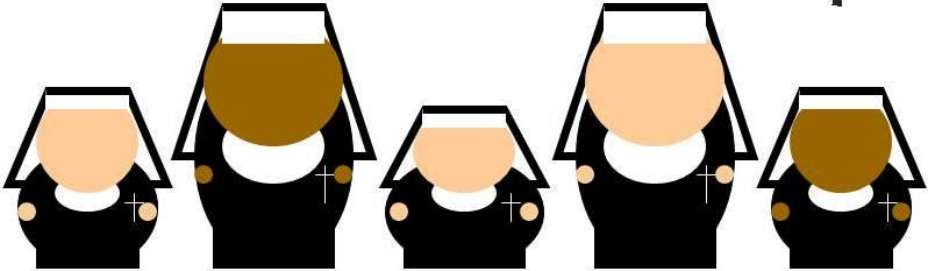


BACKSTAGE

The Village Inn Dracut

nunsense



book, music & lyrics by Dan Goggin

ACTORS inc
presents

A Musical Comedy

nunsense

book, music and lyrics by **Dan Goggin**

Starring

RALENE CLARK

ALEXANDREA JOHNSON

REBECCA SHANAHAN

LARA SIMPSON

MEAGHAN WILLIS

Director and Choreographer
CORINNE DRAKE

Music Director and Pianist
JASEN WHEATLEY

November 2-4, 9-11, and 16-18 (2007)

About the Show

Nunsense begins when the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally poisoned 52 of the sisters, and they are in dire need of funds for the burials. The sisters decide that the best way to raise the money is to put on a variety show, so they take over the school auditorium, which is currently set up for the eighth grade production of "Grease." Here we meet Reverend Mother Regina, a former circus performer; Sister Mary Hubert, the Mistress of Novices; a streetwise nun from Brooklyn named Sister Robert Anne; Sister Mary Leo, a novice who is a wannabe ballerina; and the delightfully wacky Sister Mary Amnesia, the nun who lost her memory when a crucifix fell on her head. Featuring star turns, tap and ballet dancing, an audience quiz, and comic surprises, this musical has become an international phenomenon. With more than 5000 productions worldwide, it has been translated into 21 languages.

About the Author

Dan Goggin came to New York from Alma, Michigan to study as a singer. He sang in the Broadway production of "Luther" starring Albert Finney. He began writing while appearing in a comic folk-duo called "The Saxons". The first show he wrote the music for was "Hark". In 1986 Goggin received the Outer Critics' Circle Awards given to *Nunsense* for Best Musical, Best Book, and Best Music. *Nunsense*, in addition to running 10 years in New York City, has now run in thousands of theatres around the world. There have been over 30,000 "nuns" in the *Nunsense* family. Goggin followed that with the off Broadway show "Balancing Act" which ran at the West Side Theatre in NYC. Subsequent productions of *Nunsense* included *Nunsense 2*, *Nunsense Jamboree*, *Nunsense A-Men!*, *Nuncrackers*, *Meshuggah-Nuns*, and *Nunsensations*. *Nunsense* and *Nunsense 2: The Second Coming*, both starring Rue McClanahan have been videotaped for the A&E Television Network and also aired on PBS. Both shows won Telly Awards. *Nunsense 3: The Jamboree* toured the U.S. starring Georgia Engel and has been recorded for television at the Grand Ole Opry starring Vicki Lawrence. The *Nuncrackers* television special playing the PBS network starring Rue McClanahan with guest star John Ritter, received an Emmy nomination for Best Musical Score. Danny is currently working on a new musical, *A Nunsensequel - Hollywood - The Final Frontier*.

Cast

Prior to entering the convent:

Reverend Mother was	REBECCA SHANAHAN
Sister Mary Hubert was	LARA SIMPSON
Sister Mary Robert Anne was	ALEXANDREA JOHNSON
Sister Mary Amnesia was	RALENE CLARK
Sister Mary Leo was	MEAGHAN WILLIS

Production Staff

Director/Choreographer	CORINNE DRAKE
Music Director/Pianist	JASEN WHEATLEY
Technical Director	REBECCA SHANAHAN
Set Design/Construction	STEVEN GALLIGANI
Set Artwork/Tickets	LISA COSSEBOOM
Stage Manager	MELANIE THOMAS
Costumes	SUE SIMONE
Props	JOANIE RUZZO
Playbill/Graphic Design	MATT THOMAS
House Manager	ANN ELFERT

Time: the Present
Location: Mt. St. Helen's School Auditorium

Musical Numbers and Scenes

ACT ONE

Welcome	Reverend Mother
"Nonsense is Habit-Forming"	Cast
Opening Remarks.....	Reverend Mother & Sr. Hubert
"A Difficult Transition"	Cast
The Quiz	Sr. Amnesia
"Benedicite"	Sr. Leo
"The Biggest Ain't The Best"	Srs. Hubert & Leo
"Playing Second Fiddle"	Sr. Robert Anne
Taking Responsibility	Reverend Mother
"So You Want to Be a Nun"	Sr. Amnesia
A Word from the Reverend Mother	Reverend Mother
"Turn Up the Spotlight"	Reverend Mother
"Lilacs Bring Back Memories"	Reverend Mother, Srs. Hubert, Leo & Amnesia
An Unexpected Discovery	Reverend Mother
"Tackle That Temptation with a Time"	Sr. Hubert & Cast

ACT TWO

Robert to the Rescue	Sr. Robert Anne
"Growing Up Catholic"	Srs. Robert Anne, Leo, Hubert & Amnesia
"We've Got to Clean Out the Freezer"	Cast
A Minor Catastrophe	Cast
"Just a Coupl'a Sisters"	Reverend Mother & Sr. Hubert
"Soup's On" (The Dying Nun Ballet)	Sr. Leo
Baking with the BVM	Sr. Julia, Child of God
"Playing Second Fiddle" (Reprise)	Sr. Robert Anne
"I Just Want to be a Star"	Sr. Robert Anne
"The Drive-In"	Srs. Robert Anne, Amnesia & Leo
"I Could've Gone to Nashville"	Sr. Amnesia
"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"	Cast
Closing Remarks	Reverend Mother & Cast
"Holier Than Thou"	Sr. Hubert & Cast
"Nonsense is Habit-Forming" (Reprise)	Cast

Who's Who in the Cast

REVEREND MOTHER, the beloved Mother Superior of the Little Sisters of Hoboken, is originally from a small county in Ireland called Kilquinky. She headed the pioneering group of religious who established the leper colony in the Mediterranean and later returned to Hoboken as Superior General of the Order. After Nunsense, Reverend Mother says she has no desire to continue in the theatre. But rumor has it that she would consider doing national commercials or a television series to raise money for the Order. Prior to taking her vows, Reverend Mother was known as **REBECCA SHANAHAN**. Becca has been in theater, in some form, her entire life, and would not have it any other way. Becca has a degree in Theater and worked for the Wheelock Family Theater for 7 years as a technical production assistant. She has directed shows for Wheelock College and Wentworth Institute of Technology and was last seen in *Godspell* and as Emily Cling in *Sandbag*, *Stage Left* with Actors inc. However, Becca could most often be seen starring in the biggest comedy show around, as the proud mom of Kevin and Angie, two of the most amazingly wonderful children.

SISTER MARY HUBERT entered the Little Sisters of Hoboken upon graduation from Precious Blood Elementary School. Sister currently serves the Order as Mistress of Novices, training new recruits. Her position is not unlike a drill sergeant, however, she is the first to point out that her approach is more gentle, but firm. Sister is a little "off-the-wall" at times but this has been attributed to the fact that she was trampled by a camel that went berserk during the annual nativity pageant held in the leper colony (she was portraying one of the three wise men). Sister Mary Hubert is the former **LARA SIMPSON**. You might have seen Lara in *Fame* and *But Why Bump Off Barnaby?* with the Rivers Edge Players, *Mumbo Jumbles* with Comedy Theater or *Music and Mediumship* with GBCS. Lara was also an improv actor with Acme Improv Company and a featured vocalist on track "Midnight Fairy" for the recording artist 1016.

SISTER MARY ROBERT ANNE was a child of a disadvantaged Brooklyn family. After dropping out of Verna's Cashier School, Reverend Mother took pity on poor little **ALEXANDREA JOHNSON** and accepted her into the Little Sisters of Hoboken, where she became Sister Mary Robert Anne. Today she is one of the most popular sisters with New Jersey kids because she speaks their language- Reverend Mother regrets the fact

Who's Who in the Cast

that a lot of this language is unprintable. Sister Robert Anne had a very checkered career prior to entering the convent, including acting stints in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Sandbag, Stage Left* as the dancing prison guard Bertha (pronounced Berther). Alexandria was born and raised in Tucson, AZ and recently moved to cold New England. As a mechanical engineer, she has recently joined ACTORS inc to keep her sanity.

SISTER MARY AMNESIA is truly a lost soul. She arrived at the convent in her habit without a clue as to her identity, recalling only that a crucifix fell on her head. It has been said that she resembles **RALENE CLARK**, who learned ventriloquism when she became a Little Sister of Hoboken and is reported to have recently been seen in *Female Odd Couple*, *Sandbag, Stage Left* and *Godspell...* but we're not quite sure. We also believe Ralene performed with the Standing Room Only Players for 8 years and was a former member of the Merrimack Valley Sweet Adelines... but again, we're not sure. Ralene thinks she'd like to send a big thank you and much love to her husband, Rob Clark.

SISTER MARY LEO came to the order from an Illinois farm. She entered the convent to dedicate her life to God through the dance. Many people think that she took her name from the famous "leotard," but that is not true. She is named after her Uncle Leo, a notorious Chicago gangster. Sister thought that by taking his name, the Lord would go easy on him. She is a novice and has much to learn. Before joining the Order, Sister was known as **MEAGHAN WILLIS**, who tested her dancing ability by appearing in Cole Porter's *What A Swell Party* and the movie *A Bootful of Fish*. Prior to taking her vow of poverty, Sister supported herself by portraying Ginger Rayle in *Sandbag Stage Left* (twice), Annelle in *Steel Magnolia's*, Jackie in *Hayfever* and by changing lives doing educational theatre on bullying and dating violence around the world with Deana's Educational Theatre. Sister Mary Leo would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and prayers as she makes her way to becoming the first ballerina nun!

CORINNE DRAKE (Director/Choreographer) was released from her vows as Sister Futon Fouette. This occurred after the Bishop discovered that Sister Futon had used her habit as a parachute to jump from a jetliner

Who's Who in the Cast

onto a burning building, where she single-handedly saved 300 pounds of uncut cocaine from the flames, giving rise to her favorite expression: "Come fly with me!" Since then, as Corinne Drake she has become a veteran performer / director / choreographer who comes with an impressive list of theatre experience. She has appeared with various stage companies and dinner theatres throughout New England. Some of her major roles include Velma Kelly in *Chicago*, Anita in *West Side Story*, Bonnie in *Anything Goes*, Charity in *Sweet Charity*, Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*, Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma*, Edna Edison in *Prisoner on Second Avenue*, Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Mavis in *Stepping Out*, and Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. As a director / choreographer, some of her credits include: *42nd Street*, *Grease*, *Oklahoma*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Gypsy*, *Anything Goes*, *Godspell*, *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Sandbag Stage Left*. Kudos to this cast and crew.

SISTER MARY MELODY is our convent musician. She was part of the original contingent who established the leper colony served by the Order. Sister achieved much notoriety when she published her first music book, *Two Part Inventions for the Fingerless*, which she dedicated to the lepers. Sister Melody, formerly known as **JASEN WHEATLEY**, has helped the Order enormously by taking his talent outside the convent walls as a singing member of the Standing Room Only Players for the past 12 years, 9 of which were spent as their rehearsal pianist. Jasen has also sung with the Actor Singers and the First United Baptist Church Choir.



**A Community Theatre Organization
Reaching for the Stars**

PO Box 93, Tewksbury, MA 01876
<http://www.actorsincorporated.com>
ActorsIncTickets@yahoo.com
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