting, and gardening. She is excited to be back in the theater after the long hiatus over the last year.

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