

BLUE BOOK THEATRE CO.

presents

ALMOST, CATALONIA

an adaptation of
Almost, Maine by John Cariani

“...the sentimental person thinks things will last—the romantic person has a desperate confidence that they won’t.”

—F. Scott Fitzgerald

Almost, Catalonia is for
romantics—not sentimentalists.

PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

SCENE 1: HER HEART

SCENE 2: SAD AND GLAD

SCENE 3: THIS HURTS

SCENE 4: GETTING IT BACK

INTERIOGUE

ACT TWO

SCENE 5: THEY FELL

SCENE 6: WHERE IT WENT

SCENE 7: STORY OF HOPE

SCENE 8: SEEING THE THING

EPILOGUE

PLACE

Various locales in Almost, Catalonia, a small town in far Catalonia, close to the Pyrenees, that doesn't quite exist.

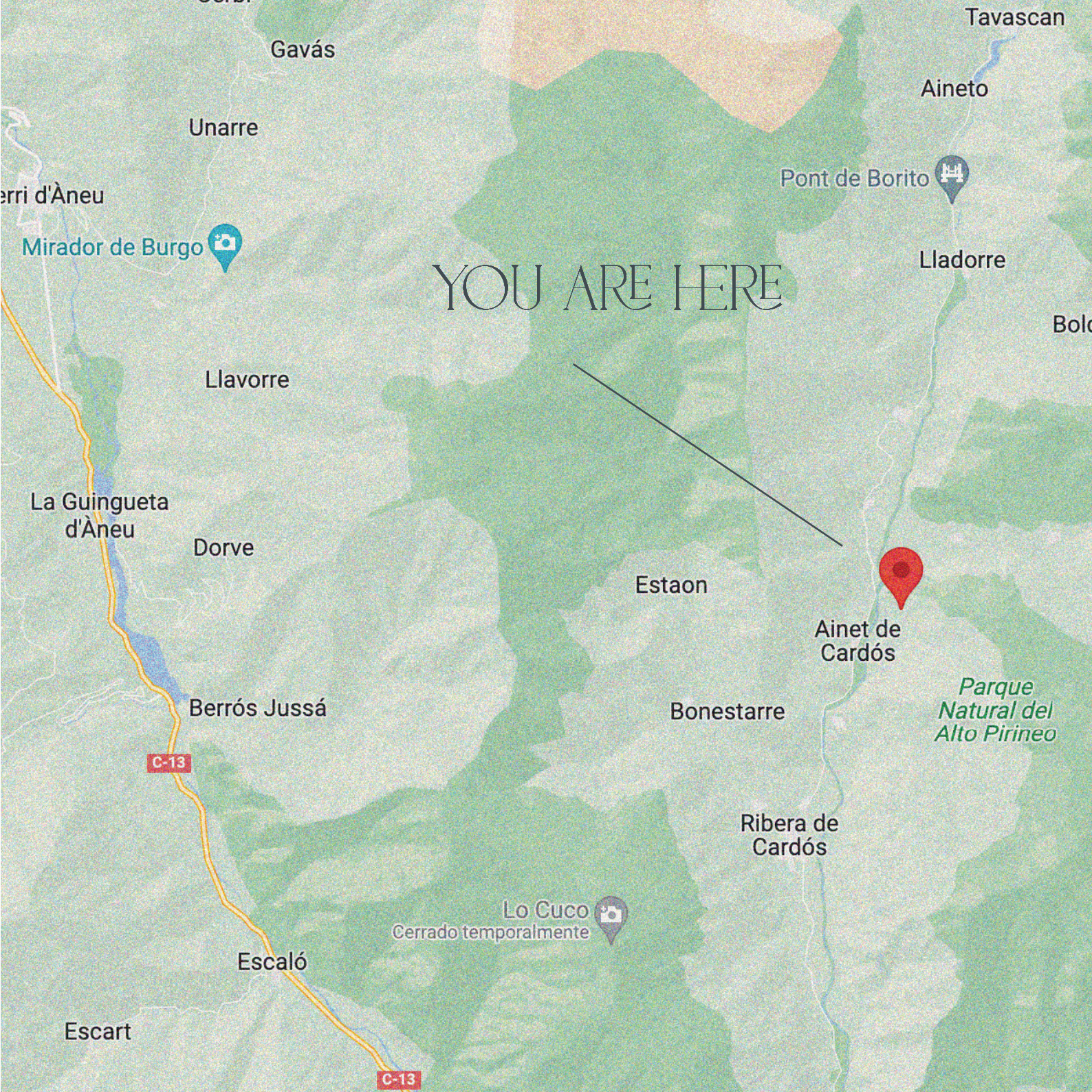
TIME

The present.

All events transpire over the same ten minutes

—from around 8:50 to a bit after 9 P.M.—

on a cold, clear, moonless, slightly surreal Friday night in the middle of the deepest part of a Northern Catalonia winter.



YOU ARE HERE



Ainet de Cardós

Parque Natural del Alto Pirineo

Lo Cuco
Cerrado temporalmente

C-13

C-13

Gavás

Unarre

Aineto

Pont de Borito

Lladorre

Llavorre

La Guingueta d'Àneu

Dorve

Estaon

Bonestarre

Berrós Jussá

Ribera de Cardós

Escaló

Escart

Tavascan

Bol

The people of Almost, Catalonia, are rural humans.

They're not hicks. They're not quaint, quirky eccentrics. They don't wear funny clothes and funny hats. They don't have funny Catalan accents. They are not "different." They are not fishermen or lobster women. They don't wear galoshes and rain hats.

The people of Almost, Catalonia, are not cuddly and cute. They're hardworking, ordinary people. They're dignified. They're honest and true. They're not cynical. They're not sarcastic. They're not eloquent. But this does not mean that they're dumb. They're very smart. They just take time to wonder about things. They speak simply, honestly, truly, and from the heart. They are not precious about what they say or do.

The people of Almost, Catalonia, are dealing with a lot of the things that people who live in rural Catalonia deal with: poverty, unemployment, limited opportunity, addiction. So, there's a distinct sadness underlying the hope and joy in this play.

Prologue

PETE and GINETTE, who have been dating for a little while.

Her Heart

EAST, a repairman, and GLORY, a hiker.

Sad and Glad

JIMMY, a heating and cooling guy; SANDRINE, his ex-girlfriend; a salty WAITRESS.

This Hurts

MARVALYN, a woman who is very good at protecting herself, and STEVE, an open, kind fellow whose brother protects him.

Getting It Back

GAYLE and LENDALL, longtime girlfriend and boyfriend.

Interlogue

PETE, from the Prologue.

They Fell

DEENA and SHELLY, two “County girls.”

Where It Went

PHIL, a hard-working husband, and his hard-working wife, MARCI.

Story of Hope

HOPE, who has traveled the world, and a MAN, who has not.

Seeing the Thing

RHONDA, a tough woman, and DAVE, the not-so-tough man who loves her.

Epilogue

PETE and GINETTE, from the Prologue.

ALMOST, MAINE, A PLAY

Almost, Maine opened Off-Broadway in 2006 at the Daryl Roth Theatre. Since then, Almost, Maine has become one of the most frequently produced plays, produced by over 2500 theater companies in North America to date. In 2014, The Washington Post reported that Almost, Maine had replaced Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream as the most frequently produced play in North American High Schools. Almost, Maine has also been translated into nearly 20 languages.

"YOU ARE NOT CLOSE TO ME AT ALL."

"WHAT'S IT LIKE? TO
NOT FEEL PAIN?"

"IT'S JUST, I WAS ALL
ALONE OUT THERE
IN THE WORLD
WITH NO PLACE IN
IT, AND I REALIZED
WHAT I'D DONE."

"THAT'S NOT NATURAL,
IT'S UNNATURAL, SO
LET'S DO WHAT'S
THE NATURAL THING
TO DO..."

"I WANT ALL THE LOVE I
GAVE YOU BACK, BECAUSE
I WANNA BRING IT WITH ME."

"THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN ANSWER TO ME."

THERE IS ONE THING IN THIS WORLD THAT MAKES ME FEEL REALLY GOOD
AND THAT DOES MAKE SENSE AND IT'S YOU. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN YOU.

JUST SAY THE WORD.
LET ME KNOW. 'CAUSE I
KNOW FROM SAD, AND
YOU'RE LOOKIN' PRETTY
SAD.

"IS THERE ANY
BLOOD? ANY
DISCOLORATION?
THEN I'M OKAY."

"... HE WAS A GOOD FISH."

"...AND THERE'S A LINE, WHICH FRIENDS CANT CROSS, BUT YOU
CROSSED IT."

"I THINK I LOVE YOU."

THE WRITER JOHN CARIANI

John Edward Cariani (born July 23, 1969) is an award-winning American actor and an accomplished playwright. Cariani is best known to television viewers as the unwavering forensic expert Julian Beck in *Law & Order*. On stage, he earned a Tony Award nomination for his role as Motel the Tailor in the 2004 Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Born in Brockton, Massachusetts, Cariani was 8 when his family moved to Presque Isle, Maine.

He attended Presque Isle High School where he was active in the music and theater programs. After graduating in 1987, he attended Amherst College where he was a member of the Zumbyes, Amherst's oldest a cappella group, and the Glee Club. After graduating from Amherst College in 1991 with an B. A. in history, he studied acting and directing at now defunct StageWest in Springfield, Massachusetts. He then moved to New York to pursue acting.



As a playwright, Cariani is best known for his first play, *Almost, Maine* which premiered at the Portland Stage Company in 2004 and became the company's most successful production to date garnering critical acclaim and breaking box office records. It was named "one of the ten must-see shows" in *The Wall Street Journal's* regional roundup for 2004/2005 regional theater season.

CAST &
CREW



Aldo D'Ibaños (@ aldo_dibanos, Brazil 1979) is a Spanish/ Brazilian actor based in Barcelona. A professional musician since the age of 17, he has toured and recorded with many local artists around his hometown in Porto Alegre. He began his acting career in Brazil, studying in the “Casa de Teatro” and participating in several independent productions along with a full-length film called “Trapaça”, which was nominated for Best Movie Picture in the independent section of the “Festival de Gramado” in 2020. In theatre, he is part of the company “Cllá” which has won several Açorianos awards in 2018 including Best Act of the Year. He is also a member of “Theatre4Schools”, a Spanish theatre company specializing in English spoken plays for children and teenagers.

In 2017 he graduated from “Plato de Cinema” acting school in 2020 in Barcelona and regularly attends workshops with professionals like Mai Rojas (Los Escultores Del Aire) and Luci Lenox in Frank Stein Studio.

Albert Ward (@ albertward1962), an Actor and Writer raised in a large family from Newcastle in the north of England. Albert gave up a 27 year career with British Airways to become a full time mature student, graduating in 2020 with an MA Acting degree from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Whilst living in Germany for four years he was Production Co-ordinator for the Welton Theatre and directed “Wait until Dark” for the BFG Theatre Festival. In the UK he has undertaken many roles at Theatre Royal Lincoln and Key Theatre Peterborough.

His one man show “Unmasked” was published in 2021 as part of a Covid Drama series for DDArts Birmingham.







Michael Strelow (@mishastrelow) was born and raised Kansas. He graduated from the University of Kansas where his first became interested in acting as a Theatre & Film major. He has lived and worked in both Los Angeles and New York City, where he got his first film, TV and stage credits. He now lives in Barcelona, Spain where he continues to garner actor credits working on international film, television and commercial projects. He is a founding member of the Blue Book Theatre Company.



Aileen Marie Kelly (@aileen_marie, Chicago, IL). A designer by trade and with degrees in both Design and Cultural Anthropology, she fell in love with theatre and acting at a very young age. She is now privileged to be studying the Meisner Programme with Javier Galitó-Cava and collaborating with the talented humans of the Blue Book Theatre Company, which she founded with her colleagues in 2022, after the pandemic.



Nastasiia Shapoval (@nastasiia_shapoval, Kiev, Ukraine). A Ukrainian director, actor and acting coach, graduated from The Program of the Meisner Technique by Javier Galitó-Cava (Barcelona 2020) and Ivana Chubbuck Teacher Trainee (LA 2021). She opened the Acting Studio in Kyiv (2021) which now works for Ukrainian actors online. In the last 2 years she has participated as a director and assistant director in more than 5 plays in Barcelona and Kyiv (2022–2023).



Alina Razumenko (@alina_razumenko, Ukraine) has participated in more than 35 projects, both in series and in films, and also in more than 15 theatre productions.

Along with acting, her passion is music and she also international DJ. While touring, she has worked in and visited over 45 countries. Music and theatre have the capacity of evoking amazing emotions and feelings which keeps her feeling alive and inspired.



Mathias Schindler (@realslimschindler) is the Stage Manager of this production and is ensuring that everything backstage runs smoothly. He has over a decade of experience in amateur productions in his native Denmark in various stage disciplines, ranging from acting to dancing and even rapping. This May, he directed and produced An Innocent Little Murder at the Comedy Clubhouse, marking his directorial debut. When he is not reading scripts, you can find him writing computer code to pay the bills.



B.J. Evans (NYC, USA) is a producer and curator of time-based art and is currently producing and curating for theaters and festivals across North America and Europe. She has developed work across a spectrum of disciplines; from theater and dance, to poetry, installation art, ritual-making, and film and tv. Her creative producing career includes time at The Dallas Theater Center, Blue Man Group, Working Theater, The Public Theater, BRIC, Fiasco Theater, The Under the Radar Festival, Our Town (off-Broadway), and Sleep No More. B.J. is also a freelance dramaturg specializing in participatory, experimental, and devised performance, and holds an M.A. in Applied Theatre, focusing on theater as a tool for community building and social action. She is currently an MFA Candidate in Pedagogy and Dramaturgy at the University of Idaho.

Michelle Ivannova (@michelleivannova, Bulgaria) At the age of 7, she discovered her love for theatre and started taking acting classes and participate in several plays in Bulgarian, English and German language.

In 2019, she moved to the Netherlands, where she obtained her research Bachelor of Arts degree. In 2022, she moved to Barcelona to continue her higher education. In the meantime, she has actively participated in acting workshops and has further developed her passion for acting.







Valeria Scheilen (@valeriascheilen, Russia) is a multilingual actress who has made her mark in the international theater and film scene. With fluency in German, Russian, English, Spanish, and a growing understanding of Catalan, Valeria brings a unique linguistic versatility to her performances.

Having studied at Michael Tschechow Studio in Berlin, Valeria's training has shaped her into a dynamic and skilled performer. Her talent has taken her to stages across Berlin and Germany, where she has showcased her acting prowess in both theater and film projects.

In addition to her acting skills, Valeria finds joy in the expressive art of salsa and tango, infusing her performances with an added layer of passion and grace. Currently residing in Barcelona, Valeria has found a vibrant artistic community to call home. Her linguistic abilities and captivating stage presence continue to captivate audiences, allowing her to connect with diverse cultures and leave a lasting impression.

Samuel Allan (@samuel.allan.bcn) was introduced to theatre at a very young age while growing up in Cyprus. He fell in love with acting and performed in several film and theatre productions around the island. He then went on to study a Performance Degree at university in the U.K.

After moving to Catalonia, he signed with an agency and booked jobs starring in short & feature films, TV series and commercials. His passion for the stage was kept alive by his involvement in local theatre groups like Project B and SETC. While in Mexico, Samuel fell into a new line of work as a voice-over artist. Upon returning to Barcelona, he joined the Watch This Space improvisation team, where he helps to put on and participate in weekly improv jams.







Óliver Novelles (@oliver_nouvelles, Terrassa, Spain). As a musician and as an actor, he graduated from the Col·legi de Teatre in Barcelona and later in Meisner Technique School with Javier Galito-Cavà.

He has played leading roles in various works such as “A las doce me marcho...” by Pilar Seijo or “Els fills del sol” by Màxim Gorki, as well as several roles in microtheatre, some of his own dramaturgy, at Microteatre Barcelona, Microdegustación theater and Weller Bar St. Boi. On television, he has appeared in TV3 or Netflix series and films in small roles, as well as in several commercials.

Mercè Mas (@mmrcm, Catalonia). With a solid professional background in Advertising, Public Relations and Digital Marketing and with an emerging career as a professional actress and playwright, Mercè is a highly versatile artist. She loves to work as an actress in cinema, tv shows, theater plays and to act in Catalan, Spanish and English.

Mercè’s training in acting has shaped her into a multidisciplinary actress-creator. She studied acting techniques at Arsènic Espai de Creació drama school, completing the Cicle Formatiu de Grau Superior en Tècniques d’Actuació Teatral. Additionally, she has honed her skills through various acting courses focused on on-camera performance, including “Acting in English” at Frank Stein Studio with Luci Lenox and Mike Cater, “Interpretació davant de càmera” with Lluïsa Castell, and “La veritat i la càmera: Crear perquè ens creguin” with Sílvia Quer, both at Estudi Karloff.



Stage Manager

Mathias Schindler

Light and Sound Technician

Josep Prim

B.J. Evans

Graphic Designer

Aileen M. Kelly

Assistant Director

Nastasiia Shapoval

Director

Michael Strelow

Production

Blue Book Theatre Company

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FOR YOUR
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