

RMC PERFORMANCE SELECTED BY RMTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – The presentation of “Almost, Maine” by the Rocky Mountain Theatre Arts Department has been selected from more than 50 plays performed by colleges in the Rocky Mountain Theatre Association to be presented at the regional “Festivention.”

According to Prof. Gerry Roe, who directed the RMC production, an RMTA adjudicator attended the show when it was presented in October. The RMC presentation was one of only three college productions selected to perform at the RMTA convention in Helena, Feb. 11, 2010.

RMTA represents college theatre from Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Nevada.

“We’re very pleased to have been chosen,” said Roe. “This was a play that presented some unique challenges because it consists of nine vignettes, with 20 or so characters. Originally, only four actors portrayed all the different characters, but I wanted to incorporate as many students as possible, giving that many more opportunities for students to perform and grow. I also wanted to make sure Shad Scott, who made this his senior project, had the opportunity to show his versatility as an actor, performing four different parts.”

“Almost, Maine,” written by John Cariani, opened in New York City in 2006, and is about a small town where residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways, Roe said.

“All things come together in the end, almost,” he added.

Roe said he first was introduced to the play through friends at Sheridan College, Wyoming. Gene Sager and his wife, Lillian, presented the play and “bowled me over with what was to me then an unknown play,” Roe explained.

Roe said the honor of being selected was particularly rewarding because he had just returned from directing summer theatre at the Virginia City Opera House, a project RMC took on this year for the first time.

“I needed a fall production and ‘Almost, Maine’ just fit,” he said.

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