

Dana Hills High School's "Almost Maine" is Simply Lovely!
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In the quaint unincorporated territory of Almost, a lot can happen in fifteen minutes. Under the serene northern lights, nine pairs of people experience love in all its many facets. Some fall in love, some fall out of love, and some regain lost love, but all give a warming performance that is sure to melt your heart.

Lucy Himmelberg plays Glory, the broken-hearted hiker on a mission to pay respects to her late ex-husband. Himmelberg utilizes the emotional rollercoaster of her scene. Her frantic, almost manic energy in some parts contrasts her long soft beats in others, adding depth to both her character and to the scene.

Jack Wentzel breathes life into the ignorant New England airhead Jimmy. Wentzel's comedic timing makes every missed social cue or awkward situation all the more enjoyable. His high energy and aggressive friendliness play well off of the more proper and closed-off Sandrine (Gabby Badgwell) and the two exploit this difference to add to their relationship, as well as the natural comedic beats of the scene.

Annika Green flawlessly differentiates her two roles as Hope and Rhonda. Hope's sensitive, beat-down demeanor juxtaposes Rhonda's loud and aggressive gait. Rhonda's contentious, blunt delivery goes against the delicate, trailing-off vocal pattern of Hope. Green gives each character a distinctive, heart-stealing, and entertaining performance, where both characters feel fully developed and thought out.

Costumes, led by Jessica Buetler and Elizabeth Field, define not only each character but the relationship with their scene partner as well. Jimmy's loose flannel shirt and work pants contrast Sandrine's nice white dress, immediately displaying the big character differences between the two. East's (Austyn Perrone) untied shoes and overcoat thrown over pajamas make it clear he went out of his house in a hurry and add an almost comedic element to the scene.

Lighting (Marlena "Mars" O'Kane and Austyn Perrone) adds vital depth throughout the show. Warm tones contrast cold ones to make a clear difference when characters are outside or inside. Green, blue, and pink lights blend together to create the northern lights that tie every scene together. Special lights like the shooting star perfectly add to the scene without overstaying their welcome.

Dana Hill's "Almost Maine" uses realistic, heartfelt acting hand in hand with expert technical elements to create a show you can't help but fall in love with.