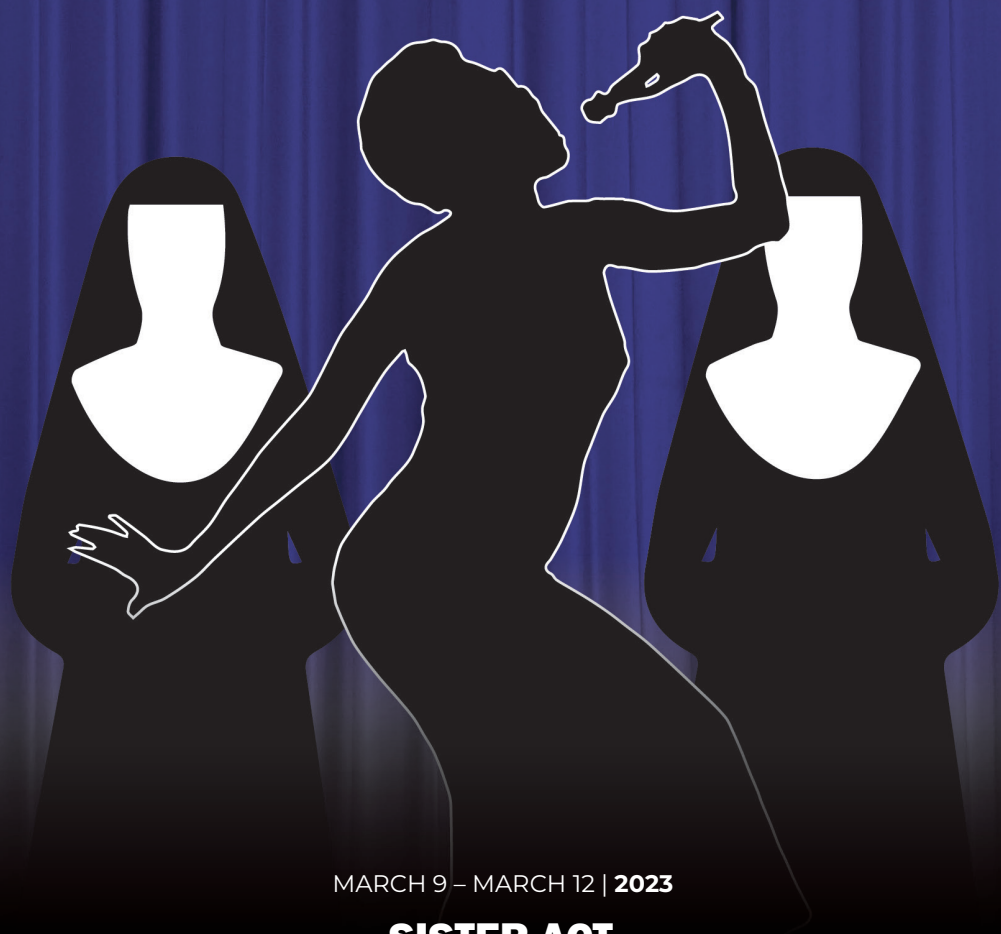


DIRECTED BY BRIAN AVERY
ALBANY HIGH THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

Sister Act



MARCH 9 – MARCH 12 | 2023

SISTER ACT

Music By
ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics By
ALAN MENKEN

Book By
**CHERRI STEINKELLNER
& BILL STEINKELLNER**

Additional Book Material
DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

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

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to our production of *Sister Act*!

We are excited to present this as the first musical in our brand-new auditorium!

I want to thank everyone involved for their hard work and commitment in helping to re-establish this wonderful program. Before coming here, I heard many stories of the legacy of the Theatre Department and I wish to continue that tradition of excellence.

This show is the first step in that direction, and I hope you come along on this journey with us for many years.

Brian Avery

Theatre Director
Albany High School

SISTER ACT

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Orchestrations By: Doug Besterman

Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by Michael Kosarin

Dance Music Arrangements by: Mark Hummel

Produced on Broadway by Whoopi Goldberg & Stage Entertainment in association with The Shubert Organization and Disney Theatrical Productions

Originally Production Developed in Association with Peter Schneider & Michael Reno and Produced by Stage Entertainment

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act 1

1. Take Me To Heaven (Nightclub)
2. Fabulous, Baby!
3. Here Within These Walls
4. It's Good To Be A Nun
5. When I Find My Baby
6. I Could Be That Guy
7. Here Within These Walls- (Reprise)
8. Raise Your Voice
9. Take Me To Heaven

Act 2

1. Entr'acte
2. Sunday Morning Fever
3. Lady In The Long Black Dress
4. I Haven't Got A Prayer
5. Bless Our Show
6. The Life I Never Led
7. Fabulous, Baby! (Reprise)
8. Sister Act
9. When I Find My Baby- (Reprise)
10. The Life I Never Led- (Reprise)
11. Sister Act- (Reprise)
12. Spread The Love Around
13. Bows

STAFF & CREW

Director | **Brian Avery**
Producer | **Amanda Weklar**
Musical Director | **Brendan Hoffman**
Choreography | **Omonike Akinyemi/Brian Avery**
Technical Director | **Jahmere Holland**
Orchestra Director | **John Halvorsen**
Rehearsal/Pit Piano | **William DeSantis**
Stage Manager | **Katherine Myers**
Light Designer | **Jahmere Holland**
Sound Designer | **Kyle Albano**
Costume Design | **Kim DeHart/Brian Avery**
Set Design | **Brian Avery**
Hair/Make-Up | **LaQuita Love**
House Manager | **Cheyene Adams**

STUDENT CREW

Millie Casanova
Amy Sepulveda
Nick Caesar
Isabella Waldman
Meskerem Kelle
Karly Grant
Sonja De Piro

Talayah Miller
Kaddisha Findley
Abigail Fowler
Rebecca Pender
Kaylan Watts
Kierra Okine
Sebastian McHenry

ORCHESTRA

Anya Miller | Violin
Tessa Weklar | Flute
Hannah Goldstein | Flute
Rachel Andrews | Flute
Myles Bearden | Oboe
Simon Carey | Clarinet
Owen Sears | Saxophone
Conor Costello | Trumpet
Andrew Eck | Trumpet
Masami Surisawa | Trombone
Julio Davis | Tuba
Kaleighanne Athens | Percussion
Isabelle Scandurra | Percussion
Giles “Grant” Hershey | Drums
Macaylah Irving | Viola
Kathleen Gazda | Flute
Renee Geraghty | Flute
Juliana Blake | Flute
Zane Sears | Clarinet
Imre Zak | Clarinet
Nora Gordon | Saxophone
Gabriel Cruz | Trumpet
Luyanda Pieterse | Trombone
Anna Baldes | Trombone
Andre Speller | Tuba
Isaac Allen | Keyboard
Benjamin Quist | Guitar
Trent Minarich | Bass

CAST

Deloris Van Cartier.....	Cionna Carmon
Mother Superior.....	Ciara Wierschem
Sister Mary Robert.....	Iris Whalen
Sister Mary Patrick.....	Annabelle Clemens
Sister Mary Lazarus.....	Camden Allen
Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours.....	Maia Ballato
Sister Mary Theresa.....	Victoria Suarez
Monsignor O'Hara.....	William O'Neill
Curtis.....	Shaquin Robinson
Eddie.....	Ray Blanken
TJ.....	Julian Shepersky
Joey.....	Timo Berry
Pablo.....	Reyanna Rodriguez
Michelle.....	Lucy Edvalson
Tina.....	Donovan Jones
Ernie.....	Declan Chirlin
Nuns.....	Autumn Citrine Sienna Stewart Opal Morales Nina Scandurra
Cop.....	Rowan Hoehn
Waitress.....	Mel'Lani Campbell
Ensemble.....	Christina Pringle Ian Roach Jayden Lozada Paloma Ahmed Preeya Ahmed Nikkya Hylton Josey Hunt Desiree Watkins John Willis

CAST & CREW BIOS

Paloma Ahmed (*Ensemble*) is grateful to be part of Sister Act.

Preeya Ahmed (*Ensemble*) is grateful to work with the rest of the cast of Sister Act and be a part of this theater family. Thank you to everyone involved in the making of Sister Act.

Kyle Albano (*Sound Design*) is a musician and audio engineer in Albany, NY. Albano has been a music teacher in the Albany City School District since 2017. He started the Music Technology Pathway at Albany High School where he teaches the recording arts and audio engineering. Albano owns his own professional audio company where he sound engineer's local musicals. This company, Underfloor MUSIC, also offers himself as an event DJ.

Camden Allen (*Sister Mary Lazarus*) is very excited to be a part of the AHS musical production! Her previous productions include *Musicville*, *Honk Jr*, and *Boxes*. She would like to welcome everyone to the show and hopes you enjoy it as much as she does!

Omonike Akinyemi (*Choreography*) MFA (University of Southern California) is artistic director of Image Quilt Cinema & Dance Theater and teaches dance and photography at Albany High School. A dancer/choreographer/filmmaker of Nigerian origin, born and raised in New York, Omonike cut her teeth dancing with Ballet Hispanico of New York in the 80's and 90's. A two-time fellow in Film and Screenwriting with the New York Foundation for the Arts, Omonike has created original works for both film and stage. Her theatrical choreography includes the Yale Dramat Children's Theater, "*Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*",

the 2007 Off-Broadway musical, “*How to Stay Sane in Paris*”, The Glove Theater’s “*Sadako and the 1000 Paper Cranes*” and Glimmer Globe Theater’s “*The Crucible*”. Omonike is now in early development for choreography for the film, “*L’Amant Anonyme*”. She is excited to be working with the cast of “*Sister Act*.”

Brian Avery (*Director*) is excited to be making his debut with AHS Theatre Ensemble. Brian has been a theater practitioner for over 20 years. He graduated with Honors from Stonybrook University (B.A. Theater) and St. Rose (M.S.Education.). He has worked on over 100 shows both locally and professionally and received numerous TANYS awards. Some of his favorite directing credits include *All Shook Up* (CLT), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Class Act), *Trestle at Pope Lick Creek* (ACT) *Little Women* (NSCP), *Company* (Class Act), *Love Letters* (Spotlight). He is also a dialect coach having worked on the Off-Broadway musical *The Wrong Box*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for all their support!!

Maia Ballato (*Sister Mary Martin-Of-Tours*) is ecstatic to be working with AHS again this year. Her previous performance being *The Day Tomorrow Stopped*. She is especially excited for her role in *Sister Act*, as this will be her last year with AHS. She would also like to thank her cast mates and friends for working on and supporting the show.

Timo Berry (*Joey*) is very honored to be working with the AHS Theatre Ensemble in *Sister Act*! This is his first and last show at AHS, he is graduating with the class of 2023. He would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year’s production of *Sister Act*!

Ray Blanken (*Eddie*) If I had a nickel for every time I played an eccentric, slightly sweaty law enforcement officer I would have two nickels... Which isn’t a lot, but funny it happened twice right? Anyways, thank you for coming to the show!

Mel’lani Campbell (*Waitress*) is excited to be part of the show and would like to thank everyone involved!

Cionna Carmon (*Deloris*) is honored to be working with the AHS Theatre Ensemble for the first time. Her previous credits include *Mulan*, *Aladdin*, *Into the Woods*, and more. She thanks everyone who contributed to this production of *Sister Act*!

Declan Chirlin (*Ernie*) is debuting with the AHS Theatre Ensemble and wants to thank his parents and Mr. Avery for being encouraging throughout the process of this play and his crew mates for being so nice and supportive.

Autumn Citrine (*Nun/Dance Captain*) is in 9th grade and recently moved from New York City to Albany. She loves the performing arts, and has been in numerous shows including *Brooke Wynham*, *Legally Blonde* and *Ensemble, Newsies*. She is grateful to be a part of the production!

Annabelle Clemens (*Sister Mary Patrick*) is thrilled to be making her debut with AHS Theatre! Previously, she has performed in shows with Park Playhouse, The Cue Theater, Steamer 10 Theater, and more. She would like to thank her family for their endless love and support.

Kim DeHart (*Costume Design*) is a Family & Consumer Science Educator at AHS, while working on Theater productions since 2011. She usually works with the Costume Designer (a big shout out to Fiona Thompson who has been my role model and mentor) as a seamstress to create garments for the show's productions. Creative costume credits in: *Scapino*, *Cabaret* (2011, 2020), *Two Rooms*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, *Oliver*, *Annie*, *Once on this Island*, *Promising Playwrights* (2014, 2016), *Black Boys*, *Hers*, *The Identity Project*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Sweet Charity* and *Hairspray*. Kim will be retiring after 31 years from the district at the end of this year but will continue to work on next year's theatrical productions. It has been a pleasure to work with the cast and crew over the years.

William DeSantis (*Rehearsal/Pit Piano*) has played piano for eight Albany High musicals and has been a music teacher in the district for fifteen

years. He has also worked extensively with other local theater groups including Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC), Young Actors Guild, Glens Falls Community Theater, and Park Playhouse.

Lucy Edvalson (*Michelle/Ensemble*) is pleased to be making her debut with the AHS Theatre Ensemble. Credits include Ursula, *The Little Mermaid* and *The Baker, Into the Woods*. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this show possible! I had so much fun being in this show and I can't wait to see what AHS Theatre Ensemble does in the future!

John Halvorsen (*Orchestra Director*) is in his 17th year in Albany City Schools and is still blessed and privileged to work with your children every day.

Rowan Hoehn (*Cop*) is very excited to be performing in Albany High's *Sister Act*. Her previous credits include, *The Day Tomorrow Stopped*. She would like to thank everyone for their support and participation in the show!

Brendan Hoffman (*Musical Director*) is the choral director at Albany High School, a position he has proudly held since 2004. In addition to conducting five vocal ensembles, he teaches vocal lessons, music theory and serves as music director for the Theater Ensemble. He is thrilled for the ensemble to be returning to the brand-new stage at AHS for our first show post-pandemic. To the talented and dedicated cast and crew of *Sister Act* - I am proud of you!

Jahmere Holland (*Tech Director/Light Design*) is excited to be returning to the AHS Theatre Ensemble. He is a graduate of Albany High and is the Varsity Cheerleading Coach and Technical Director. He is also the proud owner of Triple Threat Cheerleading. He would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and dedication!

Josey Hunt (*Ensemble*) wishes to shout out Ian Roach for reminding her to turn this in. Mr. Avery is a pretty cool director.

Nikkya Hylton (*Ensemble*) is very excited to participate and be a part of the AHS Theatre Ensemble. She was a Lioness in *The Lion King* at Myers Middle School. She is forever thankful and proud of everyone who helped bring this musical all together!

Donovan Jones (*Tina*) is excited to be part of the show and would like to thank everyone involved!

LaQuita Love (*Hair/Make-Up*) is a proud product of the City School District of Albany, class of 1994. She is the proud owner of Safari NY Hair Studio since 2001 and Albany High School Cosmetology Teacher and Coordinator since 2006. LaQuita holds a B.A in Human Services & Community from SUNY Empire, and is currently a graduate student at SUNY Empire, studying Curriculum and Instruction. In the past years, she has won numerous awards including; NYS Educator and Entrepreneur Award, the Women of Distinction Award by the Black Women's Association, the prestigious Golden Apple Award by the City School District of Albany, the Kazi Work Award by Ujima Journey INC. and the TOP Teacher award, presented by Elaine Houston.

Jayden Lozada (*Ensemble*) is excited to be part of the show and would like to thank everyone involved!

Opal Morales (*Nun*) is excited to be part of the show and would like to thank everyone involved!

Katherine Myers (*Stage Manager*) is happy to be making her debut with the AHS Theatre Ensemble. Her previous credits include, Ensemble/Stagehand in *Into The Woods Jr*, Queen Glis in *Musicville*. She would like to thank her cousins for inspiring her love of theater.

William O'Neill (*Monsignor O'Hara*) will be taking his 3rd role ever. His previous roles include King Julien, Madagascar and The Day Time Stopped at AHS. He would like to thank his parents for being supportive and, thank you to Mr. Avery for being a phenomenal director!

Christina Pringle (*Ensemble*) is pleased to be making

her debut with the AHS Theatre Ensemble. Her previous credits include Ensemble, *Honk Jr.*, and performances in many talent shows. She would like to thank everyone who helped bring this show to life!

Ian Roach (*Ensemble*) is excited for his first show at Albany High School! Previous roles include Chief Tui, *Moana Jr.* and Maurice, *Madagascar Jr.* He has a YouTube channel called Ian Talks Film. He is thankful for his family, and his 2 cats.

Shaquin Robinson (*Curtis*) loves performing arts and wishes to become a professional actor in the future. He is a senior at Albany High School, and this is his first time being a part of an actual school play. With his love for performing arts he wants to take it to the next level; he wants to inspire others.

Rey Rodriguez (*Pablo*) is pleased to be making their debut with the AHS Theatre Ensemble. They would like to thank everyone who helped bring this show to life!

Nina Scandurra (*Nun*) is excited to be making her Albany High School Theatre Debut with the musical *Sister Act*. Her experiences include ten years of dance and seven years of choral singing. She hopes you enjoy the show and would like to thank everyone that made it possible.

Julian Shepersky (*TJ*) is eager to take part in his debut with Albany High School! Prior roles include but are not limited to; Narrator, *Into the Woods*. He hopes that you will enjoy the show!

Victoria Suarez (*Sister Mary Theresa*) is happy to debut in *Sister Act*, this will be her very last year in an Albany High Drama Club production. She will be going to college and pursuing fashion, film, music, animation, etc. She hopes that as the performers sing and dance that you enjoy the show. And thank you for coming!

Sienna Stewart (*Nun*) is thrilled to be doing her first show with the AHS Theatre ensemble in *Sister Act*! She has enjoyed the arts from a

young age, doing traditional drawing, painting, and being in performances at local theaters.

Desiree Watkins (*Ensemble*) is excited to be part of the show and would like to thank everyone involved!

Iris Whalen (*Sister Mary Robert*) is thrilled to be returning to the stage at AHS. Her previous credits include Ariel in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* and Daughter in *The Day Tomorrow Stopped*. She would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication!

Amanda Weklar (*Producer*) has worked in Albany City Schools for 19 years - most of them as a Social Studies teacher focused on Civics Engagement. She began her career at Harriet Gibbons Alternative High School where she participated in the Empire State Partnerships for the Arts with Capital Repertory Theatre, and regularly attended the annual summer conference for arts integration where she developed a passion and appreciation for Arts in Education. She joined the AHS staff in 2010 and then stepped out of the classroom to become the Discovery Academy Theme Coordinator where she worked on several Arts Integration programs including a Digital Projection Program and student matinee previews for the Theatre Ensemble. Amanda has worked with the Theatre Ensemble for the last 10 years as Producer and digital art projection designer and runs the High School Yearbook in addition to her classroom duties. In her free time, she raises two amazing boys, and a few pets; loves to bake; sings in a church choir; rides horses; and crochets.

Ciara Wierschem (*Mother Superior*) is delighted to be making her debut with the AHS Theatre Ensemble. Her previous credits include several years in Drama Kids International and annual participation in her church's children's summer musicals. She previously danced competitively and now holds a black belt in taekwondo.

John Willis (*Ensemble*) is excited to be part of the show and would like to thank everyone involved!

Albany Booster Club



Congratulations and Best of Luck to all the student performers, musicians, stagehands, teachers, and everyone who helped create and organize this wonderful event!

Albany Booster Club is a charitable not-for-profit organization established in 2000 by Albany City School District parents for the purpose of providing financial assistance and support to extracurricular activities offered by the District.

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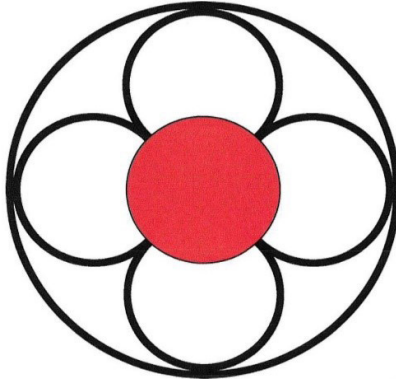
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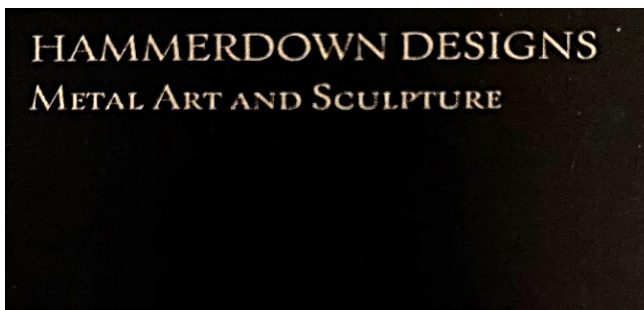
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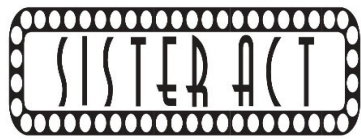


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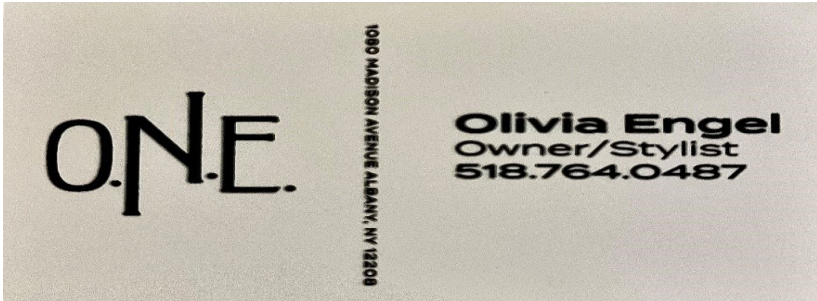
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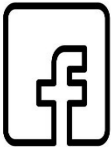
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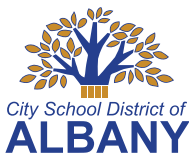


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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Theatre Ensemble Director Brian Avery and the talented members of the cast, crew and orchestra for Albany High School's 2023 production of "Sister Act."

We are so excited for the return of our annual musical, and for the opportunity to see our amazing students shine!



Best wishes from Interim Superintendent John Yagielski and the members of the City School District of Albany leadership team and our Board of Education!



APSTA wishes our students
great success with the
show, and congratulates you
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