

AnvilArtsat
The Haymarket

BATS
Basingstoke Amateur
Theatrical Society

SISTER ACT™

17 - 21 May 2022

The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Here's what's coming up! We look forward to welcoming you back to see us...

BATS
Basingstoke Amateur
Theatrical Society

 **SHREK**
The
MUSICAL

10 – 19 November 2022

The Haymarket



May 2023

The Haymarket

SISTER ACT

Music by
ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics by
GLENN SLATER

Book by
**CHERI STEINKELLNER
& BILL STEINKELLNER**

Additional Book Material
DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

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

Orchestrations by Doug Besterman
Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by Michael Kosarin

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

World Premiere Produced by
Sheldon Epps, Artistic Director Susan V. Booth, Artistic Director
Lyla White, Executive Director Tom Pechar, Managing Director
Tom Ware, Producing Director

17 - 21 May 2022
The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Director and Choreographer - **LOUISE TRAVIS**
Musical Director - **ADAM BLOSSE**

We would ask you to note that in accordance with requirements of the Licensing Authority of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council:

The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors; all gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways, which afford a means of exit, shall be kept entirely free from obstruction; persons shall not be permitted to stand in any of the gangways; and the safety curtain shall be lowered at each performance in the presence of the audience. Smoking in the auditorium and the video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.co.uk



THE CHAIRMAN'S BIT...

A very warm welcome to BATS!

I am so pleased to be welcoming you to our production of *Sister Act*, based on the hugely successful film of the same name. You may not know this, but BATS performed this show back in May 2015 and it was an award-winning one. As we are still finding our feet again post lockdowns, we thought it would be a great opportunity to revisit a show that was fondly remembered by our members and was such a great success.

We are, once again, pleased to introduce you to some new members to the Company for this show. We are also pleased to welcome back the creative team behind our fantastic production of *Elf - The Musical* last November, Louise Travis (Director) and Adam Blossie (Musical Director). Unfortunately, this time we were not so lucky in managing to avoid the impact of Covid. Rehearsals for the first three months were severely impacted by Covid, which came to a peak in early March where we had over two thirds of the cast ill and in isolation for about two weeks. This was a huge challenge for us, and gave our Director and Musical Director quite the headache trying to fit everything in so that we could catch up. But the amazing cast and creative team all pulled together and the results are hopefully plain to see!

Continuing to stage productions of this scale and standard is not easy and rising costs have continued to squeeze our budgets. I want to personally thank you for buying a ticket, especially given the current, unprecedented cost of living increases. We are so passionate about performing and entertaining you. We hope that you will keep coming back to support us and local theatres like the Haymarket.

I'd like to extend a massive 'thank you' to everyone who has helped bring this show to the stage, not just the people who you can see but those behind the scenes: Haymarket staff, set builders and backstage crew, lighting and sound designers/operators, costume and props suppliers, the orchestra, those in the flies above the stage to 'fly' cloths and scenery into place. Please do take a moment to read all the names in the production team, we just couldn't get a show on the road without them!

I just know that you are going to love this show and in the words of Deloris, it is going to be 'Fabulous Baby'. Oh, and if you see me after the show, feel free to say hi!

IAN MOSELEY

Chairman

CAST



KIRSTY KINGHAM

Deloris Van Cartier

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Being back on-stage working with friends, relishing the incredible music (Spread the Love Around is a favourite!) and bringing my interpretation of the crazy and tender side of Deloris' character - it's an emotional journey!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Learning to sing in a completely different way to my usual style and bringing Deloris' disco diva sound!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is my eighth show with BATS and I've always loved the challenge of creating each role. Whilst I don't really have a single favourite, I'd choose Nancy (*Oliver!*) every time. Although after this show, Deloris could become a new favourite!



SALLY MANNING

Mother Superior

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

That magical feeling that we get performing together and seeing the audience enjoying it after such a difficult couple of years for the Arts.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

I have to focus extremely hard on staying calm and still, and to not laugh at the many hilarious moments that I face with the nuns!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I've been involved with BATS and BATS Next Gen for many years; both performing and directing. My favourite musical to perform is *Sister Act* (of course!) and to watch, is *Miss Saigon*.



RHIANON MONE

Sister Mary Robert

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

When I watched BATS do *Sister Act* in 2015, I was blown away. I'm looking forward to partaking in a show just as fantastic and enjoying every second of it

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Sister Mary Robert's journey throughout the show is beautiful. I've focussed on her timidity and her inner conflict as she begins to blossom with help from Deloris.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I was six when I did my first show at The Anvil in *AIDA*, and have performed ever since. *High School Musical* is (embarrassingly) my favourite musical.



LUANNSA GOODMAN

Sister Mary Patrick

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

This will be my first performance since the pandemic began and closed theatres. Whilst I've been busy choreographing two other shows in the past year, I'm so excited to get back in that spotlight!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Everyone remembers and loves Kathy Najimy's portrayal of Mary Patrick in the movie. I've been trying to capture parts of her comedic genius, whilst putting my fresh spin on the role!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is the 12th musical I've performed in Basingstoke and as much as I have loved them all, my favourite musicals always depend on my mood! However, my top three would be *Chicago*, *Miss Saigon* and *Gypsy*.



LAURA BURRELL

Sister Mary Lazarus

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Being back on stage after a tough two years for theatre. In trying times, people need escapism and the Sisters of Queen of Angels Church are here to entertain you!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Finding Mary Lazarus' voice was the biggest character breakthrough for me. It was only after a couple of weeks of rehearsal I realised she sounded like Estelle from 'Friends'!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I previously worked professionally as an actor in London before moving to Hampshire. My favourite shows to perform in were *Tommy* at The Prince Edward and *Island Song* at the Other Palace.



HOLLY REEDMAN

Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Being back on stage for the first time since 2018 with my friends and sinking my teeth into another lovely little comedy role.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Well, as my character is a bit 'spaced out' I've focused on channelling Alice Tinker from the Vicar of Dibley and Luna Lovegood from Harry Potter. Hopefully they'll both shine through!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

Sister Act and *Legally Blonde - The Musical* are my favourites that I've performed with BATS. But *Chicago* is my all-time favourite musical that I'd love to perform in.



KIRSTY BENNETT

Michelle, Sister Mary Cecilia

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

BATS continues to be a wonderful part of my life and I'm thrilled to be joining such a wonderful cast to reprise the role of Michelle.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

I need to unlearn everything that's in my memory from before. Although the show hasn't changed, everything is different... especially the new harmony lines and dance routines!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I joined BATS in 2003 and this is my 28th show. Favourite roles include: Lina Lamont (*Singin' in the Rain*), Frenchy (*Grease*), Liesl (*The Sound of Music*), Ronette (*Little Shop of Horrors*) and Diva (*Priscilla Queen of the Desert*).



RACHEL POTTER

Tina, Sister Mary Ava

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Being on stage again. I was the assistant to the director for our last show, *Elf - The Musical*, which was a fantastic experience, but I missed performing!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

I play two characters: Tina is a sassy and confident nightclub singer, whereas Sister Mary Ava is a more comical role. I've been exploring incorporating these opposing characteristics into each role, which has been great fun!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is my third show with BATS, although I have also performed with BATS NextGen. My favourite role is Bombalurina in *CATS*. My favourite musical is *Beetlejuice*, I love it!



IAN MOSELEY

Eddie Souther

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

I just can't wait to show everyone the fun and energy of this show as I was unable to be part of it last time BATS performed it.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Eddie gets very nervous, especially around Deloris, and this leads him to sweat, so I have been carrying a hankie around to regularly mop my brow.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

Two favourite BATS shows that I have performed in are *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Bernadette) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour). I recently saw *Come From Away* and loved it.



ANTHONY MITCHELL

Monsignor O'Hara

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

It's been great to create a 'feel-good' production that shows how something good can come from even the worst of situations and will have you disco dancing in the aisles!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Creating the slight Irish lilt in Monsignor's tone and transforming his dreary existence into a rather mischievous preacher, with quite a twinkle in his eye, has been a joy.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I've been part of BATS for many years. Playing Santa in *Elf – The Musical* was a fantastic experience. One of my all-time favourite musicals is *Kinky Boots* which celebrates being true to yourself to overcome life's prejudices.



PAUL MORRIS

Curtis

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

We have an incredibly talented cast, motivated and enthusiastic; chomping at the bit to entertain you. I am looking forward to sharing the stage with these gifted guys and gals.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Channelling Curtis is a challenge, especially when my natural demeanour is the complete opposite. Rehearsals give me the only opportunity I get to be mean!!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is my fifth BATS show and I'm reprising the role of Curtis after the success of the 2015 show. My favourite musical - Jeff Wayne's *War of the Worlds*. A timeless musical score.



RICHARD BOND

Joey, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

A chance to share the stage with my wonderful wife, 20 years on from our last joint performance. Plus, the show itself, the music, dancing, humour, it's going to be fabulous!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Main focus has been on developing a meaningful 70's style moustache, finding a suitable hairstyle and mastering the falsetto notes required for Joey - not easy for a bass!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

31 years and 44 shows with BATS. Many favourites but *West Side Story* is up there. Great show, my first with BATS and a personal highlight, performing it at the Anvil.



JAMES YOUNG

TJ, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

I'm most looking forward to doing this show again, but with a different director and role. I can't wait to experience the audience's reaction again, but in a whole new way.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

I have worked most on my physicality and how I carry myself as TJ. As soon as I found his body language and posture, I found him.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is my 12th show with BATS and I particularly loved being in *Elf – The Musical* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. However, my all-time favourite musical is *Dreamgirls*.



BRYN HUGHES

Pablo, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

The rehearsal process and working with this talented bunch to bring the show to life. I also can't wait to get stuck into some funky disco dance moves and songs!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Learning to speak Spanish convincingly (I hope!), finding the Pablo gangster-like stance and swagger and reaching the highest falsetto notes that I've ever had to sing.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

20 years and my 25th performance with BATS. There have been many favourites, two of which include *Singin' in the Rain* (Don Lockwood) and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Tick) in 2018.



LAUREN BLAXILL

Sister Mary Irene

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Returning to the stage with my BATS family after a five year break, and in my all-time favourite previous BATS show.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

My character develops much like my life during Covid lockdown to post-Covid lockdown. A bit stern and empty to become joyful with a sense of freedom.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I have performed with BATS since 1994. My favourite productions have been *Sister Act* and *42nd Street*. At the moment, *Back To The Future* and *Come From Away* are my number one and two favourite shows respectively.



LYNNE BOND

Sister Mary Martha

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

I just love everything about this show. Having been in the cast the last time BATS did it in 2015, it is probably my favourite.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

My knitting. You can tell I'm an older member of the cast!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I have been with BATS since 1995 and have loved performing in many shows. Two of my favourite BATS shows are *42nd Street* and *Me and My Girl*.



CHARLOTTE CLIFFORTH

Sister Mary Avila, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

I am most looking forward to getting back on stage with the wonderful and talented cast members and performing the uplifting and feel-good songs in the show.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

My character is shy and nervous, who struggles with the change and confidence Deloris introduces. I try to show this by keeping my head down and playing nervously until the fabulous dance routines begin!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I have been performing in musicals since I was 11. Favourites to have performed include: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*.



SOPHIE COLLINS

Sister Mary Ida

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Being back on stage after taking a six year break. *Sister Act* was a perfect show for me to come back to, with its incredible music and storyline.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Bringing the character to the dancing, focusing on development of confidence.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

Yes! I've performed in *Joseph* 13 times - clearly a favourite! Other memorable roles were Dorothy (*The Wizard of Oz*) and Tallulah (*Bugsy Malone*). Musicals I would love to do: *Shrek*, *Waitress*, *Six*!



JADE HOLLINGSHEAD

Sister Mary Agnes, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

This show has a special place in my heart after we performed it in 2015. This time around, I'm looking forward to performing in different scenes that I wasn't in last time.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Our nun names are based on real-life nuns so I have been doing some research into her life. What a caring and loving person she was!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is my 19th show with BATS. I've enjoyed every show, some of my favourites are: *Grease*, *Footloose*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Sister Act* and being cast as Roxie Hart in *Chicago* was a highlight!



EMILY JOHNSON

Sister Mary Maria, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

I am most looking forward to the 'hip hop' nun section. We are some of the coolest sisters the audience will have ever seen!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Louise (the director) cast me as the nun of positivity. I'd like to say I've had to spend time developing my character, but I've very much been typecast as my cheesy self!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

Yes I have performed before and my favourite musical is *Legally Blonde - The Musical*. I loved the commercial dance routines and sparkly outfits!

CAST

Deloris Van Cartier	KIRSTY KINGHAM
Mother Superior	SALLY MANNING
Sister Mary Robert	RHIANON MONE
Sister Mary Patrick	LUANNSA GOODMAN
Sister Mary Lazarus	LAURA BURRELL
Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours	HOLLY REEDMAN
Sister Mary Theresa	ANNIE VICARS
Eddie Souther	IAN MOSELEY
Monsignor O'Hara	ANTHONY MITCHELL
Curtis	PAUL MORRIS
TJ, Dancer	JAMES YOUNG
Joey, Dancer	RICHARD BOND
Pablo, Dancer	BRYN HUGHES
Ernie	IAN 'SPUD' SMITH
Michelle, Sister Mary Cecilia	KIRSTY BENNETT
Sister Mary Irene	LAUREN BLAXILL
Sister Mary Martha	LYNNE BOND
Sister Mary Avila, Dancer	CHARLOTTE CLIFFORTH
Sister Mary Ida	SOPHIE COLLINS
Sister Mary Agnes, Dancer	JADE HOLLINGSHEAD
Sister Mary Maria, Dancer	EMILY JOHNSON
Sister Mary Dorothea	ABIGAIL PARSONS
Tina, Sister Mary Ava	RACHEL POTTER
Sister Mary Carmella, Dancer	VICTORIA SOUTHGATE
Sister Mary Celeste	LIZ WALSH
Pope	COLIN WEBB
Ensemble and Dancers*	KAZ MCCLOY*
	CYDNEY MURRAY*
	KATIE SCHULTEN*
	BEN SHALLOW*
	BEN WAINES*
	COLIN WEBB

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director and Choreographer	LOUISE TRAVIS
Musical Director	ADAM BLOSSE
Assistant Director	LAURA NEWBOROUGH
Dance Captain	JAMES YOUNG
Production Manager	COLIN WEBB
Stage Manager	STEVE BRANNAM
Deputy Stage Manager	STUART BAKER
Assistant Stage Manager	NATALIE RANDALL
Backstage Coordinator	LEIGH YOUNG
Stage Crew	SAM BAKER, STUART BAKER, KEZIAH BRAYBROOK, ADAM COUSIN, DAVE ELLIOTT, KAY ELLIOTT, ANDY FOSTER, ALEX FROST, MATT HARRISON, NICK HORSEY, JESSICA JAYASURIYA, SARA MOHAMMED, AMY PEDLEY, CAROLINE PRICE, DAVID SCANLAN, MATT SOUTHGATE, STEPHANIE WEBB, STUART WALKER
Lighting Design and Hire	MATT GREEN
Lighting Operators	NICKI HAWKINS, IAN 'SPUD' SMITH
Sound Hire	DANIEL PAINE (SPINAUDIO)
Sound Design and Engineer	GEORGE STEED
Scenery Design and Hire	UK PRODUCTIONS
Props	LUCY TIPP AND COLIN WEBB
Head of Wardrobe	BEN SHALLOW
Wardrobe Assistant	JUDITH IFOULD
Costumes	UK PRODUCTIONS
	BATS WARDROBE
Dressers	CHRISTINE DOLLERY, TERESA HOLLINGSHEAD
Marketing and Sales Officer	JULIE MORRIS
Marketing and Sales Team	DAVID ALLARD, SOPHIE COLLINS, LUANNSA GOODMAN, JADE HOLLINGSHEAD, BRYN HUGHES, JAMES YOUNG
Show Photographs	JOHN SHERRINGHAM (FRONT OF HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY)
Programme	BRYN HUGHES AND RYAN STEVENS (STEVENS-SIGNAGE)

THANKS TO...

The Manydown Company, Oakley
Chris Welton, Lane Monnington Welton Chartered Accountants
Christ Church, Chineham
Chris Horton, NODA
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Jaz Wilson, It's All An Act
Leyla, Dress Circle Antics
Hampshire Equipment Services

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

OVERTURE.....	Orchestra
TAKE ME TO HEAVEN	Deloris, Michelle, Tina, Drag Queen Dancers
FABULOUS, BABY!	Deloris, Michelle, Tina, Drag Queen Dancers
HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS	Mother Superior, Deloris, Nuns
IT'S GOOD TO BE A NUN	Nuns, Deloris
WHEN I FIND MY BABY	Curtis, Joey, TJ, Pablo
I COULD BE THAT GUY	Eddie, Dancers, Ensemble
HERE WITHIN THESE WALLS (Reprise).....	Mother Superior, Nuns
RAISE YOUR VOICE.....	Deloris, Nuns
TAKE ME TO HEAVEN	Deloris, Nuns

ACT II

ENTR'ACTE.....	Orchestra
SUNDAY MORNING FEVER.....	Deloris, Nuns, Monsignor O'Hara, Mother Superior, Eddie
LADY IN THE LONG BLACK DRESS	Joey, TJ, Pablo
I HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER.....	Mother Superior
BLESS OUR SHOW	Deloris, Nuns
THE LIFE I NEVER LED.....	Sister Mary Robert
FABULOUS, BABY! (Reprise).....	Eddie, Deloris, Nuns, Dancers, Ensemble
SISTER ACT	Deloris
WHEN I FIND MY BABY (Reprise).....	Curtis
THE LIFE I NEVER LED (Reprise)	Sister Mary Robert
SISTER ACT (Reprise).....	Deloris, Mother Superior, Nuns
SPREAD THE LOVE AROUND	Full Company
RAISE YOUR VOICE.....	Deloris, Nuns

ORCHESTRA

Musical Director / Keys 3**ADAM BLOSSE**

Keys 1.....**ARTEMIS REED**
Keys 2.....**JOE BARR**
Reed 1.....**JEMMA LOVE**
Reed 2.....**FLICK ISAAC-CLINTON**

Guitar.....**DAN BOOTH**
Bass.....**SAM TOOKEY**
Percussion.....**COLIN GRAY**



ABIGAIL PARSONS

Sister Mary Dorothea

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

The camaraderie and bond with the cast, production team and crew that you get working together on something that everyone is so passionate about.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

As the 'straight-backed and serious' nun I've mostly been trying to not look like I'm having as much fun as I am! It's not easy to look stony-faced surrounded by disco dancing nuns!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This will be my 21st year with BATS, and there are too many amazing shows I've been lucky enough to perform in to choose a favourite!



VICTORIA SOUTHGATE

Sister Mary Carmella, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Getting to stand on stage with so many talented people and having fun every night spreading the love around Basingstoke!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Sister Mary Carmella can't stand mess and likes things to go to plan! I have tried to channel a mixture of Mrs. Hinch and Sheldon from the Big Bang Theory... in a habit. Enjoy!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is my eighth show with BATS, having previously performed with BATS Next Gen! I have a few favourites that I have been lucky enough to perform in: *Grease*, *Footloose*, *Elf* - *The Musical* and of course, *Sister Act*!



ANNIE VICARS

Sister Mary Theresa

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Being part of the whole absolutely brilliant array of BATS talent, performance and production values that has always been there for the many years I've watched them – and certainly is today.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

Managing everything whilst using a zimmer frame! If the day ever dawns when I need one (please, no!), I may be able to demonstrate some nifty dance steps!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

The Sound of Music (BATS, pit-singer), *Rock Choir* (13 years), care homes with others, AmDram and school. *Les Misérables* (drama/emotion), *Sister Act* (joyousness) and *Mamma Mia!* (feel-good).



LIZ WALSH

Sister Mary Celeste

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Cheesy I know, but being on stage with my sisters again. And my brothers of course. Covid has made me miss performing as much as seeing shows.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

My homely side - as Sister Mary Celeste is all about the cooking!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

Yes, loads! I did this show when BATS did it before in 2015. It was so much fun hence I am back for more - it is one of my favourites!



KAZ MCCLOY

Ensemble, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

I'm really looking forward to us bringing the big dance numbers to life on stage.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

My characters are a bit of a mixture... hooker, tramp and nun. They're all different but all fun-loving and a bit quirky!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

Yes! I performed in and co-choreographed *Singin' in the Rain*. Also got to the end of rehearsal for *My Fair Lady* before lockdown cancelled the show on opening night! Favourite musicals are *Kinky Boots*, *Wicked* and *Amélie*.



CYDNEY MURRAY

Ensemble, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Just being back on stage again! It's been so long since I've done a show and to come back with a bang with *Sister Act* is so exciting for me!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

I'm quite a strong dancer, so it's pulling back on some of that energy when it comes to dancing as a nun... until I can go all-out!

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I have! My most memorable performances were in *The Wiz* and *Joseph*. Two of my favourite musicals are *The Lion King* and *Hairspray*.



KATIE SCHULTEN

Ensemble, Dancer

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Sharing the brilliant music - I've always wanted to do this show! It's a feel-good musical that leaves the audience smiling, singing and dancing on their way out. I'm excited to help create that.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

It's fun switching between my different characters. I've focussed on embodying different personas and making each one believable, so they are not the same character wearing a different costume.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I've performed in a few musicals and attended weekly dance classes for several years. Favourite musicals are *Hairspray* and *Sister Act*, which was one of the first I saw in the West End.



BEN SHALLOW

Drag Queen Dancer, Ensemble

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

The cast from the 2015 production loved it, which I was unable to perform in, so I knew I had to audition this time round!

What have you focused on in developing your character?

I play several characters, from an altar boy to a tramp. I'm most excited to play one of Deloris' drag backing dancers and have focussed on embracing 70s' disco dance moves.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I first performed with BATS in 2001 as Friedrich Von Trapp (*The Sound of Music*) and last month I performed as an Angel (another drag role!) in *Kinky Boots*. My all-time favourite was Miss Understanding in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (BATS, 2018).



IAN 'SPUD' SMITH

Ernie

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

Although playing a brief cameo role, it's great to be back performing in such a feel-good show, after a difficult time for the theatre industry.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

My character is dead for the majority of my one scene! I've worked on falling backwards without injuring myself and adopting a final dead pose that enables a comedy moment for Deloris to walk over me.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This show marks my 44th show with BATS. I have many fond memories of every show. It's impossible to choose a favourite - I love them all!



BEN WAINES

Drag Queen Dancer, Ensemble

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

I'm really looking forward to being able to perform again after theatres were closed for such a long time. I have really missed that rush of being on stage.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

For any character role, I create a little biography to build a better understanding of their background, personality and where they grew up and bring those elements into my performance.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

This is my fifth show with BATS. *Spamalot* was my first in 2017, which is one of my all-time favourite musicals. But at the top of my list is *The View Upstairs*.



COLIN WEBB

Pope, Ensemble

What are you most looking forward to about Sister Act?

The joy and happiness that we can bring to our audiences and send them home with huge smiles on their faces.

What have you focused on in developing your character?

I appear as the Pope in the smallest cameo role and my concern is making sure that I give the blessing in the correct way.

Have you performed before? Do you have any favourite musicals?

I have been with BATS since 1997 and have now performed in over 30 musicals. My favourite was *The Full Monty* as it was such a wonderful cast to be with. Such fun!

CREATIVES



LOUISE TRAVIS

*Director and
Choreographer*

Louise originally joined BATS to play Velma in *Chicago* (2020), which we unfortunately never got to perform due to Covid-19. However, after feeling very much welcomed by the BATS family, she joined the

Committee and is putting her talents to good use again as our Director and Choreographer (after last year's successful production of *Elf - The Musical*).

Louise started in the world of theatre at a very young age, being lucky enough to assist some incredible and inspirational directors and choreographers alongside performing. After many years in local companies in her hometown of Sheffield, she was signed by an agent and moved to London aged 18, where she performed for over 20 years. Some of her favourites include Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* (London and Off-Broadway cast), Marty in *Grease* (London cast) and Andy in *Stepping Out* (UK tour).

She has 30 years' performance and production experience in numerous pantomimes, including directing and playing Maleficent in *Sleeping Beauty* (The Spa Bridlington) and simultaneously choreographing *Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs* (The Carriageworks, Leeds) - Oh, no she didn't! Oh, yes she did!

Louise has worked as a model, choreographer and director. All of which have taken her around the world, dancing with artists including Tom Jones, STEPS and her favourite Will Smith - however, an injury stopped her dancing professionally. Her hardest, yet most rewarding role is being Mum to four young boys; most recently twins born 4 years ago, which has kept her very busy!

Louise is thrilled to be bringing some soul and disco back to her life and hopefully yours(!) with this funny and moving show. It certainly makes you appreciate having true friends around you (along with big hair!). She would like to dedicate her 'Raise Your Voice' moment to her inspirational late Nan.



ADAM BLOSSE

Musical Director

Adam is delighted to be back at the helm with BATS, having been the MD for the production of *Elf - The Musical* in November 2021. Bless Our Show!

He freelances under the titles of - Musical Director, MT Répétiteur, Choirmaster, Sound and

Music Designer and Lecturer. He trained at the University of Surrey, achieving an MMus in Creative Practice, 1st class BMus in Creative Music Technology and a performance scholarship. His compositions placed him as finalist for Joyce Dixey and David Lovatt awards and held an audio installation for the Lightbox (Foundation). He has since clocked in over 100 shows, gaining multiple MD credits with the likes of HYT (Nuffield), KYT (Kings), PGS (Kings), Chickapow! (Riverside Arts), HMTS (Magna Carta) and PHA Pantomimes (Carriageworks, Spotlight, Connaught, Worthing Pavillion). He is currently employed as Resident MD and Lecturer for Jellicoe Theatre and Resident Pianist for the University of Winchester.

Notable MD credits include: *Jack and The Beanstalk* (Princes Theatre - ABP), *Rock Of Ages* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *Assassins* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *Aladdin* (Worthing Pavillion - PHA), *Legally Blonde - The Musical* (AMTS - The Lights), *The 25th Annual County Putnam Spelling Bee* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC, Riverside Arts - Chickapow!), *American Idiot* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *Big Fish* (Hangar Farm Arts Centre - MTS), *Be More Chill* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *Seussical Jr.* (Kings Theatre - KYT), *Musicals, Meatloaf & More* (Live At The Zedel - HKL), *Once Upon A Time* (Magna - HMTS), *Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs* (Hoddesdon Hall - PHA), *Chicago* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *Autumn Serenade* (Beaulieu Abbey - Bank Notes), *Curtains* (Magna - HMTS), *Urinetown* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *Jet Set* (Magna - HMTS), *Oklahoma!* (Magna - HMTS), *Cinderella* (Carriageworks - PHA), *So This Is Who I Am* (Leicester Square Theatre & Phoenix Arts Club - HKL), *The Secret Garden* (Magna - HMTS), *Jet Set* (Magna - HMTS), *Sing Into Spring* (Turner Sims - Bank Notes), *Saturday Night At The Movies* (Riverside Arts - Chickapow!), *RENT* (Jellicoe Theatre - B&PC), *Aladdin: Sultan Of Love* (Putney Arts - PLOS), *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Nomad - Nomads), *Whistle Down The Wind* (Nomad - Nomads), *Half a Sixpence* (Fernehall - STP), *Oliver!* (PURC - RS), *The Voyage Of Lost Dreams* (Shieldhall Ship - HYT), *West End Extravaganza!* (Studio 1 - UoS), *Great Expectations* - Co MD (Nuffield - HYT), *Surrey Festival* (Great Hall - UoS), *Fiddler On The Roof* - AMD (Nomad - Nomads).



ALAN MENKEN - *Composer*

Theatre: *God Bless You Mr Rosewater*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Real Life Funnies*, *Atina: Evil Queen Of The Galaxy*, *Kicks*, *The Apprenticeship Of Duddy Kravitz*, *Beauty And The Beast*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Weird Romance*, *King David*, *Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Sister Act*, *Leap Of Faith*, *Aladdin* and *Newsies*. Film: *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty And The Beast*, *Newsies*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, *Life With Mikey*, *Lincoln*, *Home On The Range*, *Noel*, *Enchanted*, *Shaggy Dog*, *Tangled* and *Mirror Mirror*. Songs: *Rocky V*, *Home Alone 2* and *Captain America*. Awards: 8 Oscars (19 nominations), 11 Grammys (including Song of the Year), 7 Golden Globes, Tony® (plus 4 nominations), Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics, Olivier and London's Evening Standard Award, Drama League. Honors: Songwriter's Hall of Fame, Doctorates from New York University and University of North Carolina School of the Arts



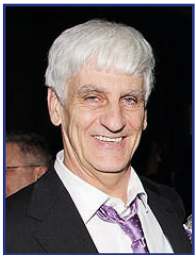
GLENN SLATER - *Lyrics*

Co-created Disney's 2010 worldwide smash *Tangled* (2011 Grammy Winner, 2010 Oscar and Golden Globe nominee), as well as the Broadway and international hit musicals *Sister Act* (2011 Tony nominee - Best Score) and *The Little Mermaid* (2008 Tony nominee - Best Score, Grammy nominee - Best Cast Album), and, most recently *School of Rock* (2015). With longtime collaborator Alan Menken, he is Executive Producer and Lyricist for the ABC-TV musical comedy series *Galavant*, and has also written songs for the Disney animated film *Home On The Range* (2004) and the Broadway musical *Leap of Faith* (Tony nominee - Best Musical, 2012). In the West End, Glenn provided both book and lyrics for Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Never Dies* (2010 Olivier nominee - Best Musical), the sequel to *The Phantom of the Opera*. Other work includes an Emmy-nominated song for the ABC-TV comedy *The Neighbors* (2013), and the stage revue *New Yorkers* at The Manhattan Theatre Club (Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle nominations). Glenn is the recipient of the prestigious Kleban Award for Lyrics, the ASCAP/Richard Rogers New Horizons Award, and the Jonathan Larson Award. He is an alumnus of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and a member of both ASCAP and the Dramatists' Guild.



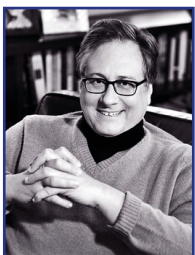
CHERI STEINKELLNER - *Book*

Cheri Steinkellner has won four Emmy Awards, two Golden Globes, The People's Choice, BAFTA, Writers Guild Award, Parents Choice and TV-Land Legend Awards, for writing and producing *Cheers* (recently named one of the Top 10 Best Written Comedies in TV history), and *The Jeffersons*, *Facts of Life*, *Family Ties* and *Who's The Boss*, and for creating the acclaimed Disney animated Saturday morning TV series and feature film, *Teacher's Pet*. A 2011 Tony-nominee for *Sister Act* (with husband Bill Steinkellner, Alan Menken and Glenn Slater); Cheri has also written *Princesses* (with Bill, David Zippel and Matthew Wilder); and book and lyrics for *Mosaic* (with Georgia Stitt), and *Jailbirds on Broadway* (with Bill and Jeff Rizzo). Other stage includes *Our Place*, and *Instaplay* - L.A.'s original - and longest-running - improvised musical-comedy. An Indy Award winner and Ovation nominee for *Hello! My Baby*, Cheri currently teaches writing at Stanford and UCSB and directs youth theatre in beautiful Santa Barbara, where she and Bill raised their three favorite children/writers/ artists: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.



BILL STEINKELLNER - *Book*

Award-winning television and screen writer: "Cheers" and Disney's "Teacher's Pet" (Emmys, Golden Globes, BAFTAs, Writers Guild and People's Choice Awards). Book writer (with wife, Cheri): *Sister Act the Musical* (London Palladium, Hamburg, Broadway 2011), *Princesses* (Goodspeed, 5th Avenue). Writer/director (with Paul Reubens): the original Pee-wee Herman Show (Groundlings, Roxy Theatre, HBO). Creator/director: *Instaplay*, L.A.'s first all-improvised musical-comedy. Author: the L.A. Times bestseller *Postcards From the Moon*.



DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE - *Additional Book Material*

Beane's Broadway play *The Little Dog Laughed* received the GLAAD media award for best play, and was also nominated for a Tony for best new play. His other works include *As Bees In Honey Drown* (Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award), *Music From A Sparkling Planet* and *The Country Club*. He wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of his play *Advice From A Caterpillar* which won Aspen Comedy Festival's best feature. His film *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar* was produced by Steven Spielberg, was the number one film in America for a month and is now a television favorite. *The Big Time*, Beane's first musical, received rave reviews last year and his next musical, a stage adaptation of the film *The Bandwagon* is slated to open on Broadway later this season. Fascinated by non-traditional forms of theater, Beane has written the revues, *White Lies* and *Mondo Drama* and this season a live theatrical soap opera, *The Cartells*. As artistic director of the New York theater company Drama Dept. he produced over forty productions, including acclaimed revivals of *As Thousands Cheer*, *June Moon* and *The Torchbearers* and world premiere works by Paul Rudnick, David Sedaris and Wendy Wasserstein. His new play, *Don't Follow Me, I'm Lost, Too* will open next season in New York and he is currently developing a television series for producer Lorne Michaels. He resides in New York City with his partner, composer Lewis Flinn and their son, Cooper.



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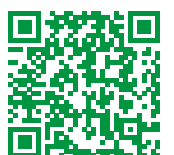
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Remembering John Scriven

When we performed *Sister Act* in May 2015, we included a tribute in the programme to former Life Member, Aileen Scriven. Seven years later as we stage the show again, we are saddened to include a tribute to Aileen's husband and former BATS Life Member, John Scriven, who passed away in late November 2021.

Together, John and Aileen *were* BATS. They both joined the Society in the mid-1970s and remained stalwarts for more than four decades. Every theatre group depends on input from willing volunteers behind the scenes and John brought that in spades. He worked backstage for numerous shows and also took the helm as stage manager. During the 1980s, BATS staged cabaret suppers in the hall at Viables and John worked with Jerry Pinder to set up and run the lighting for these shows. Whilst John was never one for the limelight, you might have caught him doing a crossover or dancing a waltz in the odd production!

John also was heavily involved in the day-to-day running of BATS, serving on the Committee and as Treasurer for many years. He also supported Aileen during her first tenure as Secretary and latterly as President. Over the years, BATS has experienced tough times and it is in part, thanks to John's financial acumen, that BATS is still here today.

John and Aileen regularly opened their beautiful home for BATS parties and their legendary summer barbeques had some of the best catering in town! Many members recall these occasions with great affection.

Thanks for everything, John. Here's to you!



John and Aileen Scriven

————— oOo —————



Remembering Jean Leadbeater

We were very sad to hear the news that former member Jean Leadbeater passed away in February. Jean performed in various shows with BATS over the years, most recently *Carousel* in November 2007.

Jean was often cast in character roles, which she always pulled off with great gusto. You can see her pictured right, as a fortune teller in the opening number of *Carousel*. Perfectly cast - just look at her facial expression and glint in her eye! One can only imagine what she was saying here!

Professionally, Jean worked for property agent Simmons & Sons and was a natural 'people person'. She was larger-than-life with an infectious laugh and smile.

BATS members who worked alongside her recall her immense sense of fun - and the odd bit of naughty humour! There was never a dull moment. Our thoughts and best wishes are with Jean's family.



Jean as a fortune teller in *Carousel*, November 2007

Founded in 1958, BATS is a self-funded, not-for-profit amateur theatrical group run by volunteers who share a passion for musical theatre - whether on-stage or behind the scenes

BATS
Basingstoke Amateur
Theatrical Society



Perform with Us

New member auditions are held twice a year (January and June) at workshops before the start of each new show.

Keep an eye out on our website or follow our Facebook or Instagram pages.

Find out more:

bats.net/perform-with-bats



Help in Other Ways

If you're not one for the limelight there are plenty of ways to get involved off-stage.

If you have worked on other productions, have a particular skill, or just want to try your hand at something new – get in touch!

Find out more:

bats.net/volunteer

Life Members

Mrs. Di Annakin, Mrs. Marie Bloomfield, Mr. Richard Bond, Mr. Steve Brannam, Mr. John Dixon, Mrs. Christine Dollery, Mr. Robert Gibbons, Mrs. Jenny Gibbons, Mr. Bryn Hughes, Ms. Judith Ifould, Ms. Liz Ilett, Mr. Ian Jackson, Mr. Ray Jeffery, Mr. Rod Jennings, Mr. Glenn Miles, Mrs. Gloria Miles, Miss. Sally Manning, Mr. Anthony Mitchell, Mr. Roy Oldham, Ms. Abigail Parsons, Mr. Keith Reynolds, Mrs. Sam Reynolds, Mrs. Iris Rodges, Mr. Martin Rodges, Mrs. Elizabeth Roshier, Mr. Alf Singleton, Mr. Neil Streeter, Mrs. Eileen Summers, Mr. Dale Summers, Mr. Martin Tuck, Mr. Simon Waller, Mrs. Myra Ward, Mrs. Hannah Williams, Ms. Liz Walsh, Mr. Colin Webb, Mrs. Kate Webb.

Honorary Members

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Committee Members 2021 - 2022

President	Richard Bond
Honorary Chairman	Ian Moseley
Honorary Treasurer	Ben Shallow
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