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For release

## **The funny nuns you love are back to bring holiday hilarity to SCERA with “Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical”**

(Orem, Utah) -- Sister Julia, Child of God has accidentally killed 52 of her sister nuns with unintentional poisoned soup, and the hilarious process of disposing of the bodies became the basis of the wildly popular musical, “Nunsense.” But they don’t have the money to bury the last two nuns, and this dilemma is the basis of “Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical” that will cheer the holidays at the SCERA Center for the Arts beginning Nov. 27.

The slightly irreverent production, with music and lyrics by Dan Goggin, will run Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m., and reserved seat tickets are available at \$12 for adults and \$10 for children (age 3-11), students (w/ID) and seniors (age 65+). They are available from 10-6 weekdays and Saturdays 12Noon-6pm at SCERA (745 S. State St., Orem), by calling (801) 225-2569, at [www.scera.org](http://www.scera.org), or at the door 30 minutes prior to each performance.

“This is the perfect musical to get people into the holiday mood,” says Kathryn Little, who is directing the production with her husband Howard. “It is downright funny, the music is perky, and it finds a way to include both Santa Claus and the more sacred aspects of the season.”

As the story begins, the nuns decide to raise the money needed to bury their deceased contemporaries by producing a television special taped in the studio built by Reverend Mother in the convent basement of the Mount St. Helen’s School in Hoboken, New Jersey.

“Their show is total silliness, craziness and fun,” Little says. “I don’t want to convey the impression that these nuns are not dedicated to their calling. They are. But they have wacky, wonderful personalities that are a blast.”

The musical features the same beloved nuns from the original show: There are Reverend Mother (played by Celesta Rimington with a Minnesota accent), Sister Mary Paul “Amnesia”(played with a Southern accent by Deborah Bowman), wisecracking Brooklyn street nun Sister Robert Ann (played by Rebekah Osmond), Sister Mary Leo (a ballerina wannabe and stage manager nun, played by Kelsey Seaver) and Sister Hubert (who thinks *she* should be the Reverend Mother, played by Janna Gates). Shawn Mortensen plays Father Virgil Manly Trott as well as Sister Julia, Child of God (with a spot-on Julia Child impression, of course). The script calls for four children, but the Littles cast twelve to play Mount St. Helen’s most exceptional students.

Says SCERA President & CEO Adam J. Robertson, “We are hoping to make this show a holiday tradition, alternating with ‘Plaid Tidings.’ So every other year, audiences will see a lighthearted show that will definitely make spirits merry and bright.”

While there are many highlights in the show—including the songs “Twelve Days Prior to Christmas,” “Santa Ain’t Comin’ to Our House,” “Santa’s Little Teapot,” “A Carnival Christmas,” “We Three Kings of Orient Are Us” and “Christmas Time is Nonsense Time —one of Little’s favorite scenes happens when Father Virgil, one of the nun’s brothers, comes to help. When Sister Julia, Child of God ends up going to the police station, he must step in and do an imitation of her for the nun’s Christmas Special, in a side-splitting spoof of The Home Shopping Network. “Shawn must sing all her really high parts,” Little says. “It’s a scene to die for, and I can’t think of anyone who could do it better.”

She is also pleased with the rest of the cast. “We had some really talented people come to the auditions, and as I’ve discovered their talents, we’ve thrown them into the show. We can’t stop laughing at rehearsal, and I know the audience will feel the same!”

Little explains that the script is written in a way where you can play the scenes either a bit raucous or innocently. “We obviously have taken the innocent, yet hilarious, approach. This is a totally family-friendly show.”

And, she adds, “Just wait for the finale, which culminates in a wild spoof of Tchaikovsky’s classic Nutcracker ballet.” Thus, she explains, is where the show gets its title.

Assisting the Littles are Shawn Mortensen, choreographer; Nat Reed, set design; Josh Gubler, lighting design; Deborah Bowman, costume design; Tiffany Smithee, stage manager.

The musical comedy also features a good measure of audience participation, including a “Secret Santa” and a Christmas carol sing-a-long.

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