

Announcing Auditions  
for our November, 2014 musical



June 17, 18, 2014

7 pm - 10 pm

5 Herman Drive, Simsbury, CT (SLOCO facility)

Check our website for updates and more information  
on how YOU can get involved

[www.theatreguildsimsbury.org](http://www.theatreguildsimsbury.org)



THEATRE  
GUILD OF  
SIMSBURY

*proudly presents*

# Almost, Maine

*by John Cariani*



greater hartford  
arts council

April 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 2014  
Eno Memorial, Simsbury, CT



**Marilyn Rotondo** (GAYLE). This is the first show I've appeared in at Theater Guild of Simsbury and I'm very excited to be part of the cast. I studied acting at Hartford Stage where I appeared in two showcases. Other roles I've had have been as diverse as Granny Fox and God! My character, Gayle, is a woman I have come to know and love. This play is one of my favorites. Hope you enjoy it, too. Thanks to the rest of the cast, the director, the producer and everyone who worked so hard to make this a wonderful experience.

**Amy Rucci** (MARVALYNN, MARCI) is very happy to be in a TGS production for the fourth time. Just recently she donned a blonde wig and other accouterments to play Doralee in the TGS production of *9 to 5: the Musical*. Before she had been seen in *The Music Man* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Other favorites include Suzette in *Don't Dress for Dinner*, Lady Caroline in *Enchanted April*, Rose in *Enchanted April* and Aunt Gardiner in *Pride and Prejudice*. Big thanks go out to her husband Brian and three beautiful children, Emma, Lizzy, and Jonathan for all of their love and support.

**Melissa Silvanic Veale** (GINETTE) lives in Simsbury with her husband, Andrew and their dog, Phoebe. She is an attorney in New Britain and enjoys running, reading, hiking, cooking, and theater in her free time.

**Virginia Wolf** (RHONDA, WAITRESS). Ginny was in both *The Foreigner* and *Our Town* at TGS, and just recently closed *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at the Farmington Valley Stage Company; otherwise, you'll find her on stage anywhere in Connecticut that will cast her! She has one woman show on the Connecticut witchcraft panics, [www.herstorytheater.com](http://www.herstorytheater.com), and hosts "SpotLight; Radio Reveling in the Arts and Entertainment" for WLIS/WMRD. Many thanks to Karen, Laura, and Steve for making a funny scene so much fun, and to her husband, Steven, whose enthusiastic (and patient) support makes it all possible!

**Jerry Zalewski** (LIGHTING DESIGN) is VERY happy to be designing once again for Theatre Guild of Simsbury. Simsbury audiences saw his work last season in *Pride and Prejudice* as well as Simsbury Summer Theatre's *Cinderella*. Jerry can usually be found with the Suffield Players where, as a 33-year member, he has designed and/or crewed over 100 consecutive productions. A two-time recipient of the ACTCONN special award for lighting design, Jerry enjoys consulting or teaching lighting to community, college, and high school groups. Remember: "Without lights....it's only radio!"



**Theatre Guild of Simsbury is thrilled to announce a new series of workshops for actors or those who are thinking about getting on stage!** We are excited to be working with **Hartford Stage** to present the first in the series, *Auditioning for the Stage*. This class will be in two parts, Sunday April 27, and Sunday May 4, from 7-9pm. Please see our website for a detailed description and registration information.

## ALMOST, MAINE

Written by John Cariani

ALMOST, MAINE was developed by  
The Cape Cod Theatre Project

Professional Premier Production:  
Portland Stage Company  
Anita Stewart, Artistic Director  
Tami Ramaker, Managing Director

Originally produced in New York by  
Jack Thomas/Bulldog Theatrical and Bruce Payne

### *Greetings from "Almost, Maine"!*

Have you ever seen the northern lights? They are magical and mystical, and the most awesome light show you'll ever see. I saw them just once, but you never forget. If you've been lucky enough to see them, you can appreciate how they work their special magic on the residents of Almost, Maine. You can believe—*almost*—that each of these nine vignettes take place at the exactly the same time on the same night on the middle of winter.

The Theatre Guild's play reading committee read this play out loud last fall, with different people playing the various roles, much as you'll see it in this production. I loved it, and I knew it would be a wonderful show for us to bring to life for our audiences. Something different, this show offers a chance to suspend reality for a couple of hours, a chance to believe in the power of love. These characters will make you laugh, make you think, and might make you cry—you know, all those things that love makes you feel.

This play can be performed with as few as two men and two women playing all 19 roles. We're doing it with six men and eight women, and frankly, I can't imagine anyone but these people playing these roles. They've worked very hard to create not just characters but people you can relate to, people you'll recognize, in situations you may have experienced yourself—almost. "Reality check" for this show means "check your reality at the door." Prepare to visit a special place with special people. *Welcome to Almost, Maine.*

- Karen Sidel, Director

Produced by Special Arrangement with  
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.  
New York, NY 10016



Karen Sidel



Laura Garger



Ron Blanchette



Penny Carroll



Athan Chekas



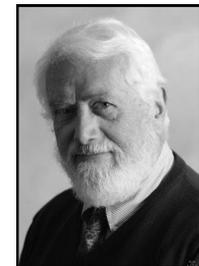
Christy Donahue



Christen Feola



Rick Fiocco



Wilson Keithline



Steve O'Brien



Tom Raines



Mariilyn Rotondo



Amy Rucci



Melissa Silvanic Veale



Virginia Wolf



**Rick Fiocco** (JIMMY, STEVE, CHAD) Despite not performing for over 20 years, Rick always felt acting has been an integral part of his life. He attended Mark Twain Performing Arts School as a teenager and performed many plays including *The King and I* (King, Luntha), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Conrad Birdie), and various one-act plays. During High School and College, Rick performed in student written plays/musicals where he portrayed a multitude of characters. He attended classes at HB Studio in NYC before life directed him on a different career path. After a hiatus of over 20 years, Rick has performed in a variety of plays recently including *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Officer O'Hara) at the Phoenix Stage Company, *Art as Muse* with the East Haddam Stage Company, 24-Hour Theater at the Playhouse On Park Theater in West Hartford, *The Crenshaw Family Reunion* (Leon Geldmacher) with the Plainville Players and the musical *Trouble in Pantoland* (Prince Charming) with the Town Players of New Canaan.

**Ken Jones** (SOUND DESIGN). This is Ken's eighth consecutive TGS production. He has directed and taught theater craft locally since 2003, for a variety of projects, including 30 musicals. He lives by the credo, "Enthusiastically share what you know, and eagerly learn what you don't." This has served him (and his crews) well, and he is grateful to all those who have willingly shared their knowledge, creativity and unique perspectives. He thanks the cast for keeping him entertained and his family for keeping him whole.

**Wilson Keithline** (EAST). It has been my privilege to have been in TGS's ensemble in *Curtains* (2012), the town constable in both *Our Town* (2012) and *The Music Man* (2012) as well as Mr. Tinsworthy in *9 to 5: the Musical* (2013). When not busy in his Simsbury law office, he finds it to be an honor and a joy to be in show business.

**Steve O'Brien** (PHIL, DAVE) is thrilled to be back with TGS's Studio Theater. Steve's past Studio Theater roles include Doc Gibbs in *Our Town*, Ken in *Rumors*, Sergeant Trotter in *The Mousetrap*, and Nunzio in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Steve has also appeared in several TGS musicals, including: Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, The Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, Trevor Graydon III in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and Lieutenant Frank Cioffi in *Curtains*. Steve has performed in a number of other productions including *Harvey*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *All My Sons*, and *The Music Man*. He commutes from *Almost, Maine* to teach fifth grade in West Hartford, and his band plays music in the local area. All my love and thanks to Kathryn-Ann, Liam and Rory

**Tom Raines** (RANDY), has recently, after an extended hiatus, rededicated himself to the stage. Coming off a most satisfying engagement as one of the orchestral voices in *9 to 5: the Musical*, (Theater Guild Simsbury- November 2013) he now wishes to continue finding the roles that will expand his acting abilities.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Athan Chekas** (PETE) is immensely proud of the cast for such a memorable experience and for Karen for making this production possible. In 2012, as a Sophomore at Canton High School, Athan appeared in the musical, *The Pajama Game* and last year appeared in TGS's *Pride and Prejudice* as Denny. He also enjoys track, drawing, and making people laugh. Athan would like to thank his mom, dad, brother, and twin sister for their love and support.

**Doreen A. Cohn** (PRODUCER) has been involved with TGS for over 25 years onstage, as well as behind the scenes. From artistic director to board member and set designer, TGS has always been her "theater home." "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such a dedicated production team and talented cast."

**Charley DeMars** (ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGN), has been involved in the theater for the past ten years working in every aspect of technical production. Under the guidance of his mentor, Ken Jones, he has done shows with the Avon Summer Theater, Loomis Chaffee School, FAVARH in Canton, Canton High School, and TGS. In addition to the theater, he is pursuing a degree in computer networking, working part-time, biking, skiing and working on his Volkswagen.

**Christy Donahue** (HOPE), recently helped out backstage for TGS's production of *9 to 5: the Musical* and is excited to have an opportunity to work once again with such a great group of people. She has studied at the Atlantic Acting School in NYC and was last seen on Windham Theater Guild's stage as Ruby in *Second Samuel*. Previous credits include Evy Meara in Neil Simon's *The Gingerbread Lady*, Elvira Condomine in *Blithe Spirit*, and Miss Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Additionally, Christy is a cast member with AspenDream Productions, CT's longest running dinner theater company, performing in various shows such as *For Better and For Worse* and *Mob's Murder Mystery*. She would like to thank her husband, family, and friends for continuing to support her passion for theater as well as the cast and crew of *Almost, Maine* for a great experience on the TGS stage.

**Christen Feola** (SANDRINE) This is Christen's first performance with the Theatre Guild of Simsbury and she is excited to work with such a wonderfully talented group! Her first taste of the stage was during senior year of high school when she attended her first audition and received a role in the Hartford Children's Theatre production of *Mother Hicks*. She has since appeared in various community theater productions with roles in *The Odd Couple: Female Version* and *Steel Magnolias*. A Simsbury resident, Christen works at the Farmington Valley YMCA. She has recently received her RN licensure and will soon be working in the healthcare field. Christen is blessed with two wonderful children: Aaron and Danielle who make her want to be the best she can be. Among her many roles in real life, Christen cherishes these rare opportunities to explore her desire for the stage. She wishes to thank her family and friends who show unconditional love and support for her in all she does.

**Karen Sidel** (DIRECTOR) met TGS in 2003 and has been actively involved since then, acting, directing, and serving on the Board, currently as President. Director credits include *The Mousetrap* and *Night of January 16<sup>th</sup>* for TGS, and *Impeccable Larceny*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, and *Crimes of the Heart* for other groups. Some favorite onstage roles include Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter*, Veta Louise in *Harvey*, Cynthia Muldoon in *The Real Inspector Hound*, Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, Emma in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Jessica Cranshaw (and the world's oldest mermaid) in *Curtains*, Myrtle Webb in *Our Town*, and Mrs. Bennet in *Pride & Prejudice*. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with this talented group of actors and tech geniuses, and hope you all enjoy the results of their hard work.

**Laura Garger** (ASS'T DIRECTOR) has appeared in eight TGS productions and worked behind the scenes in several others, most recently in *9 to 5: the Musical*. What a thrill it has been to be working along side her dear friend, Karen, on the direction side of this production of *Almost, Maine*. Favorite shows and roles include Eulalie Mackenchnie Shinn in TGS's *The Music Man*, Robin and Sonya in *Godspell*, Kate, the housewife, in *Working*, Lalume in *Kismet*, and Miss Lynch in *Grease*. Laura served eight years on the TGS board, prepared grants, worked on numerous fundraising committees to help support TGS and sat on the reading committee that selected this delightful show! When not involved in theater, Laura works as a lawyer and plays mother to her wonderful daughters, Caroline and Katherine, and wife to the best husband in the world, Greg. Hope you all enjoy the show!

**Ron Blanchette** (LENDALL, MAN). First, I am happy that we survived this winter. Second, you are in for a treat with *Almost, Maine!* After I read the script I immediately marked my calendar for the audition. Luckily I was cast for two scenes playing opposite two talented actors. That talent goes for the rest of the cast and the Director whose mantra is "Learn Your Lines." I am from Ellington (yep! East of the River). I've been in dramas, comedies and musicals for the past 20 years with The Little Theater of Manchester, Manchester Musical Players, and with theater groups in Enfield, Windsor, Suffield and Somers. I've even represented myself as famously deceased men at their grave sites for the Windsor Historical Society. Some of my favorite roles/productions: Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Rumors*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Our Town*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Street Car Named Desire*, *Dearly Departed*, *Run for Your Wife*, *Harvey*, *Crazy for You* and *Man Alive*. Enjoy *Almost, Maine*, my third production with TGS.

**Penny Carroll** (GLORY). A long-time TGS member, Penny has performed in 33 musicals, 9 plays and several cabarets with them. Her favorite roles were Vera Charles in *Mame*, Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street* and Aida in *Over The River and Through The Woods*. She has held all of TGS's executive offices including that of president, which she held for five 5 years. At the Warner Studio Penny portrayed the role of the mother in *Barefoot in the Park* and the housekeeper in *Boeing, Boeing*. Good times all!

**PLACE**

Various locales in Almost, Maine,  
a small town in northern Maine that doesn't quite exist.

**TIME**

The present.

Everything takes place at nine o'clock  
on a cold, clear, moonless, slightly surreal Friday night  
in the middle of the deepest part of a northern Maine winter.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.  
Refreshments are available in the lobby.

**INTERLOGUE - a bench in Pete's yard**

PETE..... Athan Chekas

**ACT TWO**

**Scene 5: THEY FELL - a potato field**

RANDY ..... Tom Raines  
CHAD ..... Rick Fiocco

**PROLOGUE - a bench in Pete's yard**

PETE.....Athan Chekas  
GINETTE ..... Melissa Silvanic Veale

**Scene 6: WHERE IT WENT - ice skating, Echo Pond**

PHIL ..... Steve O'Brien  
MARCI ..... Amy Rucci

**Scene 1: SAD AND GLAD - Moose Paddy, the local hang-out**

JIMMY .....Rick Fiocco  
SANDRINE .....Christen Feola  
WAITRESS ..... Virginia Wolf

**Scene 7: STORY OF HOPE - front porch, small home**

HOPE.....Christy Donahue  
MAN ..... Ron Blanchette

**Scene 2: HER HEART - front yard of old farm house**

GLORY ..... Penny Carroll  
EAST ..... Wilson Keithline

**Scene 8: SEEING THE THING - porch, small home**

DAVE ..... Steve O'Brien  
RHONDA ..... VirginiaWolf

**Scene 3: THIS HURTS - laundry room, Ma Dudley's Boarding House**

STEVE.....Rick Fiocco  
MARVALYNN ..... Amy Rucci

**EPILOGUE - a bench in Pete's yard**

PETE.....Athan Chekas  
GINETTE ..... Melissa Silvanic Veale

**Scene 4: GETTING IT BACK - living room, small home**

GAYLE..... Marilyn Rotondo  
LENDALL..... Ron Blanchette

For the safety of our cast and courtesy of other audience members,  
the use of FLASH photography is prohibited.

Please silence your electronic devices