

# Drama

## SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED ON OUR WAY TO THEATRE

**Drama department performs two plays during fall season**  
story by e.aho & j.rigko  
 design by z.stanley

**BY NOVEMBER, THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT PERFORMED TWO DIFFERENT PLAYS.**

In September the theatre group performed "Trap" and then in November, a smaller cast debuted "Almost Maine."

The play "Trap" centered around a group of witnesses and investigators who tried to figure out why individuals during a high school performance fell unconscious. Along the way, they discovered some of the history of the theatre and why that was a chosen place for an attack.

"What I loved about this play is my character got to slowly go insane in a matter of a scene," Hannah D'Epagnier '23 said. "The ending also surprised the audience as they got to be part of

the reenactment of the theatre scene where people in the audience started to go unconscious. It was a great show to return to."

Compared to the ensemble focus during the documentary styled "Trap," "Almost, Maine" was character driven, exploring love and heartache through nine short love stories. According to Celeste Tari '22, the two plays allowed her to tap into her different acting sides.

"For 'Trap' I played the role of a mother, while for 'Almost, Maine,' I was a young adult who came back to see her ex boyfriend," Tari said. "The mindsets of the characters were completely different so it was a fun challenge being able to explore both of my characters."

**AND IF YOU NEED MORE CONVINCING, CONTINUE TO PAGES 32-33.**



**MY EYES SAY IT ALL.** Angela (played by Jayla Shedeed '24) talks to the 911 operator (played by Trevor Moore '24) after witnessing an entire theatre of people pass out with no explanation in the play "Trap." This conversation helped introduce what was revealed to the audience at the end of the play. "It was a really unique acting experience to do because I have never been in a situation where I am the only survivor, and it was really interesting to try and experience something that was foreign to me," Shedeed said. **PLEASE ANSWER.** Marion Jay (played by LeAnn Lloyd '22) talks on the phone to explain facts about the Phariox in the first act of "Trap." The Phariox were creatures that came and invaded a high school play and disguised themselves as people who sucked people's souls out of their bodies. "I loved the plot twist at the end. I've never done a live where there was some sort of plot twist," Lloyd said. "Basically what happened is we did our bows, and we said that our show was over, but then

Mrs. Archuleta came out and said the show is not actually over and then we did this extra little scene to spook the audience out." **MAKE YOUR POINT.** Representing the State, Mollusk's Counsel (played by Afton Smith '22) begins to ask questions to the defendant on trial while the judge (played by Andre Contreras-Morales '25) stands by in the play "Trap." The defendant was found guilty and his wife committed suicide. "I liked that this play made people think. With my role, I had to get the British accent down," Smith said. **IT'S A SNOWBALL.** After reconciling, Ginette (played by Abby Flancher '22) lays her head on Pete's (played by Ben Coronado '25) shoulder staring at the sky as it starts to snow while he looks down at the snowball in his hand during the Epilogue of "Almost Maine." Ben's character used the snowball to verbally talk to his girlfriend Ginette after she had left him at the bench after a disagreement.

photos by r. weidemann



### ABBY FLANCHER '24

"I had to walk around the world because he didn't want me to sit next to him. When I started walking people started laughing though it was a serious situation. You get to make people happy, and the lack of dialogue in the later scenes made it funnier."



photo by r. weidemann

**WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING PART OF DRAMA?**

**DESIRAE MUNOZ '22**

"My favorite part about drama is it is a safe place. I've been here for three plus years, and I have really come to build a family here."



**HANNAH D'EPAGNIER '24**

"I really enjoy drama because I am surrounded by people who really understand something that I love and they love it as much as I do. I just love being on stage."

**MAYA GROVUM '24**

"It gives you a community and safe place where you can make a lot of friends. It forces you to work together and build trust with those around you."

**ALISSANDRA CERVERA '24**

"Something I enjoy about drama is the people and the experience you get to do, you learn a lot and have a lot of fun. You will meet new people who care."



photo by r. weidemann

**RAINIER NIDAY '24**

"The opportunities where you can be whoever and there is a lot of mobility. It's an opportunity to meet new people that you would not usually meet in your classes."

**LARA STEAKLEY '25**

"I enjoy being a techie because I get to help build the set. I get to become something bigger than just me and feel apart of the show."



**MADISON FIELDER '22**

"What I like about drama is how everyone is so cheerful and happy. Also, how everyone was so comfortable with each other and it transfers to the stage."

**AND THIS SHOULD CONVINCIE YOU**  
 THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM  
 "The Trap," "Almost, Maine" **031**

Special Instructions

Special Instructions

# DRAMA

## SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED ON OUR WAY TO THEATRE

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**BOTH** PLAYS WERE PERFORMED IN THE SPAN OF ONLY A FEW MONTHS with "Almost, Maine" auditions beginning the week after "Trap." The cast and crew had around five weeks to prepare for each production. With "Almost, Maine" being a smaller cast, students rehearsed with their scene partners and worked with director Jane Archuleta one-on-one with their scenes to get feedback.

"It was a lot of work, but I really enjoyed performing two plays in the fall. It was a different experience that really challenged us all," Jayla Shedeed '24 said. "Almost, Maine" was a different way of directing and putting a show together that I thought was really cool. I liked how we got to work on our particular scene with Arch."

Only performing in two shows last year – one in the fall and one in the spring – Archuleta wanted to provide her students, particularly the seniors, an in-person performing experience by adding two shows in the fall and the musical in the spring. With the tight schedule resulting from the four day week, Archuleta was not short of stress to direct both plays before the end of the first semester.

"I've realized as a result that in the future I probably won't be able to do two shows in the fall because of the time constraints of the four day week. It's really hard to get it all to fit in," Archuleta said. "Fall gets really packed with so much stuff and it's so crazy that I think it'll be easier, so we can do more character work. I will try to fit two shows in the spring though because I want kids to have a rich drama experience."

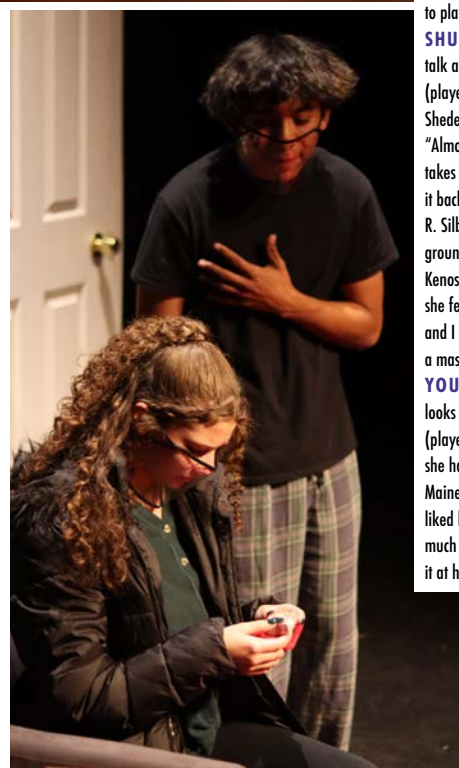
### JAYLA SHEDEED '24

"Kissing on stage is definitely different than kissing in real life. It wasn't weird or anything, especially because we are really good at acting. I have never done anything like that on stage before, so it was definitely a good growing experience as an actor."

**IT'S BEEN FOREVER.** Jimmy (played by Logan Flanagan '22) runs up to his ex-girlfriend Sandrine (played by Irene Hernandez '22) to give her a hug while at the local hangout, Moose Paddy, in the play "Almost, Maine." Jimmy soon discovers that Sandrine was at her bachelorette party. "My character was essentially still grieving over the fact that he was no longer with her so he starts flirting with her a little bit. He was a fun character to play," Flanagan said. **JUST LISTEN.** Kendra Silberling (played by Celeste Tari '22) shares with the audience in documentary style about the unique traits of her daughter Kenosha R. Silberling (played by Isabella Rector '22) in "Trap." "This role let me dive into a different character type. I never really played a mom before and this show really allowed me to be in that older position," Tari said. photos by r. weidemann

**HOLD ME BACK.** Ephraim Salas (played by Kenneth Guzman Corral '22) gets pulled back by two security officers after being told he has to leave the premises in the play "Trap." "Right after this, we were about to hear the noise that would change the course of action for the rest of the show and help reveal what is happening to the injured people," Guzman said. "I like how this play challenged us all to play serious characters in a situation that was different." **SHUT UP AND KISS ME.** After listening to her talk about how she believes she killed her husband, East (played by Afton Smith '22) draws Glory (played by Jayla Shedeed '24) into a kiss in his front yard during the play, "Almost, Maine." At the end of the scene, East, a repairman, takes a bag that has Glory's heart in it and starts to put it back together. **I THINK SHE'S DEAD.** Kenosha R. Silberling (played by Isabella Rector '22) lays on the ground pretending to be dead at the end of the play, "Trap." Kenosha was a Pharanox and when she heard classical music, she fell down in pain. "I loved the creepiness in the play, and I really liked the idea of playing a character that wears a mask and is the villain," Rector said. **I WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.** Gayle (played by Ellie Opp '23) looks down at a box with an engagement ring in it as Lendell (played by Anthony Orozco '22) explains how much love she has given him in their 11 year relationship in "Almost, Maine." By the end of the scene, Gayle accepted the ring. "I liked how perky she was. She was really sassy, so it was so much fun to storm off stage and grab all the bags and throw it at him," Opp said. photos by r. weidemann

**THIS IS ONE SPECIAL PAINTING.** After getting back from snowmobiling, Rhonda (played by Mateah Archuleta '25) stares at a painting given to her as a gift from Dave (played by Kurtis Smith '22), who nervously laughs as he waits for a reaction from her in the play, "Almost, Maine." The audience doesn't discover until the end of the scene that the painting was a red heart painted by Dave. "It was one of the funniest scenes in my opinion, so I really enjoyed playing the comedy character and getting to end the play in a funny way," Archuleta said. **ARE YOU OKAY MY FRIEND?** Deena (played by Elise Aho '22) reaches for Shelly (played by Jenaya Ripko '22) after she has fallen down out of nowhere in "Almost, Maine." It is revealed at the end of the scene that the reason for Shelly falling was her falling in love with Deena. "I liked that it was a partner and duet scene, so that I could just work with Jenaya individually and work with Arch, instead of the traditional, where we practice the play in one sitting," Aho said. **DO YOU SEE IT?** After arguing about where he misplaced his shoe after ice skating, Phil (played by Silas Vazquez '22) listens as his wife Marci (played by LeAnn Lloyd '22) explains to him that the star he wants to wish on is actually the planet Saturn during a scene of "Almost Maine." Moments later, Marci admits to Phil that tonight was their wedding anniversary and feels lonely in their marriage. "It was very much a sad tale of two people growing further apart as they continue their marriage, and at the end, they realize there is no point of them staying together," Vazquez said. **IT'S LAUNDRY DAY.** Marvalyn (played by Katie Zirker '23) panics while holding her laundry basket as she listens to Steve (played by Kenneth Guzman Corral '22) share that he needs to talk to his brother about the kiss he and she just shared in the play "Almost Maine." "I really liked that I was able to hit Kenneth in the head multiple times with an ironing board, but at the end it helped him feel pain, so mission accomplished," Zirker said. photos by r. weidemann



#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING PART OF DRAMA?

**DAVID MENDEZ-REYES '25**  
"I love the people and the environment. We're all a family and we all care for each other and respect each other. It's a place to call home."

**IRENE HERNANDEZ '22**  
"I'd say the people. We can get a little bit crazy or a lot, but we're still fun and most of my friends are in drama. I also love to perform on stage."



**TREVOR MOORE '23**  
"My favorite thing about drama is the family that you make. The people you meet is a really nice family and everyone is really nice."



**ANTHONY OROZCO '22**  
"The community. Everyone has each other's back to work toward a common goal, which is the best show we can do."

**ANDREA DONLUGAS '22**  
"I love that drama is an accepting place where everyone can set aside their differences and come together to put on jaw-dropping productions."



**LEX POWELL '25**  
"I enjoy the ensemble. Even though I may not have a main cast part, I still enjoy acting. Being a background character doesn't seem important until you are one."

**JONATHAN GROENE '25**  
"I honestly enjoy the people because they are all nice. It's my first show but coming in everybody was super welcoming and that's what makes me want to come back more."

AND THIS SHOULD CONVINCE YOU THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM "The Trap," "Almost, Maine" **033**