

LOVE

BY JOHN

October 7, 2026
October 8, 2026
October 10, 2026
October 10, 2026
October 11, 2026

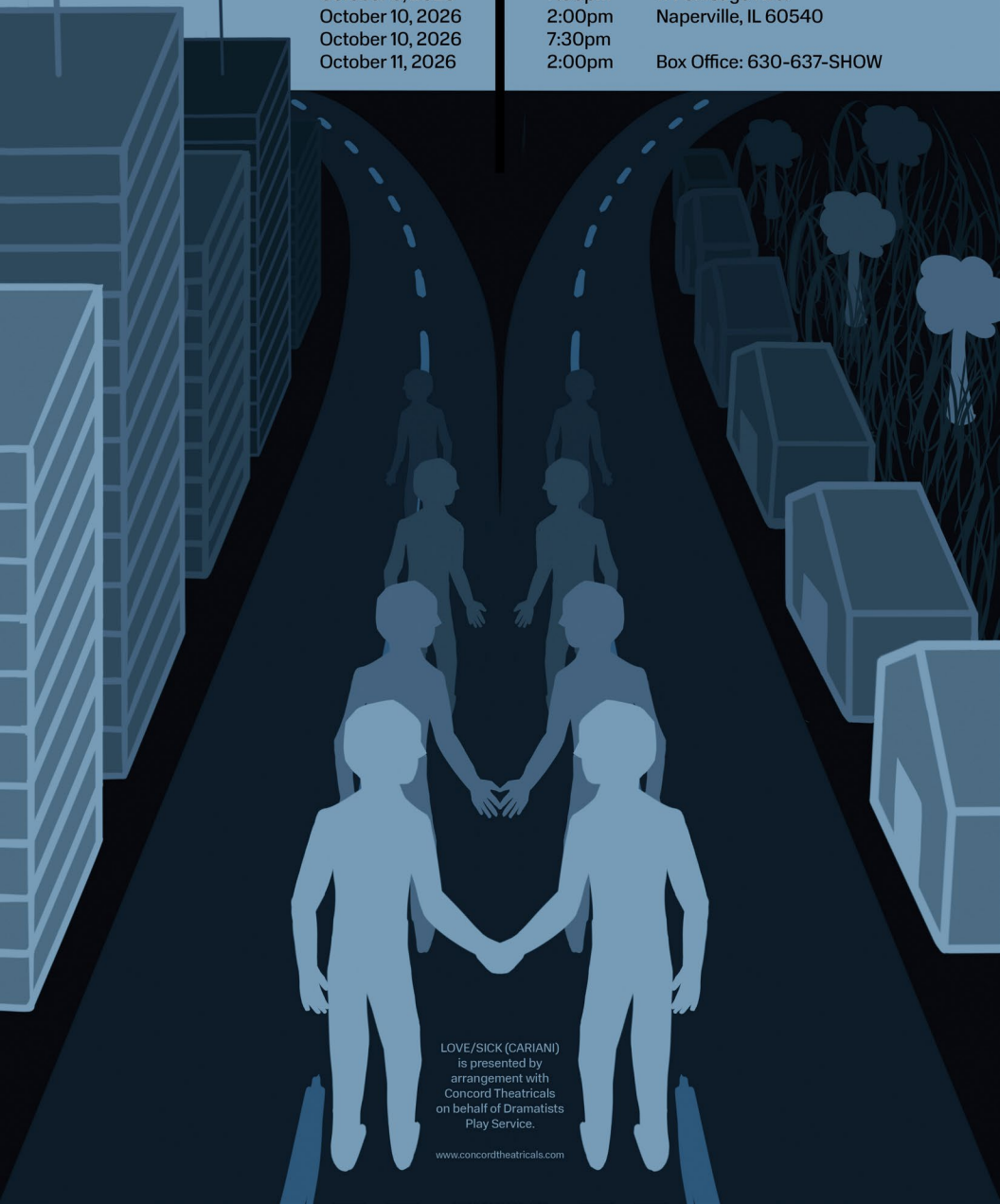
SICK

CARIANI

7:30pm
7:30pm
2:00pm
7:30pm
2:00pm

Madden Theatre
171 Chicago Ave.
Naperville, IL 60540

Box Office: 630-637-SHOW



LOVE/SICK (CARIANI)
is presented by
arrangement with
Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Dramatists
Play Service.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Director/Dramaturgy Note

Love/Sick revolves around the various relationship dynamics we all know too well from our own experiences. The play depicts the highs and lows of love and explores how we coexist with those we love – both in healthy and unhealthy ways.

At points the play depicts these dynamics through a rather darker lens, highlighting relationship struggles more than romantic triumphs, and bringing light to the most challenging parts of loving someone. John Cariani challenges us with a journey of euphoria and heartbreak, with stops of joy and sadness along the way. We invite you to ask yourself - What is love to you? How can that love be displayed even during the darkest of moments?

Cast Bios

Mitchell Countryman (he/they) (Ben/Kevin) is ecstatic to finally be a part of the NCC Theater program. As a freshman, currently majoring in Theater: Directing & Dramaturgy, their work this semester will include playing Ben and Kevin in *Love/Sick*, as well as serving as a Dramaturge later in the semester for *Dracula: Comedy of Terrors*.

Adam Dills (he/him) (Andy/Bill) is a first-year Environmental Science major with a minor in Biology and is excited for his first performance at NCC in *Love/Sick*! His most recent credits include *Frozen: The Musical* (Olaf) and *It's a Wonderful Life* (George Bailey) at Plainfield East High School. He would like to thank the cast and crew, the Theatre Department team, and everyone who helped make this production possible. He hopes that everyone loves the show!

Eyl Fitzpatrick (they/them) (Ensemble) is a Junior from Manhattan, IL who is thrilled to be joining their first NCC production after transferring from Joliet Junior College. Eyl is double majoring in both Musical and Technical Theatre and planning to pursue professional puppeteering after college. Some previous credits include Putnam County Spelling Bee (Logainne) with Spotlight Arts Collective, *Puffs* (Leanne), and *Radium Girls* (Hair/Makeup Designer) both with Theater 319. Eyl would like to thank their friends, family, and partner for the continuous support and they hope you love *Lovesick*!

Jesse Hernandez (he/him) (Man, Mark, Jake) is a psychology major and third year at north central. He transferred from JJC however, graduated in 2022. Jesse believed he wasn't ready to

fully appreciate the knowledge he would learn from a university. So, he took some time to travel to places such as Japan and the Bahamas. During these travels he realized he wanted to help others with his mind. So, he pursued an interest in psychology and decided north central was the best. Jesse loves performing and believes art is crucial to understanding oneself. Plus it's a hell of a good time!

Elise Lech (She/her) (Actor 2) Is a senior psychology major and theater minor. Previous credits include *The Skriker* (Josie) at North Central College, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Featured dancer/Dance Captain), *The Uninvited* (Stella), and *A Christmas Carol* (Martha Cratchit) at the College of DuPage. She was also a student shadow for Buffalo Theater Ensemble's production of *The Outgoing Tide*.

Macy McDonough (she/her) (Celia/Kelly) is a Sophomore Musical Theater major with a Marketing minor and is so excited to be back in her second show here at North Central! She most recently appeared as Becca in *The Grown Ups* here at NCC. Some of her other favorite past credits include *Hello, Dolly!* (Minnie Fay), *Queens* (Kathrine Parr), and *Cinderella* (Fairy Godmother). She would like to shout out her friends and family for all of their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

Daniel Sarmiento (he/him) (Singing Telegram Man/Keith) is a Junior Musical Theater major with a minor in Marketing and he is very excited to be a part of *Love/Sick* here at North Central College! Some other NCC projects you may have seen him in are *Broadway by the Decade* (Ensemble), *Heathers: the Musical* (Ram), *The Musical of Musicals: the Musical!* (Billy Understudy) and *RENT* (Mark Cohen). He would like to thank his friends and family for all their support, and hopes everyone enjoys the hard work that has been put into this production!

Sophie Thill (she/her) (Actor 2 Understudy) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major with a minor in Educational Studies. Sophie is pumped to be able to work on another production here at NCC. You may have caught her onstage last semester dancing until her soles were red in *Everybody Thrashing*. Sophie would like to thank her wonderful castmates, director and stage managers for making the rehearsal process tons of fun, and she would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support. Lots of love and enjoy the show!

Janie Toft (she/her) (Louise/Abbie) is so excited to be working on her third NCC production! She is a senior majoring in English Writing with a minor in Theatre, and most recently appeared at North Central in *The Grown Ups*. You may have caught Janie before at Edge of the Wood Theatre, where she stage managed *The Crucible*, *Betrayal*, and *A Doll's House, Part 2*. Other credits include *Next to Normal* (Natalie), *The Crucible* (u/s Mary), and *Hello, Dolly!* (Irene).

Creative Team Bios

John Cariani (Playwright) is an actor and a playwright. As an actor, he's appeared on and off-Broadway and at regional theaters across the country. He's been nominated for a Tony Award and a couple Grammy Awards. He's also been in a bunch of TV shows and movies and is probably best known for his roles on TV's *Law & Order*, *The Onion News Network* and *Numb3rs*. As a playwright, John is best known for his play *Almost, Maine*, which has become one of the most popular plays in the United States and around the world, with over 6,000 productions to date. His play *Love/Sick* has had a few hundred productions around the country and around the world and has been made into a film in Mexico called *Enfermo Amor*. His other plays, *Last Gas* and *cul-de-sac*, are his two favorites and he wishes more people did them. John is also a novelist. *Almost, Maine* – a novel was published in 2020 by MacMillan and is now available in paperback. Originally from Presque Isle, Maine, John lives in the Bronx.

Samantha Doyle (she/her) (Movement Assistant and Choreographer) is a senior double major in Musical Theatre and Psychology at North Central College. Samantha has thoroughly enjoyed the experience working under Mitzi Smith for her production of *Love/Sick*. Her previous credits include choreographing for A. A. Staggs A cappella group, working on *Everybody's Thrashing*, as well as choreographing and directing *Decendant's Jr*, *Beetlejuice Jr*, and *Disney's Dare to Dream* at Spotlight on 99th. Samantha emphasizes the importance of movement and an actor's physicality on stage compared to their natural habits every day in rehearsal as the pinnacle of ones performance. She thanks Mitzi Smith for this opportunity and for allowing her to work alongside her!

Lilah Gonzalez (She/Her) (Costume Design) is a sophomore psychology major here at North Central College. This is her third show here at NCC, and she was incredibly grateful to put her creative vision to life. Her two prior design work was in *Musicals of Musicals* and *The Grown Ups*. Outside of theatre, Lilah is active on campus as the Vice-President of Sonata Problem, the mixed a cappella ensemble, Cardinal First, and a Residential Assistant. She would like to thank her incredible directors and the entire production team, and she sends a big congratulations to everyone involved in this wonderful show. Lilah is truly grateful for the opportunity to contribute!

Bella Hallberg (she/her) (Co-Dramaturg) is a sophomore double major in Musical Theatre & Directing and Dramaturgy who is so unbelievably excited and grateful to be a part of the theatre program here at NCC! Past NCC performance credits include *The Musical of Musicals: The Musical!* (Abby), and *RENT* (Alexi Darling/Soloist #1). She would like to say the biggest thank you to her family and friends for their undying support, her advisors and mentors for helping her grow in her field, and her peers for making this such a memorable and enjoyable experience, with friendships that will last a lifetime. She hopes you have as much fun watching this show as she did throughout this entire process! IG: @bellahallberg.mt

Emily Hayman (she/her) (Assistant Sound Design) is a Chicago-based sound designer and composer. Recent sound design credits include: *Little Women* (Geva Theatre); *Henry V* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Click Clack Boo!* and *Leaf* (Lifeline Theatre); *Measure for Measure* (Montana Shakespeare in the Park). Associate sound design for: *Revolution(s)* and *Bust* (Goodman Theatre); *Ride* (The Old Globe); *Dream Girls* (McCarter Theatre). Assistant sound design for *Winter's Tale* (Hartford Stage); *POTUS*, *Describe the Night*, *Choir Boy*, and *Seagull* (Steppenwolf);

A Christmas Carol 24', *New Stages 2022* (Goodman Theatre); *Richard III*, and *The Notebook* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre). Emily received her BFA in Sound Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Ashton Miller (he/they) (Scenic Designer) is a recent North Central Alum with a major in Theatrical Design and Technology. You may have seen some of his other set designs in NCC's *Heathers: The Musical* and *The Serpent Lady*. Ashton is so happy to get to work with North Central on his most ambitious design yet. He would like to thank all his professors at North Central who have mentored him, as well as his amazing supportive family.

Chels Morgan (they/them) is an intimacy, violence and movement choreographer, anti-racism and accessibility educator, and is the Director of Accessibility and Inclusion at the Intimacy Professionals Education Collective (IPEC). Chicago credits include *ICEBOY!* (Goodman Theatre); *Romeo y Julieta*, *PLAY ON!*, *42 Balloons*, *Billie Jean* (Chicago Shakespeare); *safronia* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); *Kowalski*. (Lookingglass Theatre); *She Who Dared* (Chicago Opera Theatre); *The Targeted*, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*. (A Red Orchid). Broadway / Tour credits include *Paranormal Activity*. Off-Broadway credits include *How to Defend Yourself* (New York Theatre Workshop). Film / TV credits include *The Chi* (Showtime). Instagram: MxCMorgan

Brian Redfern (Lighting Design/Production Manager) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at North Central College, the Coordinator of Theatrical Design and Technology, and Production Manager for the Department of Theatre. Professor Redfern is a professional scenic designer with more than 120 design credits across the West Coast and Midwest, and he frequently designs scenery and lighting for productions at North Central. He has a Master of Fine Arts in scenic design from San Diego State University, a Master of Theatre Studies in Production and Design

from Southern Oregon University, and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists. www.brianredferndesign.com

Mia Schoonveld (she/her) (Props Designer) is a freshman at North Central College majoring in Musical Theatre and minoring in Graphic Design! Her most recent credits include *The Giver* (Chief Elder) and *Grease* (Betty Rizzo) at Lincoln-Way Central High School. Being her first experience with the department, she is extremely excited to be working with the design team and can't wait to share her work with props in the show. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their continued support, as well as the directors for this amazing opportunity! She hopes you enjoy *Love/Sick*!

Mitzi Smith (she/her) (SFS Musical Faculty Advisor) is an Associate Professor of Theatre and Coordinator of Musical Theatre at North Central College. Mitzi has previously taught at the University of San Diego, San Diego State, AMDA LA and Grossmont College. As an actor, Mitzi has been seen on stages across Chicagoland at Drury Lane Theatre, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre and Music Theatre Works. A former Broadway casting director with Binder Casting NYC, Mitzi worked alongside theatre legends Tommy Tune, Aurthur Laurents, Baayork Lee and Kathleen Marshal. Currently, Mitzi serves as a Casting Associate for Drury Lane, Metropolis and Theo Ubique. Previous TV: *Chicago PD*. Mitzi's current national commercial for *Sierra* will be airing October 2026. MitziSmithMFA.com IG: MitziSmithMFA

Malyk Thorndyke (he/him) (Makeup and Hair Designer) is a freshman at North Central College and has been doing theatre for over 12 years. He is so excited to be designing hair and makeup for *Love/Sick* and is enjoying the theatre experience here at NCC. When not on stage or working in a production Malyk can be found playing video games, playing his instruments, or hanging out with friends and family. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Christopher Wadsworth (any) (Co-Dramaturg) is a sophomore at North Central College. He is triple majoring in Elementary Education, Theatrical Design & Technology, and Theater: Directing & Dramaturgy. This is their first show as dramaturg but has been acting onstage since first grade and has worked behind the scenes since high school. He would like to thank the entire team from this show, the NCC Theatre faculty, and his family and friends for their constant support.

Production Team Bios

Emilia DeLeo (she/her) (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited for her first show here at North Central College. She is a First-Year and is majoring in Theatrical Design and Technology. Emilia would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her in all she does. She would like to thank everyone who made this production possible and is so excited for everyone to see NCC's production of *Love/Sick!*

Zach Johnson (he/him) (Co-Scenic Designer) is a technical director with over fifteen years of experience working in various venues across the mid-west, ranging from non-profit storefront theatres in Chicago (Windy City Playhouse, American Theatre Company), venues local to DuPage County (Fox Valley Repertory Theatre), to large for-profit theatres (New Theatre Restaurant in Kansas City, KS). He has also done limited work in Milwaukee (Tenth Street Theatre). In addition to theatre, Zach applies his wealth of construction skills and knowledge to his own deck construction business which he has operated since 2020. Zach is a Naperville native, growing up and attending grade/high school in District 203. He left Naperville in 2006 for college with the intention of spending the rest of his life in other places, but ultimately returned to his home. He is very grateful for his job at NCC, as it allows him to remain in the area.

Nevaeh Mansur (she/her) (Stage Manager) Nevaeh is thrilled to be back at NCC stage managing *Love/Sick!* Nevaeh is a Chicago-based stage manager, originally from Houston, Texas. She is also a proud North Central alum, holding a B.A. in Musical Theatre. Her most recent credits include *Uncle Vanya* (Astonrep), *Arms and the Man* (Forest Theatre Company), *The Grown-Ups*

(North Central College), *Elektra* (Forest Theatre Company), *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical* (Main Street Theater), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (North Central College), and *Ride the Cyclone* (Jet PAC).

Sydney Vega Pauley (she/her) (Lighting Crew) is a first-year Choral Music Education major at NCC. She is in her fourth year of volunteering at Dist. #399's theatre department as co-director/technical director. She is a proud alum of the American Musical Dramatic Academy in New York and has worked on administrative and technical teams at Timber Lake Playhouse. Her favorite performing credits include *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Peretti), *Titanic the Musical* (Kate Murphey), and *Pig Tales* (Big Bad Wolf). Many thanks to her family, friends, students, and NCC's Theatre Department!

Sofia Raices (she/her) (Light Board Operator) is a freshman at North Central College majoring in Marketing with a minor in Graphic Design. She has worked on the production of *Musical of Musicals: The Musical!* (Light Board Operator) and is featured in *Here I Stay* (Dancer). Outside of theatre, she participates in the Cardinal Dance Company and the Leaders in Business Program. She also has a role in the publicity for the Department of Theatre. She's very excited for this production of *Rent* and to watch it all come together! Sofia appreciates all the support she's experienced from friends, mentors, and family so far, participating in the NCC Theatre Dept.

Emily Sluis (she/her) (Props Crew) is a sophomore Musical Theatre and Psychology double major and is so excited to be in Props Crew for *Love/Sick*, her third production she's contributed to as crew at North Central! You may have seen her as Marcy in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* this summer and Andrina in *The Little Mermaid* this past February. Emily's favorite roles include Cosette in *Les Miserables*, Portia in *Something*

Rotten, and Glinda in the *Wizard of Oz*. When Emily is not on-stage or backstage as crew, she is a part of Creative Writing Club and Mock Trial. She hopes you enjoy this darker twist to *Almost Maine*!

Jake Stake (he/him) (Scene Shop Supervisor) is a scenic carpenter with extensive experience across various construction fields. His work in commercial scenic construction includes museum displays (Adler Planetarium, Field Museum, Chicago Children's Museum), amusement parks (Six Flags, Cedar Point, Challenge Park Xtreme), and zoos (Lincoln Park Zoo, Brookfield Zoo). He has also contributed to film and television productions (*When The Party's Over*, *Archie*, *American Gladiator*, *Freddy's Nightmares*), commercials, and trade show exhibits. In addition, Jake has worked with theaters such as LATC and Steppenwolf, as well as theatre programs at UCLA, Northwestern, and North Central College.

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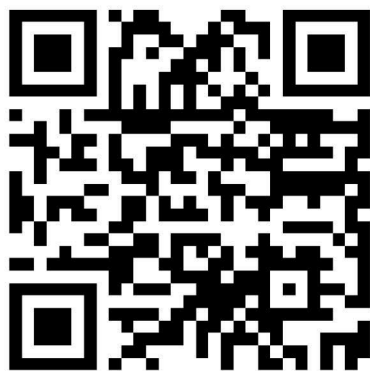
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