Production Research

Production history:

* Premiere
  + Opened at the Portland Stage Company in Portland, Maine in 2013
    - This is the same company that premiered another Cariani production: *Almost, Maine*
* Off-Broadway
  + Debuted at the Royal Family Performing Arts Space in New York in 2015
  + Directed by Chris Henry
* Publication
  + Published by Dramatists Play Service in 2015
    - Allowed for it to be produced in many academic, regional, and community theatres
* COVID Productions
  + Due to the smaller cast and easily socially distanced productions, it was performed a surprising amount over the pandemic
  + The themes of isolation within the play also resonated heavily with post-pandemic audiences, increasing its fame even more
* Summary
  + *Love/Sick* premiered at the Portland Stage Company in Maine in 2013, the same company that debuted John Cariani’s *Almost, Maine*. It made its Off-Broadway debut in 2015 at the Royal Family Performing Arts Space in New York. The play was published in 2015. During the COVID-19 pandemic, *Love/Sick* saw increased performances, Its themes of isolation resonated strongly with post-pandemic audiences.

Biographical

* Early Life
  + Born in Presque Isle, Maine
  + Graduated from Amherst College
* Acting Career
  + Broadway Roles
    - Debuted in 2004’s *Fiddler on the Roof* as Motel the Tailor
      * Nominated for a Tony Award
    - Originated the role of Nigel Bottom in *Something Rotton!* In 2015
      * Nominated for Outer Critics Circle Award and Grammy Award for the original cast recording
  + Television / Film Roles
    - Played Julian Beck on *Law & Order* from 2002-2007
    - Played Professor Otto Bahnoff in *Numb3rs*
* Playwright Career
  + Notable Plays
    - *Almost, Maine* (2004)
    - *Cul-de-sac* (2006)
    - *Last Gas* (2010)
    - *Love Sick* (2013)
* Achievements
  + Named *Almost, Maine* in The Wall Street Journal as one of the “Ten Must-See Shows”
  + *Almost, Maine* was recorded by the Theatre on Film and Tape Archives at Lincoln Center for its cultural significance and impact
* Publications
  + Adapted *Almost, Maine* into a novel
    - Published by Fiewel and Friends
* Summary
  + John Cariani was born in Presque Isle, Maine, and graduated from Amherst College. He made his Broadway debut in 2004's *Fiddler on the Roof*. He originated the role of Nigel Bottom in *Something Rotten!* in 2015, for which he received nominations for both an Outer Critics Circle Award and a Grammy Award for the original cast recording. His television and film credits include portraying Julian Beck on *Law & Order* from 2002 to 2007 and playing Professor Otto Bahnoff in *Numb3rs*. As a playwright, he is known for works such as *Almost, Maine* (2004), *Cul-de-sac* (2006), *Last Gas* (2010), and *Love/Sick* (2013). *Almost, Maine* was recognized by *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the "Ten Must-See Shows" and is preserved in the Theatre on Film and Tape Archives at Lincoln Center for its cultural significance. Additionally, he adapted *Almost, Maine* into a novel published by Fiewel and Friends.

Period research

* Modern Relationship Dynamics
  + Differences between contemporary and. Historical relationships
    - The roles of technology
      * Ex. Dating apps, social media, etc.
    - Changing gender roles and expectations in relationships
    - Visibility and acceptance of non-traditional relationships
  + Contemporary views of relationship themes touched on
    - Marriage
    - Cohabitation
    - Divorce
* Suburban Life in Contemporary America
  + Suburban setting of the play
    - Explores the suburban, middle-class, lifestyle and problems
    - Characters experience isolation
    - Highlights the aspects of everyday people
* Mental health and relationships
  + Often, within the production, the aspects of anxiety or depression are present
    - Over the last few decades, the topic of mental health has become more mainstream in media
    - The idea that love can heal is a troupe within *Love/Sick* while also portraying the real struggles that mental health issues can cause in relationships
* Summary
  + *Love/Sick* examines modern relationship dynamics, highlighting the differences between contemporary and historical relationships, particularly the impact of technology such as dating apps and social media. It addresses changing gender roles and expectations, along with increased visibility and acceptance of non-traditional relationships. The play reflects contemporary views on themes like marriage, cohabitation, and divorce, set against the backdrop of suburban life in contemporary America. It explores the middle-class suburban lifestyle, focusing on characters who experience isolation and the everyday struggles of regular people. Additionally, mental health is a significant aspect of the production, with themes of anxiety and depression portrayed realistically. Over recent decades, mental health has gained mainstream attention in media, and *Love/Sick* incorporates the idea that while love can heal, it also showcases the real challenges mental health issues pose within relationships.