

PLAY THEATER

presents

SISTER ACT JR.

Music by
Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Glenn Slater

Book by
Cheri Steinkellner
and Bill Steinke

Additional Book Material
Douglas Carter Beane

Music Direction by
Kristen O'Grady

Costume Design by
Melissa Noriega

Asst. Music Direction by
Kayla Fiore

Stage Management by
Emily Homer & Grace Sweeney

Directed by
Amy Fiore

Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard

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JANUARY 28 & 29, 2022

CAST

DELORIS VAN CARTIER - Mackenna Fischer (u/s Fiona Halter)

HEAVENLY

MOTHER SUPERIOR - Isabella Burdick (u/s Teresa Jackson)

SISTER MARY ROBERT - Fiona Halter (u/s Madison Siers)

SISTER MARY PATRICK - Gayatri Phatak (u/s Kate Billows)

SISTER MARY LAZARUS - Hannah Krueger (u/s Brynn O'Grady)

SISTER MARY MARTIN-OF-TOURS - Mackenzie Fiore

SISTER MARY THERESA - Molly O'Grady

SISTER MARY CELESTE - Anna Athungal

SISTER MARY IRENE - Maggie Basuino

SISTER MARY STEPHEN - Rebecca Noriega

MONSIGNOR O'HARA - Christopher Allen (u/s Will Prevost)

ALTAR BOY/GIRL #1 -Katie Noriega

ALTAR BOY/GIRL #2 - Brynn O'Grady

NUN 1 - Teresa Jackson

NUN 2 - Adelaide Yurcisin

NUN 3 - Kate Billows

NUNS - Adelle Calloway, Kylie Hoey, Alice Krueger, Madison Siers

ALTAR BOYS/GIRLS - Ryan Chen, Mairead Hales, Madison Lilie, Laoise McCabe, Isabelle Montalvo, Henry Taner, Lyla Tomlinson

HEATHENS

CURTIS - Will Prevost (u/s Chris Allen)

EDDIE - Nathan Chen (u/s Cameron Glynn)

TJ - Jack Crowley

JOEY - Cameron Glynn

PABLO - Valerie Hwang

MICHELLE - Taylor Mingoia (u/s Emily Trojan)

NINA - Sophia Rodkin (u/s Emily Trojan)

ELLE - Maggie Tavis (u/s Emily Trojan)

TINA - Esther Adegboyega (u/s Emily Trojan)

ERNIE - Ryan Chen

COP 1 - Vivienne Hwang

COP 2 - Emma Basuino

BUM - Lilah Prevost and Nina Ferrer

CHURCHGOER #1 - Keira Hoey

CHURCHGOER #2 - Riley Boozer

NEWSCASTER - Emily Trojan

ENSEMBLE - Henry Beversluis, Samantha Lionetti, Angel Montalvo, Jordana Paz, Max Weinstein, Rachel Weinstein

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Take Me to Heaven Deloris and Disco
Girls
Fabulous Baby Deloris and
Heathens
Here Within These Walls Mother
Superior
It's Good to Be a Nun
Nuns
When I Find My Baby Curtis, Joey, TJ, Pablo &
Heathens
Raise Your Voice Deloris and
Nuns
Take Me to Heaven
Heavenlys
I Could Be That Guy Eddie, Cops, Bums, Disco
Girls
Sunday Morning Fever
Company
Lady in the Long Black DressJoey, TJ, Pablo &
Heathens
Bless Our Show..... Deloris, Nuns and Altar Boys &
Girls
The Life I've Never Led..... Sister Mary
Robert
Sister Act.....
Deloris
Sister Act (reprise) Deloris, Mother Superior,
Nuns
Spread the Love Around.....
Company

Run time is approximately 90 minutes, there will be no intermission.
Please keep your mask covering your nose and mouth for the entirety of the performance.
No food or drink permitted in the theater.

SPECIAL THANKS

We are so grateful for the incredible parents who volunteer their time. Thank you to everyone who ushered, set up chairs and has already promised to help clean up after the final bows; Jen Fischer for selling tickets; Danielle Hoey for designing the shirts; Maren Calloway, Jen Luerssen, and Tara & Caitlin Jackson for painting, Charlie Jackson for building sets and lending and lugging equipment, Josh Marcus for building the foundation and still sticking around, Kara Kennedy and John Basuino for their photography (and so

many bottles), Mike Noriega for being resident videographer (now and forever), and Alex Taner for sound.

A million thank you's to Anthony Fiore who packs the snacks, brings what I forget, cares more than he'll ever let on, and can find and repurpose rusty old church nails like nobody else. And on that topic, thank you to Mike and Marc for lending your wives to the cause.

This show would simply not be possible without the amazing alumnae Emily Homer, Grace Sweeney, and Kayla Fiore who ensure that every one of our 50 cast members are right where they should be; the tireless and endlessly talented Melissa Noriega who managed to make 17 habits or find late '70's disco grunge garb for all; and the phenomenal Kristen O'Grady who makes the harmonies and keeps the director sane. I am truly part of one terrific Sister Act.

WHO'S WHO

Esther Adegboyega (*Tina*) is really proud to be in this show. She is in 6th grade and has been acting since kindergarten in 8 shows like Aladdin Jr., Beauty and the Beast Jr., Annie Jr. and much more. She really likes acting, dance, gymnastics and other performing arts. She would like to thank her family for encouraging and supporting her to act and Mrs. Amy, Emily, Mrs. Kristen, Kayla, and Grace for taking time to teach her this show and make it a success.

Chris Allen (*Monsignor O'Hara*) is 12 and in the 7th grade. Chris has been in thirteen shows, including Bye Bye Birdie as Hugo Peabody. He enjoys biking with his friends and baking on the weekend. He would like to dedicate this show to his relatives that always come and see him perform.

Anna Athungal (*Sister Mary Celeste*) is a 3rd grade student from McGinn Elementary School. She enjoys composing music, playing the piano, and singing. This is Anna's first theater performance. She would like to thank the staff, production crew and the rest of the cast for the opportunity, and her teachers, family and friends for their personal support.

Emma Basuino (*Cop 2*) is thrilled to be making her Play Theater debut! She has previously performed with S.T.A.R.S. Theatre as Eric in Matilda Jr. & with the Sky Cast of Moana Jr. She enjoys dancing, singing, soccer and gymnastics. Emma is delighted by all the support from her family and friends.

Maggie Basuino (*Sister Mary Irene*) is ecstatic for her fourth year with Play Theater! She has previously performed in Big Fish, Big, and Beehive. Maggie has also appeared in S.T.A.R.S. Theatre as Penny in 101 Dalmatians Jr., Young Anna in Frozen Jr., Hei Hei in Moana Jr., and Amanda in Matilda Jr. Maggie is humbled by the continued support from her family and friends.

Henry Beversluis (*Heathen*) Henry, 11 years old, has performed on stage for six years in various productions with S.T.A.R.S. Theatre and was in Play Theater's Big the Musical. His most recent performance was in Matilda, Jr. as Mr. Wormwood. He thanks his sisters for their support and making sure he keeps it real, no matter what.

Katherine L. Billows (*Nun #3*) Kate is 10 years old and is in 4th grade in Cranford, New Jersey. She is excited to be a part of the cast for the 2nd year with Play Theater, as she was previously in Beehive. Kate would love to extend a big hug and thank you to Miss Amy, the cast and crew of Sister Act and her parents and sisters. She is so excited to be back on the stage!

Riley Boozer (*Church Goer #2/Heathen*) is 13 years old and in 8th grade. She has been in 6 Play Theater musicals (including this one) and has done a few acting classes over the years. Riley enjoys drawing, theater, and gaming. As it's one of her times in Play Theater, Riley wants to thank all the great friends she has met for how much they have taught her. It has been truly amazing to be a part of such a wonderful community for so long.

Isabella Burdick (*Mother Superior*) Izzy is a 13 year old 7th grader at Nettingham Middle School. She has been in numerous productions since the age of 5 and is a member of Paper Mill Playhouse's Children on Tour company. Some favorite roles include LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast*, Timon in *the Lion King* and Warner in *Legally Blonde*. Thanks to Miss Amy and the entire cast and crew for a wonderful experience!

Adelle Calloway (*Nun*) is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Nettingham Middle School. This is her first performance and first time acting. Adelle also enjoys playing softball for The NJ Intensity team.

Nathan Chen (*Eddie*) is 11 years old and is in 6th grade. He attends Terrill Middle School. Nathan has previously been in Play Theater's productions of *Big Fish*, *Big*, and *Beehive*. In addition to acting and theater, Nathan plays tennis and is interested in cars, music, and technology. He would like to thank his family for always supporting him.

Ryan Chen (*Ernie and Altar Boy*) is 8 years old and is in 3rd grade. He goes to McGinn Elementary School. *Sister Act* is Ryan's second show, as he performed in Play Theaters *Beehive* last year. In addition to theater, Ryan likes baseball, football and reading books. Ryan is thankful for his family for helping him practice his scenes.

Jack Crowley (*TJ*) is in 5th grade at Terrill Middle School. Before TJ, Jack played Horton in *Seussical the Musical*. When he's not singing and dancing, he enjoys spending time at the beach and playing baseball.

Nina Ferrer (*Heathen*) Nina is absolutely thrilled to be making her theater debut in *Sister Act Jr.* She is nine years old and previously had a small part in a Kidz Bop Kids music video. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking and producing videos. Nina thanks her family - with a special shoutout to Aunt Fancy - for their love and support. She's also so very grateful for Miss Amy for making this such a wonderful experience.

Mackenzie Fiore (*Sister Mary Martin-Of-Tours*) is 11 years old and is in 6th grade at Terrill Middle School. This is Mackenzie's 5th Play Theater show, and she has also participated in 6 shows with S.T.A.R.S. Theatre. Mackenzie takes classes at Dance 2000, swims for Willow Grove Swim Club, and placed 2nd nationally as a cheerleader with the Clark Crusaders. Mackenzie wants to thank her Mom, Dad, and Sister. Let our booties shake on cue girls!

Mackenna Fischer (*Deloris Van Cartier*) is a 7th grade student at Terrill Middle School who is excited to star in her fifth production with Play Theater. After showing her sweet side as Kim in S.T.A.R.S. Theatre's *Bye Bye Birdie* this summer, she is excited to "Raise Her Voice" as Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act Jr.* Her favorite roles include Little Red in *Into the Woods*, The Witch in *Big Fish*, Lucy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and Elsa in *Frozen, Jr.* Mackenna enjoys singing loudly, playing soccer, and making TikToks. She would like to thank Mrs. Amy Fiore and her family for helping to make her theater dreams come true!

Cameron Glynn (*Joey*) Since Cameron's debut as Little Josh in Play Theater's production of *Big* two years ago, he has kept busy singing and acting in virtual and semi-virtual productions. He played Tamatoa in *Moana* and sang in last year's production of *Beehive*. He is currently preparing for his role as Mendel in Nettingham Middle School's upcoming production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. He'd like to thank his mom for helping him practice and prepare for his role.

Mairead Hales (*Altar Server*) Mairead is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Nettingham Middle School. She loves to travel, hike, sing, write music, draw, read, and play lacrosse and tennis. She is so excited to be in her first official show, *Sister Act, Jr.* She can't wait to see what the future holds through her love of performing.

Fiona Halter (*Sister Mary Robert*) *Sister Act* is Fiona's 4th show with Play Theater. She's previously appeared in *Big Fish*, *Big*, and *Beehive* and has participated in two Kids Cabarets. Some of Fiona's favorite performances have been *Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *Matilda* (Miss Trunchbull), *Legally Blonde* (Elle), *Frozen* (Olaf) and *Alice in Wonderland* (Small Alice). She is 10 years old and studies voice, dance and acting. Thank you to Miss Amy and the whole production team. Sisters, let's roll!

Keira Hoey (*Churchgoer #1/Heathen*) is excited to be back on stage with Play Theater in *Sister Act Jr.* She has previously performed in *Beehive*, *Big the Musical*, and *Big Fish*. Keira has also performed on stage with the Terrill Middle School Players and S.T.A.R.S. Theatre. She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support.

Kylie Hoey (*Nun*) is excited to be back on stage with Play Theater in *Sister Act Jr.* She has previously performed in *Beehive*, *Big the Musical*, and *Big Fish*. Kylie has also performed on stage with S.T.A.R.S. Theatre. She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support.

Valerie Hwang (*Pablo*) is extremely proud to be performing in *Sister Act Jr.* This is her second year participating in Miss Amy's musical theater class and she enjoys the experience immensely. She is in the fifth grade at Terrill Middle School and her favorite subject is art. She would like to thank the volunteers for making this happen this year.

Vivienne Hwang (*Cop 1*) is extremely proud to be performing in *Sister Act Jr.* This is her second year participating in Miss Amy's musical theater class and the experience has helped build her confidence in expressing her individuality. She is in the eighth grade at Terrill Middle School and her favorite subjects are math and language arts. She would like to thank the volunteers for making this happen this year.

Teresa Jackson (*Nun #1*) is currently a 7th grader at Nettingham Middle School. She has enjoyed being part of Play Theater productions for the last two years! She also enjoys performing with S.T.A.R.S. Theatre, playing Cobras softball, and participating in other musical groups at NMS.

Alice Krueger (*Nun*) Alice (8) is a 2nd grader at McGinn Elementary School who loves gymnastics and art. She's excited to make her on-stage debut with Play Theater in Sister Act Jr! Previous performances include Alice in Matilda Jr. and Moana Jr. Alice wants to thank her family for their love and support.

Hannah Krueger (*Sister Mary Lazarus*) Hannah (10) is a 5th grader at Terrill Middle School who loves to read and ski. She's excited to return to Play Theater this year in the role of Sister Mary Lazarus. Previous roles include Lavender in Matilda Jr., Tamatoa in Moana Jr. and Young Anna in Frozen Jr. Hannah wants to thank her family for their love and support.

Madison Lilie (*Altar Server*) Maddie is a 3rd grader at McGinn Elementary School. Maddie enjoys drawing, cooking, basketball, singing, and playing the piano. Maddie also has a younger brother named Jackson who is a first grader.

Samantha Lionetti (*Heathen*) is an eighth grader at Nettingham Middle School and is thrilled to be part of Play Theater this year. Her past experience includes productions with the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts and S.T.A.R.S. Theatre, most recently playing Randolph MacAfee in Bye Bye Birdie. She's also looking forward to playing Tzeitel in the NMS production of Fiddler on the Roof this March. Samantha thanks Miss Amy and everyone who's worked behind the scenes to make Sister Act so fun and rewarding!

Laoise McCabe (*Altar Server*) is thrilled to be performing in her first Play Theater production. Previously, Laoise appeared in S.T.A.R.S Theatre productions of Frozen, Moana and, most recently, Matilda in the role of Miss Honey. Laoise is a 5th grade student at Nettingham Middle School. She loves musical theater, graphic art, and gaming. She would like to thank Miss Amy and everyone at Play Theater for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful show!

Taylor Joy Mingoia (*Michelle*) is in 8th grade at Nettingham Middle School and is delighted to be performing again with Play Theater. She is excited to be playing Michelle in Sister Act, which will be her 13th production. Some of her previous acting credits include Bye Bye Birdie, Schoolhouse Rock, Seussical, Big, In The Heights, 101 Dalmatians, Cats and The Lion King. She enjoys cheerleading, gymnastics, hanging out with her friends, being on stage with her fellow castmates and making the audience smile. Taylor is dedicating this performance to all her great castmates and everyone that has helped make this show possible.

Angel Montalvo (*Heathen*) is 11 and is in the 6th grade. This is his 2nd performance, as his debut was in S.T.A.R.S. Theater's production of Matilda. His goal is to become an actor one day. He enjoys video games and watching funny TikTok videos.

Isabelle Montalvo (*Altar Server*) This is Isabelle's acting debut, as she joins her big brother Angel onstage. She is 8 and is in the 2nd grade. She enjoys gymnastics, reading and singing. Her goal is to become a singer one day.

Kathryn Noriega (*Altar Server #1*) is a 7 year old, 2nd grader at McGinn Elementary School. She is extremely excited to be starring in her very first Play Theater show. Katie has been dancing for 5 years and this is her sixth show. Some of her favorite roles include Bruce in Matilda, Jr. and Pua in Moana, Jr.

Rebecca Noriega (*Sister Mary Stephen*) is a 12 year old, 6th grader at Terrill Middle School and this is her 10th performance in a musical. She is so excited to play this role alongside this fantastic cast of friends. Rebecca has been dancing since she was 3 years old and started acting at the age of 7. Some of her favorite roles include Banzai in The Lion King and Young Zacky in Big Fish.

Brynn O'Grady (*Altar Girl #2*) could not be more excited to join this cast of Sister Act, her first Play Theater show! A musical theater junkie, Brynn has been waiting for her cue since birth. Previous credits include A Christmas Carol (Want/SPFHS Repertory Theatre), Matilda (School Child/STARS Theatre), and Moana, Jr. (Ocean Ensemble/S.T.A.R.S. Theatre). Brynn, a 2nd grader at McGinn Elementary School, can also be found on the soccer field and in the dance studio. Love to her family for packing her rehearsal snacks.

Molly O'Grady (*Sister Mary Theresa*) is thrilled to be returning to the Play Theater stage! This is Molly's 9th musical production. Recent credits include Matilda (Acrobat/S.T.A.R.S. Theatre), Beehive (Featured Player/Play Theater), and Moana (Chief Ancestor #1/S.T.A.R.S. Theatre). Molly, a 5th grader at Terrill Middle School, is a competitive Irish dancer. Thank you to her wonderful dog, Shelby for all the post-rehearsal snuggles!

Jordana Paz (*Heathen*) is 9 years old and in the 4th grade. This is her first experience in theater. She saw members of Play Theater perform over the summer and was hooked! Jordana also dances and plays basketball and volleyball. Sending love and hugs to all of my family!

Gayatri Phatak (*Sister Mary Patrick*) is 13 years old and in the 8th grade. She has been learning Indian classical music for the past eight years, and loves singing, dancing, and playing instruments! Gayatri plays the tenor and alto saxophone in school, and takes ballet, tap, and jazz dance lessons. She has attended multiple singing competitions, performances, and has taken part in her school musicals. Gayatri has also been a part of the cabaret with Play Theater and is very excited for her first musical with them. Gayatri wants to thank Play Theater for this amazing opportunity, and her family and friends for their support!

Lilah Prevost (*Bum*) is enjoying her 2nd year with Play Theater. She is a 4th grader at McGinn Elementary, and likes soccer, dance and anything artistic. She would like to thank the cast and crew for a fun time this season!

Will Prevost (*Curtis*) is a 6th grader at Terrill Middle School. Sister Act is Will's third production with Play Theater, although he's been doing theater for 6 years. He'd like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work, as well as the directors for making it all happen.

Sophia Rodkin (*Nina*) is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Roosevelt Intermediate School. She loves swimming, playing tennis, playing piano, singing, and writing songs and stories. Sophia has been taking theater classes since first grade and this is her third show with Play Theater. Sophia has also performed in many other musicals through camps and school as well.

Madison Siers (*Nun*) Madison is in 4th grade at Coles Elementary School and is thrilled to perform in her first Play Theater production. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being so welcoming!

Henry Lawrence Taner (*Altar Server*) is 8 years old and excited to be playing the role of one of the altar boys. Sister Act Jr. is his third theatrical performance, having played the role of the Mechanic in the S.T.A.R.S. Theatre production of Matilda Jr. in the summer of 2021, and as a supporting cast member of Play Theater's 2021 production of Beehive. When he is not acting and singing, Henry loves rock climbing, studying maps, learning about technology, and drawing.

Margaret Tavis (*Elle*) is an almost 13 year old 7th grader who is obsessed with musicals and anime. Sister Act is their 4th production with Play Theater, and they are so honored to work with Miss Amy again. They have appeared as Peggy in Hamilton, had supporting roles in Legally Blonde and A Christmas Carol, and enjoyed making any role memorable. Margaret would love to thank their fellow Heathens and all the cast and crew. Many thanks to mom and dad for driving and helping out with literally everything else. Break a leg!

Lyla Tomlinson (*Altar Server*) is excited to participate in her first musical theater performance! As a 9 year old, third grader at Brunner Elementary School, Lyla enjoys softball, swimming, skiing, reading and playing with friends. She is excited about Sister Act and opportunities to perform in the future!

Emily Trojan (*Newscaster/Heathen*) is excited for her role in Sister Act Jr. as the newscaster, Joey Finnochio, and one of the Heathens. Emily was first cast in Shrek Jr. as one of the three blind mice and was also cast in Lion King Jr. as Young Simba. Emily likes pottery, drawing, painting, and plays travel soccer. Emily would like to thank her fellow cast mates and her family for supporting her.

Max Weinstein (*Heathen*) is very excited about his debut performance with Play Theater as a member of the Heathen Ensemble. Last year, Max landed the role of Michael in S.T.A.R.S. Theatre's production of Matilda, Jr. In addition to performing onstage, Max enjoys sports (including baseball, soccer and football), reading and playing video games. Max thanks his parents for driving him to rehearsals.

Rachel Weinstein (*Heathen*) is thrilled to be making her debut performance with Play Theater as a member of the Heathen Ensemble. Previous roles with other theater companies include Mrs. Phelps in Matilda, Jr. and Oaken Family Member/Search Party Member in Frozen, Jr. Over the past several summers, Rachel sang and danced in numerous musical revues at the JCC's Performing Arts camp. When not on stage,

Rachel enjoys baking, Sudoku puzzles and Tae Kwon Do (for which she earned a Black Belt, First Degree Recommended in 2021). Rachel would like to thank her parents for their encouragement and support.

Adelaide Yurcisin (*Nun #2*) Addie is 12 years old and attends 7th grade in Cranford, NJ. She is excited to be back for her 3rd season with Play Theater. She was previously in *Big*, the Musical and *Beehive*. Addie would like to extend a huge thank you to Miss Amy, the cast and crew, and her supportive family! She is happy to be back on the stage!

Amy Fiore (*Director*) started Play Theater in 2004 out of lifelong passion for musical theater and desire to connect with her daughters' common interest. This is Play Theater's 8th mainstage production and the shows, summer cabaret, and classes continue to bring her immeasurable joy. During the day, Miss Amy works as a fundraising, planning and leadership consultant for nonprofit organizations, but rehearsal is where she most wants to be, especially when everyone knows their lines and are working hard. Thank you to the incredible cast and crew for making this such a fantastic journey. Thank you, also, to Kayla, whose growing talent as a theater-maker is a wonder to behold and Mackenzie, whose courage and character are an absolute delight to witness on stage. xo

Kristen O'Grady (*Musical Director*) is honored to be working with Miss Amy and the Play Theater once again! This is Kristen's fourth production with Play Theater. She previously provided musical direction for *Beehive*, *Big*, and *Big Fish*. Kristen is a music therapist and music therapy professor in her "day job", and proud mom of Molly and Brynn. Thank you to Miss Amy for entrusting her harmonies, sharing her creativity, and for allowing rehearsals to be inside again! Congratulations to the entire cast of *Sister Act* for a phenomenal production. Raise your voice!

Kayla Fiore (*Assistant Music Director*) Kayla Fiore is excited to be participating in her 8th year at Play Theater, and her second year of assistant music directing! She is a sophomore theater major at the Academy For Performing Arts (APA). Kayla also assistant directs for S.T.A.R.S. Theatre in the summer. She is so proud of the cast of *Sister Act* and wishes them good luck!

Emily Homer (*Stage Manager*)

Grace Sweeney (*Stage Manager*) is 16 years old and a sophomore at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. She was also the stage manager for *Beehive* last winter and is the social media manager for Westfield Community Players. Grace would like to thank Amy Fiore for creating such a great company and the cast for all of their hard work this year!