

Promethean Players perform *Almost, Maine* for fall drama production

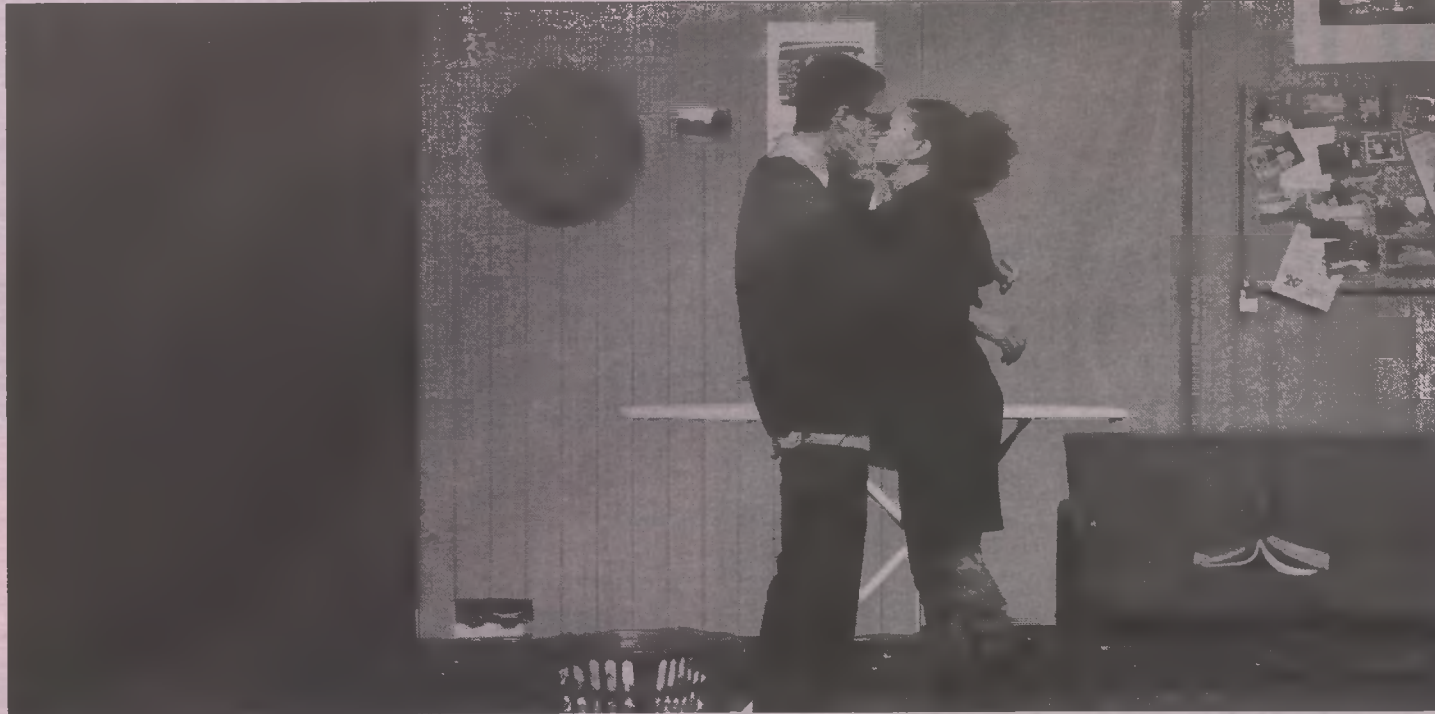


photo courtesy of Kaitly Andreassen

Marvalyn (Donovan O'Daniel) kisses Steve (AJ Goren) in the laundry room of "Ma Dudley's Boarding House," a fictional setting on a backdrop of stars in the fictional town of Almost, Maine. The play had no shortage of romance and kissing, which played out onstage alongside scenes of heartbreak and lost love.

BY AJ GOREN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jeezum Crow! The NCSSM Promethean Players performed *Almost, Maine*, a critically acclaimed play by John Cariani, the weekend of October 24.

A cast of 19 students staged nine individual scenes, all set at 9 p.m. on a chilly January Friday in the fictional northern town of Almost, Maine. Four student directors assisted theater instructor Adam Sampieri in directing the show, which cast its roles and began rehearsal at the beginning of September.

The show opens with Pete, played by Kevin Jarman, and Ginette, played by Perry Healy, struggling to profess

their love for one another, but an offhand comment from Pete about the nature of distance drives Ginette to walk away.

Next, *Almost* resident East (Jordyn Jones) falls for reluctant out-of-towner Glory (Sophie Holmes), who has come to pay her respects to her ex-husband Wes, whose death she feels is her fault.

Then, lonely bar-goer Jimmy (Calvin Lane) runs into ex-girlfriend Sandrine (Morgan Pyrtle) at what he glumly discovers is actually her bachelorette party, but waitress Villian (Darith Klibanow) is there to comfort him.

Next, an inadvertent whack with an ironing board brings together two emotionally abused *Almost* residents – Marvalyn (Donovan O'Daniel), whose

troubled relationship isn't exactly hidden, and Steve (AJ Goren), whose inability to feel pain gives his brother an opportunity to exercise control over him.

Finally, devastated wife Gayle (Grace Marshall) demands that husband Lendall (Miguel de los Reyes) return the love she gave to him, and he obliges, presenting her with an engagement ring. In the second act, we revisit Pete, who is wistfully looking off towards where Ginette walked out.

Following this, we meet Randy (Eric Seiler) and Chad (Liam Becker), beer-drinking best buds who quickly – and literally – fall in love with each other.

Next, the other shoe drops after a tense argument between

husband Phil (Amruth Sriperumbudur) and wife Marci (Jennifer Daiker) when Phil forgets their anniversary.

Then, Hope (Sarah Stephens) is left feeling hopeless after she returns to *Almost* to answer yes to a years-old marriage proposal by ex-boyfriend Daniel (Darvin Heo), who has already gotten married since Hope left for college.

After this, sexual desire builds between a snowmobile-riding couple – boyfriend Dave (Colin Johnson) and girlfriend Rhonda (Claire Amon) after Dave gives Rhonda a homemade painting. Finally, Ginette returns from her instantaneous walk all the way around the world to reunite with Pete.

Adele says “Hello” to top of charts

BY AJ GOREN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Acclaimed British songstress Adele has returned to the charts with *Hello*, her first single in three years. Adele's 2012 album *21*, featuring internationally known hits such as *Rolling in the Deep* and *Someone Like You*, won her six Grammy awards. Previously, her debut album *19*, featuring heartfelt ballads like *Chasing Pavements* and *Hometown Glory*, won her two Grammy awards including Best New Artist in 2009.

Adele is now 27 years old, and her third volume of work is on its way. *25*, set to be released Nov. 20, is sure to arrive to a spectacular level of worldwide anticipation, particularly after the singer's extended absence from the music scene while she focused

A still from the “Hello” video, which debuted Friday, October 23rd to extreme critical acclaim. “Hello” precedes Adele’s upcoming album, “25,” out next month.



photo courtesy of Vanity Fair

on her health and personal life.

Adele announced *25* and its first single, *Hello*, on October 22, releasing *Hello* and its accompanying music video the following day. Already, the video has broken the Vevo record for most views in 24 hours across Vevo and YouTube, amassing 27 million plays in a single day. As of Oct. 30, *Hello* had been downloaded or streamed over 150,000 times, with ample time left to eclipse Ellie Goulding's *Love Me Like You Do* as the song with the greatest first-week sales this year.

The song is a powerful tale of love lost, complemented by Adele's flawless vocals. The Guardian called it “striking, witty and lovelorn,” and it sits comfortably at number one on both the global and United States Spotify Top 50 charts, well ahead of Justin Bieber's *Sorry* and Drake's *Hotline Bling*. Adele says *25* will not portray the same themes of devastating heartbreak that she belted out on *21*. Regardless, *25* is sure to make a great splash in the music world, and Adele is surely soon to sit atop the charts once again.

Ask Charlie!

How can I open my closed-minded roommate up to the world of rap music? -A Jay Z lover

Excellent question, A Jay-Z Lover. First, you should consider how you came to be roommates with someone who is simply not cool. Perhaps some of the blame is your own. Regardless, it is important to not overwhelm your roommate when first introducing them to the world of rap music. For some people, heavy beats and lightning fast lyrics - while excellently written - can be off-putting initially. If your roommate says they do not like this kind of rap, it is probably because your roommate is not very knowledgeable on how to fit in and be cool. It would be smart to introduce them to less intense rap and then build up to your favorite tunes. The beginner rap-listener starter pack includes: the full Iggy Azalea discography, *Beats by Dre* headphones, “Macklemore is the best rapper,” and the

Staff and students who saw *Almost, Maine* had nothing but praise for the show.

Student Life Instructor Ross Knight called it the best show he had seen in his four years at NCSSM.

Junior Emily York was enthusiastic after seeing the show two nights in a row:

“The play was amazing! The different love stories shared enough similarities to be a cohesive play, yet not enough to be repetitive. I especially liked the prologue, interlogue and epilogue, as they were adorable.

Junior Michael Carter shared similar enthusiasm for the production:

“I thought that *Almost, Maine* was a fun look at the ups and downs of love. It kept me interested and laughing through every scene.”

Cast members felt a similar love for the show, as well as a bond to castmates as a result of long hours in the auditorium for tech week.

“It was a good first show. It even inspired one of my friends to fall down in front of a girl to ask her out,” remarked Amruth Sriperumbudur, who played Phil.

NCSSM Tech had significant interest this year, which was important to this show due to the many tech and staging needs.

Tech jobs included rigging up a boot to drop from the sky and making fake snowfall by cutting up plastic bags. The set and staging came together under the stage management of senior Mack Harrison.

clean version of Super Bass by Nicki Minaj. Once your roommate feels comfortable with this fake social persona, they might be ready to move on and become an actual rap fan. Lucky for your roommate, rap itself consists of many smaller sub-genres. These include, but are not limited to: good rap and Eminem. If your roommate finds a rap subgenre that they truly enjoy, then congratulations! You have completed your mission. Unfortunately, rap is not for everyone. If weeks and weeks of peer pressure and passive-aggressiveness produce no results, you probably want to invest in a good pair of headphones and never speak to your roommate again. -Charlie

To submit a question to Ask Charlie, look out for the submission form for the next issue on the NCSSM Classes of 2016 and 2017 page.