

**BELOIT CIVIC THEATRE**

***Now in its 83rd Year  
Presents...***

NUNSENSE

A MUSICAL COMEDY

By Dan Goggin

September 24, 25, 26 and  
October 1, 2, 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
Matinees: September 26, 27 and October 3 at 3:00 p.m.  
2015

Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

**THE CAST**

Sister Mary Regina, Mother Superior  
Sister Mary Hubert, Mistress of Novices  
Sister Robert Anne  
Sister Mary Amnesia  
Sister Mary Leo

Mary Mowers  
Michelle Dennis  
Susan R. Smith  
Elizabeth Armstrong  
Gabrielle Heiss

**SETTING:** Mount St. Helen's School Auditorium,

**TIME:** The present

**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**Act One**

Nunsense is Habit-Forming  
A Difficult Transition  
Benedicite  
The Biggest Ain't the Best  
Playing Second Fiddle  
So You Want to Be a Nun  
Turn Up the Spotlight

Ensemble  
Ensemble  
Sr. Mary Leo  
Srs. Hubert and Leo  
Sr. Robert Anne  
Sr. Mary Amnesia  
Sr. Mary Regina

Lilacs Bring Back Memories

Srs. Regina, Hubert,  
Leo and Amnesia  
Ensemble

Tackle That Temptation With a Time Step

***There will be a twelve-minute intermission between the acts.  
Enjoy the cookies in the lobby!***

## **Act Two**

Growing Up Catholic

Srs. Robert Anne,  
Leo, Hubert, Amnesia

We've Got to Clean Out the Freezer

Srs. Hubert, Amnesia  
Robert Anne and Leo

Just a Couple of Sisters

Srs. Regina and Hubert

I Just Wanna Be a Star

Sr. Robert Anne

The Drive In

Srs. Robert Anne,  
Amnesia, and Leo

I Could've Gone to Nashville

Sr. Mary Amnesia

Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Ensemble

Holier Than Thou

Sr. Mary Hubert and

Turn Up the Spotlight reprise

Ensemble

Ensemble

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director

Michael Chase

Musical Director/Rehearsal Pianist

Janet Palmer

Choreographers

Andrea Mueller and Mary Mowers

Stage Manager

Les Blumreich

Set Design

Loren Sass

Orchestra

Janet Palmer (Piano & Keyboard), Larry Palmer  
(Bass & Saxophone), Mark Mueller (Percussion)

Set Construction

Joyce Anderson, Donna Balsley, Les Blumreich, Michelle Dennis, Deb  
Burns, Mary Easland, Mike Fallon, Dee Fischer, Art Graham, Tom Lepinski, Mary Mowers, Harold Pann,  
Loren Sass, Ed Skwarlo, Gerry White, Tom Young

Lighting and Sound

Mike Goddard, Jake Hamil

Costumes

Donna Balsley, Joyce Anderson

Properties

Donna Balsley, Dee Fischer, Joyce Anderson

Running Crew/Follow Spot

Dee Fischer, Mary Easland

Make-up Design

Dee Fischer

## **WHO'S WHO**

**Elizabeth Armstrong** (Sister Mary Amnesia) Elizabeth debuts for Beloit Civic Theatre in this production, and before entering the convent, she performed in a many area theatres: Chippewa Valley Theater Guild, Menomonie Valley Theater Guild, Woodstock Musical Theater, Lakeland Players, Spotlight on Kids and Theater Unlimited in such productions as *Barnum*, *The King and I*, *Quilters*, *Oliver*, *Mame*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Carousel*, *Camelot*, *Sweet Charity*, *Mary Poppins* and more. Elizabeth is a social worker for Beloit Regional Hospice, and she is married to Brian, an ordained United Methodist pastor. They have two daughters and two beautiful grandchildren ages 1 and 3 - "So much fun!!" Elizabeth says, "I love to sing! I have found a real home in the theater. Besides being on stage, I love to make costumes and have costumed shows like *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Hello, Dolly!* Elizabeth would like to thank her

very supportive husband who "...puts up with my hours of practice. Thank you for your patience when I turn our home into costume making shop or borrow your stuff for props!"

**Michelle Dennis** (Sister Mary Hubert) Before entering the convent, Sister Mary Hubert appeared in *The 39 Steps*, *Full Monty*, *Side Man* and *Bare* at UW-Rock County's University Theatre, and in *Oliver!*, *Brigadoon* and *Mame* with Theatre Unlimited, Inc. She worked with *Nunsense* director, Michael Chase, in *Rabbit Hole* for Stage one, appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar* for Bower City Theatre Company and assisted with *Sleuth* for Janesville Little Theatre where she also serves on the play reading committee. Most recently, Michelle tried her hand at directing and presented *I Hate Hamlet* for Janesville Little Theatre. For Beloit Civic Theatre, Michelle appeared in *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Seniors of the Sahara*, and *Fox on the Fairway*. She also helped with some of the detailed set pieces for this show. Michelle has worked as a librarian for the past 20 plus years, and she is now serving the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville as the Head of Circulation Services. About her family, she says she is, "...very grateful for the love and support from my husband Louis, my daughters Robin and Erin, and my mom Rita." Of time spent outside of work and theatre, "With as much time as I have spent on stage in the past three years, this is the only hobby I have time and energy for! It has been a great ride," and of being part of a theatrical production, "There is nothing like the camaraderie of the theatre. By the time you finish a show you know your cast mates deeply and well. Some you love, some stick with you for a lifetime, some pass by and move on, but all leave a mark and make you better and stronger and hopefully more self aware. Thank you to everyone I have had the chance to perform with. I hope I have affected you positively too."

**Gabrielle Mercy Heiss** (Sister Mary Leo) Before becoming a novitiate in our convent, Sister Leo appeared in BCT's last season's *Bingo: The Winning Musical*. She also performed in *The Tortoise and the Hare* with Missoula Kids Theater, *Jonah's Druthers* with Chapel on a Hill, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Scrooge* with KFAD (Kids, Fun and Drama). Gabrielle, 16, is a junior in high school at Paramount Christian Academy (she is home educated), and she says, "My family makes me who I am, and I'm honored to state that...\*deep sigh\*...I am related to them. My parents are Drew and Maura, and I have five siblings. Britta (21) is getting her Ph.D at UC Davis in California, Dietrich (20), a history major, is in Washington DC for his internship, Siobhan (18), an accounting major, is a "fresh person" in Milwaukee, and I live with Gloria (14) who is in for a long year of sisterly bonding!" Gabrielle loves participating in forensics, community theatre and being with and talking about her family, and, if she had a million dollars, she would first buy a Mocha Frappe from McDonalds and then travel to Ireland.

**Mary Mowers** (Sister Mary Regina, Mother Superior) In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for Beloit Civic Theatre, Mary choreographed several of the musical numbers, wrote the program and worked on the set for this production. Her most recent appearances for BCT were in *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Whodunit: the Musical* and *Ruthless, the Musical*. She also appeared for BCT in *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Working*, *Company*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Mame*, *6 Rms Riv Vu*, *Rumors*, *Forty Carats*, *On Golden Pond* and *Mary, Mary*. She appeared in *A Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Talking With* and others for Stage One, in *Glass Menagerie* for UW-Whitewater and in professional productions of *Pygmalion*, *Romantic Comedy* and *The Bunkhouse* for Festival Theatre at Beloit College. And all of this before entering the convent! Mary retired after thirty-five years of teaching English at Aldrich and Beloit Memorial High School, where in addition to teaching, she choreographed 26 musicals. For BCT, she has choreographed several productions, including *Guys on Ice* and *She Loves Me!* Mary's family consists of fiance' Gerry White, 2 adult children, and 5 grandchildren. She has many creative interests along with traveling and enjoying family and friends while continuing to pursue theatre, her life-long passion.

**Susan J. R. Smith** (Sister Robert Anne) Before entering the convent, Susan was a member of the Beloit Civic Theatre Board of Directors, and most recently, she appeared in *Lend Me a Tenor* for BCT. She also appeared for BCT in *Laura*, *All I Ever Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, *Rumors*, *Baby*, *Mame*, *Showboat* and *Something's Afoot*. For Theatre Unlimited in Janesville, she appeared in *Into the Woods*, *Oklahoma!* and *The Sound of Music*. This BCT board member went back to college in 2011, earned her teaching certification and has just landed her first full time teaching job at The Our Lady of Assumption School in Beloit, where she will teach 6th, 7th and 8th grade English, 6th grade mathematics, and 7th and

8th grade literature and fine arts. Susan has been married to husband, Phil, for 30 years, and they have three daughters, Elizabeth, Emily and Abigail. Of her work in theatre she says, "This is my hobby!"

**Michael Chase** (Director) Father Michael is delighted to return to Beloit Civic Theatre, after previously directing *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Guys on Ice* and *Lost in Yonkers*. Most recently, he directed Stage One's production of *Doubt* in Janesville. He has also staged productions for New Court Theatre, UW-Rock County Theatre, Footlights Productions, Craig High School, Milton High School, and KFAD. Michael received his Licentiate in Acting from the London Drama Studio, before embarking on a theatrical career in Chicago. A member of Actors' Equity Association, as well as the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists, Michael has performed in numerous venues in London, New York, Chicago, Milwaukee and Madison. While in the Windy City, he did extensive on-camera, voice-over and stage work, racking up more than 1000 performances in the long-running production of *Shear Madness*. Locally, Michael played Ebenezer Scrooge in Stage One's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Other Wisconsin acting credits include Serge in *Art*, Michael in *I Do! I Do!* and Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He can currently be seen on television in a commercial for the Wisconsin Lottery.

**Janet Palmer** (Music Director) Janet, affectionately dubbed by this cast, "Sister Mary Discordia," worked as rehearsal accompanist and pit pianist for BCT's last season's *Bingo: The Winning Musical*. Janet has played piano and synthesizer in many shows with The Burlington Haylofters, most recently *9 to 5*, *Little Women*, *A Dog's Life* and *Young Frankenstein*. Janet works as a vocal/general music teacher and drama director at Cunningham Intermediate School in Beloit. Janet's family consists of her husband, Larry, also a musician who plays bass and saxophone, etc., in this show, 3 grown children - Andy in Tacoma, WA, Dane in Middletown, MD, and Josie in Pensacola, FL, so Janet and Larry have lovely places to visit! We welcome Janet in this, her second production for BCT, and we value her enthusiastic leadership along with her lifelong knowledge of and participation in music, theatre and dance!

**Andrea S. Mueller** (Choreographer) Andrea choreographed the first production of *Nunsense* and *Damn Yankees* previously for Beloit Civic Theatre. She is owner of Miss Andrea's Dance Factory. Andrea Mueller has been dancing for over 38 years and teaching for 21 of those years. Andrea trained with many local and statewide dance schools over the years with her most recent being Forest Hills Dance Academy of Rockford. Not only does Andrea come decorated as a dancer, but she is an award winning coach as well. She has helped coach the Rockford Lutheran Middle School and High School dance teams, along with doing some guest choreography for the Hononegah Indianettes and Rockford College dance teams. Andrea was the founder and head coach of the Stateline Lady Hawks Dance team and the head coach of the Dance Inferno Competition Team. Andrea's family consists of her daughter, Madelynn and fiance Taylor. Her hobbies include gardening, camping, hiking, fishing...anything that takes her outside.

### **Nunsense Director's Notes**

**Nunsense** is more than just a fun-filled musical about a group of wacky nuns putting on a show. In addition to laughs and lovable characters, it also possesses a heart and a soul. **Nunsense** reflects the devotion of a diverse group of women who have dedicated themselves to their vocations. As a product of Catholic school education, the nuns I grew up with nurtured me as well as taught me. I not only received top-notch academic tools from them, but important life skills such as discipline and respect for others.

I would like to dedicate this production to those nuns who made an indelible impression on my life, including Sisters Leticia, Elvira, Hermenegild, Laura Smith and Francis McCormick. I am grateful to be doing what I love to do, and to be working at my craft. I hope you enjoy **Nunsense** as much as I've had bringing it to the Beloit Civic stage.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

**For props:** Elizabeth Armstrong, Les, Blumreich, Michael Chase, Mike Fallon, Dee Fisher, Mary Mowers, Jaek Hamil, Doris Tropp, Our Lady of Assumption School and Kyle Elsbernd and Craig High School.

**For costumes:** Joyce Anderson, Judy Socha, The Lakeland Players of Elkhorn, Elizabeth Armstrong

**And as always:** Beloit Memorial High School Theatre Department

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

Refreshments will be available during the intermission. All proceeds go to the Beloit Civic Theatre Helen Hayes Teed Scholarship Fund. Each year awards are given to students going on after high school to study theatre arts or communications.

We are "GOING GREEN" at intermission. Please put your coffee and soda cups in the recycling bins.

Please be aware that Beloit Memorial High School is a "non-smoking" facility. Please respect the school policy and state law and refrain from smoking on school grounds.

No photography is allowed during performance.

Please turn off ringing cell phones and pagers during performance.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please leave your name, address, and phone number with one of the volunteers at the ticket tables in the lobby. Address changes may also be given to one of our lobby personnel.

Please check out our recently updated website at [www.beloitcivictheatre.org](http://www.beloitcivictheatre.org)

Gift certificates are available for the entire season or for individual shows. They make wonderful gifts for all occasions. If interested, contact our box office at (608) 362-1595 or Loren Sass at (608) 365-0235.

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#### **AUDITION NOTICE**

Auditions for our winter show will be held in the theatre on November 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. Barry Nyquist will direct *The Dining Room*. The cast calls for three men and three women. You may request to be added to our actor database if interested. Postcards announcing auditions are mailed before each show's auditions. Just give your name, phone number and postal mailing address to anyone working in the lobby or e-mail us at [beloitcivictheatre@gmail.com](mailto:beloitcivictheatre@gmail.com)

Beloit Civic Theatre wishes to thank the following members for their additional financial contributions to the theatre. If there are any errors or omissions in this list of supporters, please call Loren Sass at 608-365-0235. This list was compiled on September 6th, so if your name is not listed, we may have received your donation after that date. Thanks again for your support!

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