



PLAY BY: **JOHN CARIANI**

DIRECTED BY: **NICOLETTE NAVARRO AND DEVON BRADLEY**

STREAMING FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021

LOVE/SICK is presented by special arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC, NEW YORK.

Professional Premiere Production: PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY

Anita Stewart, Executive and Artistic Director; Brenda Lewis, General Manager.

New York Premiere presented by Royal Family Productions

Chris Henry, Artistic Director.

Bellissima
PRODUCTIONS

ABOUT THE SHOW

A darker cousin to Almost, Maine, John Cariani's LOVE/SICK is a collection of nine slightly twisted and completely hilarious short plays. Set on a Friday night in an alternate suburban reality, this 80-minute romp explores the pain and the joy that comes with being in love. Full of imperfect lovers and dreamers, LOVE/SICK is an unromantic comedy for the romantic in everyone.

SCENES:

OBSESSIVE IMPULSIVE ▪ **THE SINGING TELEGRAM MAN** ▪ **WHAT?!**
▪ **THE ANSWER** ▪ **UH-OH** ▪ **THE LUNCH AND DINNER** ▪ **FORGOT**
▪ **WHERE WAS I?** ▪ **DESTINY**



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CAST: BY SCENE

Obsessive Impulsive

Man: Eric Ruelle
Woman: Mary Ruelle

The Singing Telegram Man

Singing Telegram Man: Nick Lama
Louise: Claire Bingaman

What!?!

Andy: Aaron Saldana
Ben: Mike Alessi

The Answer

Keith: Mike Alessi
Celia: Claire Bingaman

Uh- Oh

Bill: Aaron Saldana
Sarah: Callie Keavey

Lunch & Dinner

Mark: Nick Lama
Kelly: Mary Ruelle

Forgot

Kevin: Aaron Saldana
Jill: Kate Schrodtt

Where Was I?

Abbie: Kate Schrodtt
Liz: Callie Keavey

Destiny

Jake: Eric Ruelle
Emily: Mary Ruelle



PRODUCTION STAFF

Directors.....Devon Bradley & Nicolette Navarro
Producer.....Emily DiMartino
Filmography.....Janelle Harb
Lighting and Sound.....Callie Keavey
Costume Designer.....Sydney Bucholtz
Assistant Costume Designer.....Claire Bingaman
Sets and Props Managers.....Emily DiMartino
Callie Keavey



CAST BIOS

Mike Alessi (Ben/Keith) was previously seen in Tick...Tick...BOOM!, 35mm: A Musical Exhibition, and The Last Five Years with Bellissima Productions. Mike teaches private voice, piano, and general music lessons at a performing arts studio and sings with Vocalis and Harmonia choirs. His favorite part of working on this production was finally coming back to perform with close friends and meeting new members of the company! He would like to thank his family for providing him with constant support and encouragement to keep pursuing theatre and music.

Claire Bingaman (Louise/Celia) was previously seen in Spring Awakening with Bellissima Productions and in The Skin of Our Teeth, The Magenta Moth, and Rabbit Hole with Canisius College Little Theatre. Claire is a senior at Canisius College as a Communications Major. Her favorite part of working on this production was getting to act with two incredible actors; one being one of her dearest friends and one being someone who she can easily learn from and look up to, and feeling pretty in her wedding dress. Claire would like to thank her parents for teaching her everything, Nicolette and Devon for being spectacular directors, and her sister for running lines with me. A true champ, that one.

Kate Francis-Schrodt (Jill/Abbie) is so excited to be a part of her first Bellissima shows! Her previous credits include The Mousetrap, Secret Garden, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat with George Liaros Productions. She is also the director for Alexander High School, most recently having directed Guys and Dolls, The Little Mermaid, and a Cabaret dinner show. Kate teaches 11/12 grade ELA at Health Sciences Charter School and lives in Alden with her husband, Ethan, her two year old daughter, Jane, and her two dogs Daisy and Delilah.

Callie Keavey (Sarah/Liz) is psyched to be returning to Bellissima Production's virtual stage! She was previously seen in Spring Awakening and Little Women with Bellissima Productions, and she has also appeared in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest with Canisius College Little Theatre. Callie works at a vet clinic and as a nanny. Her favorite part of working on this production was showing off her cats in online rehearsals. Callie would like to thank her amazing scene partners, Aaron and Kate, and our wonderful camera operator/editor/best friend, Janelle for putting up with all her random requests.

Nicholas Lama (Singing Telegram Man/Mark) is beyond thrilled to be working with the Bellissima Productions family again. His previous credits include Spring Awakening with Bellissima Productions, Love's Labour's Lost with Shakespeare in Delaware Park, and Elf the Musical (Santa Claus) with Musicalfare Theatre. Nick is grateful for his friends, family, and Lena for their constant support, especially during this crazy year. Go Bills.

Eric Ruelle (Man/Jake) is making his Bellissima debut!. He has appeared in a variety of shows in Chicago, Detroit, and now Buffalo. His previous credits include The Paper Machete, WRITE CLUB, and The Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers. Eric has performed with The Neo Futurists (Chicago) in "Trust Us/Screw You," consulted on podcasts with Moth GrandSlam champions Shannon Cason and Dame Wilburn, and is a current ensemble member of Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind (Detroit). Eric has been an active producer, host, and idea generator. He is a co-founder of The Skewer and You Don't Understand podcast.

Mary Ruelle (Woman/Kelly/Emily) is making her Bellissima debut! Her previous credits include Legally Blonde: the Musical & An Inspector Calls with Canisius College Little Theatre, Bye, Bye Birdie and BYOT (Bring Your Own Theatre). Mary is the Alumnae Relations & Communications Coordinator at Buffalo Academy Sacred Heart is also a piano and theatre instructor at the Music Academy of Western NY. Her favorite part of working on this production is hanging out with her scene partner/husband. Mary would like to thank the fabulous Bellissima team for making art and theatre happen during these wild times!

Aaron Gabriel Saldana (Andy/Bill/Kevin) was previously seen in Spring Awakening with Bellissima Productions, Bright Star And She Loves Me with Aurora Players, and in Next to Normal with Pared Down Productions. His favorite part of working on this production was stepping out of his comfort zone and playing some new and diverse roles. Aaron would like to thank his mom.



DIRECTORS NOTES

Thank you so much for watching our production of Love/Sick during this holiday weekend! Love/Sick is a play about the joy and pain that comes with love. Love is joyous and challenging and we see both sides of that in this play. So many times we see the same story, two people fall in love and live happily ever after, but what happens after? Those stories don't show the reality of love, and this play shows both and that's what really excited us about taking on this play.

We wanted to give a huge thanks to our wonderful cast! Thank you so much for being a part of this show, it was a blast to work with you all! It is not easy to be a part of a production during these times, but you guys made the most of it and helped to make this production incredible. Thank you Janelle for filming and editing this production! You helped to capture the beauty of a live performance in a way that we can safely share with everyone and we are so grateful. Thank you to our production staff and board for always being so helpful and willing to take on these productions during this insane time. Lastly, thank you to you, our audience! We want to keep creating as much as we can and we are so grateful to have your support as we challenge ourselves to keep creating in whatever means possible. We could not do any of this without all of you.

So please, sit back, relax, and enjoy Love/Sick!

Devon & Nicolette

THANK YOU!

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Patti Murin

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UP NEXT

SPOTLIGHT

A Look Ahead

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