

Samuel French Acting Edition

Nunsense

by Dan Goggin

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Cover design by Peter Gergely

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ISBN 978-0-573-68918-5

www.SamuelFrench.com

www.SamuelFrench-London.co.uk

FOR PRODUCTION ENQUIRIES

UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Info@SamuelFrench.com

1-866-598-8449

UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE

Theatre@SamuelFrench-London.co.uk

020-7255-4302

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NUNSENSE was first produced at the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York City on December 12, 1985. The performance was directed by Dan Goggin, with sets by Barry Axtell, lighting by Susan A. White, musical direction and arrangements by Michael Rice, and musical staging/choreography by Felton Smith. The Production Stage Manager was Trey Hunt. The cast was as follows:

SISTER MARY CARDELIA..... Marilyn Farina
SISTER MARY HUBERT Vicki Belmonte
SISTER ROBERT ANNE Christine Anderson
SISTER MARY AMNESIA..... Semina De Laurentis
SISTER MARY LEO Suzi Winson

CHARACTERS

SISTER MARY REGINA, MOTHER SUPERIOR (REVEREND MOTHER) – A feisty overweight Sophie Tucker-type who can't resist the spotlight.

SISTER MARY HUBERT, MISTRESS OF NOVICES – The second in command, she is always competing with the Mother Superior.

SISTER ROBERT ANNE – A streetwise tough character from Brooklyn. A constant source of aggravation for the Mother Superior.

SISTER MARY AMNESIA – This nun lost her memory after a crucifix fell on her head. She is very sweet.

SISTER MARY LEO – The novice, who has entered the convent with the firm desire to become the first nun ballerina.

NOTE: In the Original New York Production the Mother Superior was named Sister Mary Cardelia. In all subsequent productions the Mother Superior is named Sister Mary Regina, while Sister Mary Cardelia is the nun who modeled for the convent greeting cards.

SETTING

Mt. Saint Helen's school auditorium.

TIME

The present.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I spent a great deal of my life around nuns. And most of my experiences left wonderful memories. I wrote *Nunsense* because I wanted to share what I knew to be "the humor of the nun." Though it may be hard to believe after you read this script, each of the Little Sisters of Hoboken is based on a *real-life* nun.

SISTER MARY REGINA was to the outside world a model Mother Superior even if she was overweight. But to those who knew her, she was an outrageous, quick-witted soul who knew how to get a laugh. She tried to convince you that she was strict, but everyone knew that her "bark was worse than her bite!"

SISTER MARY HUBERT was a kind person who would always try to be understanding and diplomatic. She taught the Novices the ground rules, and was supposed to be dignified. But with the slightest bit of encouragement she was ready to kick up her heels.

SISTER ROBERT ANNE was a tough streetwise nun who had a heart of gold. All the kids adored her because she spoke their language. And she could hit a baseball "out of the park."

SISTER MARY AMNESIA was the picture of innocence. She couldn't remember her past and so looked at each new day with a childlike joy.

SISTER MARY LEO had been a professional dancer before she entered the convent and was always eager to display her talent. She was very impressionable because she was young and could easily be led astray.

In the context of *Nunsense*, Sister Mary Regina (Reverend Mother), Sister Mary Hubert, and Sister Robert Anne are the only nuns who actually worked in the Leper Colony. Sister Mary Amnesia and Sister Mary Leo only know of the Leper Colony through stories told by the others. Reverend Mother and Sister Hubert have a healthy rivalry (somewhat like Marne Dennis and Vera Charles in *Auntie Marne*). Each is always trying to outdo the other. But, Reverend Mother is always quick to remind everyone that she *is* the Mother Superior. Sister Robert Anne is Reverend Mother's nemesis. She would probably be thrown out of the convent if it weren't for the fact that Reverend Mother really knows that Sister Robert Anne is, underneath it all, a very dedicated nun. Everyone likes Sister Mary Amnesia because she is so innocent. Except for her first entrance when she appears a bit shy, she is unafraid. When she realizes that the audience is friendly nothing can dampen her childlike enthusiasm. Sister Mary Leo is frustrated by Reverend Mother in her attempt to shine as a nun-ballerina. For this reason she is easily led astray by her "buddy" Sister Robert Anne.

Before the performance and during intermission the sisters wander through the auditorium, on the stage, etc., as they please. For, after all, they are in their own school. They are very much "at home." As the performance progresses they become equally "at home" in the spotlight!

The script indicates that the sisters are performing on the set of the "eighth grade production of *Grease*," and they are accompanied by a band. However, it should be noted, that the sisters could just as easily present their "benefit" in a church basement with an old upright piano and no set at all. *Nunsense* is a musical comedy for everyone-everywhere!

Dan Goggin

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture	Orchestra
Veni Creator Spiritus	Sr. Anne & All
Nonsense Is Habit-Forming	All
A Difficult Transition	All
Benedicite	Sr. Leo & Hubert
The Biggest Ain't The Best	Sr. Hubert, Sr. Leo
Another Surprise	Sr. Anne
Playing Second Fiddle	Sr. Anne
Second Fiddle Conclusion	Sr. Anne
So You Want To Be A Nun	Sr. Amnesia
Mock Fifties	Srs. Leo & Anne
Turn Up The Spotlight	Rev. Mother
Lilacs Bring Back Memories	Srs. Hubert, Leo, Amnesia & Rev. Mother
Turn Off That Spotlight/Tackle That Temptation	All

ACT TWO

Growing Up Catholic	Srs. Anne, Leo, Hubert, Amnesia
Clean Out The Freezer	Srs. Hubert, Amnesia, Anne, & Leo
Just A Coupl'a Sisters	Sr. Hubert & Rev. Mother
Second Fiddle (Reprise)	Sr. Anne
I Just Want To Be A Star	Sr. Anne
The Drive In	Srs. Anne, Amnesia & Leo
I Could Have Gone To Nashville	Sr. Amnesia
Gloria In Excelsis Deo	All
Holier Than Thou	Sr. Hubert & All
Nonsense (Reprise)	All

(Music Cue 00: OVERTURE)

(The musicians enter. They are part of the religious community and are dressed in their religious garb. They begin playing the overture. SRS. HUBERT, ROBERT ANNE, and LEO come into the auditorium and begin visiting with members of the audience. In general, they warm up the crowd. After about three or four minutes SR. ROBERT ANNE goes up on the steps leading to the stage.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. Reverend Mother is on her way over here and I thought maybe you would all do me a big favor and help put her in a good mood. Cause believe me, there is nothing worse than a crabby Reverend Mother. What I'd like you to do is, when she arrives give her the Mount Saint Helen's cheer. If you don't remember it, here's how it goes. *(raising her fist in the air)* Wo! Wo! Wo! Let's try it on the count of three. Wo! Wo! Wo! That's great. Now do we have any whistlers in the audience?

(STAGE MANAGER or ASM comes on stage through the stage right door followed by REV. MOTHER.)

STAGE MANAGER. Here she is folks. ●ur own Reverend Mother, Sister Mary Regina!

(REV. MOTHER comes to the front of the stage acknowledging applause. She then surveys the stage and notices a poster of Marilyn Monroe in a bathing suit. She is visibly upset and orders SR. LEO to get a drape off the easel announcing the performance. She goes up the stage left stairs and pins the drape to Marilyn while SR. LEO takes the easel offstage. REV. MOTHER rings a bell summoning the others to the stage. They come up

immediately as REV. MOTHER conducts the band. On stage SR. HUBERT sits at the lunch counter. SR. ROBERT ANNE sits on the stool next to the juke box. SR. LEO sits on the bed. REV. MOTHER conducts the band faster and faster to the end of "Stars and Stripes."

SR. HUBERT. Let's hear it for the Mount Saint Helen's Band!

REV. MOTHER. *(taking center stage)* Are we ready to begin?

SR. HUBERT. Reverend Mother, where's Sister Amnesia?

REV. MOTHER. *(looking around)* Sister...Sister Amnesia? *(SR. AMNESIA peeks out the stage left door.)* Oh, there she is. Come out, Sister. It's okay. They're all friends.

(REV. MOTHER goes to the door and leads SR. AMNESIA to the bed and puts her next to SR. LEO and pats her on the head.)

REV. MOTHER. *(to audience)* She's a little nervous. *(While walking back to center stage, she adds:)* She's a big mess is what she is! *(to SR. HUBERT)* Now, are we ready?

(SR. HUBERT nods yes.)

(REV. MOTHER clicks her clicker to summon the spotlight operator.)

REV. MOTHER. *(if audience laughs)* Brings back memories, huh?

(if small or no laughs) Not many Catholics here tonight *(today)!*

Alright, may I have some light please?

(The spotlight comes on in the wrong place then moves erratically around the stage as REV. MOTHER hollers directions trying to get the light on her face. Finally the light is right.)

REV. MOTHER. That's Sister Mary Myopia – our archery instructor.

Good evening, friends. *(She pauses as all on stage conduct the audience in responding, "Good evening, Sister.")* Oh, we sure can train 'em, can't we Hubert? On behalf of the

Little Sisters of Hoboken, I'd like to say: "Welcome to the theatre of Mount Saint Helen's School!" And may I extend our gratitude to each and everyone of you for coming here to participate in our fund-raising activities. Now, before we begin, I'd like to clear up what seems to be some confusion about the set here. You see, our eighth graders are putting on the musical, "Vaseline" and I gave –

SR. HUBERT. (*rushing over to REV. MOTHER*) It's *Grease*.

REV. MOTHER. (*looking at her white collar*) Where?

SR. HUBERT. (*turning REV. MOTHER around to see the set logo*)
Grease!

REV. MOTHER. Oh! – It's *Grease*. Who knew?

(**SR. HUBERT** goes back to her seat and as she is walking waves her hand over her head indicating that **REV. MOTHER** is clueless.)

Well, anyway, I promised the children that we wouldn't disturb their handiwork during our benefit and so that's why things may seem a bit incongruous at times. Now, we have a wonderful introductory song, but before we begin the festivities, let us ask the Lord to bless us in our endeavors. Sister, (*indicating SR. ROBERT ANNE*) if you will.

(*Music Cue 02: VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS*)

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS.

ALL.

MENTES TUORUM VISITA.

IMPLE SUPERNA GRATIA.

QUAE TU CREAMI PECTORA.

(*Music Cue 03: NUNSENSE IS HABIT-FORMING*)

ALL.

SOME FOLKS THINK OF CONVENTS
AS THE PLACES WHERE WE PRAY
BUT LET US TELL YOU CONVENTS
ARE MUCH MORE THAN THAT TODAY.

ALL. (*cont.*)

WE'RE DEDICATED PEOPLE
BUT WE LIKE TO HAVE OUR FUN.

REV. MOTHER.

WE'RE HERE TONIGHT (*TODAY*) TO SHARE WITH YOU
THE HUMOR OF THE NUN!

ALL.

NUNSENSE IS HABIT-FORMING
LET US TELL YOU WHY.

REV. MOTHER.

WHEN A SISTER GETS APPLAUSE,
IT'S A SPECIAL "HIGH."

ALL.

THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO
ONCE WE GET A LAUGH OR TWO.
IT'S SOMETHING WE CANNOT CONTROL
ONCE WE'RE ON A ROLL!

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE TRAVELING
SALESNUN
WHO REALLY DREW A CROWD?
IT SEEMS THIS FARMER HAD A HORSE
RATHER WELL-ENDOWED -

REV. MOTHER.

SISTER! NUNSENSE MAY BE HABIT-FORMING
BUT LET'S DRAW THE LINE!

SR. HUBERT.

CUT THE CHEAP SHOTS!
WHY BE COMMON?

REV. MOTHER.

WE CAN BE DIVINE!

ALL.

EVERYBODY'S HERE SO LET'S TELL 'EM WHO WE ARE:

REV. MOTHER.

THIS IS SISTER ROBERT ANNE.
SHE SINGS AND DRIVES THE CAR.

SISTER MARY AMNESIA
DOESN'T KNOW HER REAL NAME.

ALL BUT SR. AMNESIA.

A CRUCIFIX FELL ON HER HEAD.
HER MEMORY'S GONE. WHAT A SHAME!

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

SISTER HUBERT IS OUR NOVICE MISTRESS
AND OUR GUIDING LIGHT.

SR. LEO.

SHE'S SECOND IN COMMAND
AND STANDS AT REVEREND MOTHER'S RIGHT.

SR. HUBERT.

SISTER LEO IS THE YOUNGEST
AS A NOVICE SHE'S BRAND NEW.

REV. MOTHER.

AND I'M YOUR REVEREND MOTHER,
SISTER MARY REGINA, THAT'S WHO!

ALL.

NUNSENSE IS HABIT-FORMING,
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY.
WE'RE HERE TO PROVE THAT NUNS ARE FUN,
PERHAPS A BIT RISQUE.

WE STILL WEAR OUR HABITS
TO RETAIN OUR MAGIC SPELL.
THOUGH WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO HEAVEN,
WE'RE HERE TO RAISE SOME HELL!

REV. MOTHER. Sell it, girls!!

ALL.

NUNSENSE IS HABIT-FORMING,
THAT'S THE REASON WE ARE
UP HERE ON THE STAGE TONIGHT (*TODAY*)
HOPING YOU'LL AGREE.

REV. MOTHER, SRS. ROBERT ANNE & HUBERT.

NUNSENSE IS HABIT-FORMING,

SRS. AMNESIA & LEO.

WE'RE HOOKED,

ALL.

AND ALL WE KNOW IS:
WE JUST CAN'T KICK IT,
THOUGH SOME FOLKS MAY PICKET,
WE JUST CAN'T KICK THIS NUNSENSE.
SO ON WITH THE SHOW!

(Quick blackout, lights up. All of the SISTERS are congratulating each other as SRS. ROBERT ANNE, AMNESIA, LEO, exit stage right door. REV. MOTHER is center. SR. HUBERT stands at her right.)

REV. MOTHER. Oh, thank-you. Thank-you so very much. Now, just in case there is anyone here who hasn't heard what our little fund-raiser is all about – we've had a small disaster back at our convent. You see, a short time ago, our cook, Sister Julia–

(both cross themselves)

– Child of God, served some vichyssoise soup and nearly every sister died instantly of botulism!

SR. HUBERT. It was kind of like the last supper! *(She laughs at her little joke.)* That's a little convent humor!

(REV. MOTHER is not amused at SR. HUBERT's stealing the spotlight.)

REV. MOTHER. Why, we wouldn't be here now if it hadn't been for the fact that we were off playing bingo with some Maryknolls. *(to SR. HUBERT)* What a bunch of cut-throats they turned out to be, huh?

SR. HUBERT. *(rather excitedly)* I still say their Mother Superior cheated when she didn't call B-15! I know she had it.

REV. MOTHER. Now, calm down, Sister. Lord knows, she's not pretty, but she doesn't cheat.

SR. HUBERT. She does, too. B-15 – I saw her slip it right up her sleeve. It was all I needed to win. *(very indignantly)* But that's alright, cause God don't like ugly! MMM–MMM.

REV. MOTHER. *(to audience)* The point is when we got back to the convent we found fifty-two of our sisters lying face down in that soup!

SR. HUBERT. Now, we had no idea what to do so we all began praying for guidance.

REV. MOTHER. Then I had a vision. It was either Saint Catherine of Siena or Saint Thomas Aquinas in drag. *(pause)* I never could tell 'em apart – *(pause)* Never have seen 'em together! Anyway, I was instructed to start a greeting card company to raise funds. Well, of course I did – and it was a huge success!

SR. HUBERT. So we took the money and buried forty-eight of the fifty-two dead sisters and then Reverend Mother bought a Plasma TV for the convent. *(pause)* Personally, I thought we should have buried *all* of the sisters *before* we bought the Plasma TV, but as Mistress of Novices I'm only "number two" around here so one tries hard not to question Reverend Mother.

REV. MOTHER. *(getting very irritated)* And one will try –

BOTH. – harder in the future!

REV. MOTHER. That's right, dear!

(REV. MOTHER points the index fingers of both hands at SR. HUBERT's face and makes a "ZZZZZZTT" sound as if to zap her.)

The worst part is, we had to put the last four sisters in the freezer!

SR. HUBERT. And the Ben & Jerry's ain't tasted the same since!

REV. MOTHER. That's why we're putting on this little show. We've got to raise enough money to bury those last four dead sisters!

SR. HUBERT. We hope you'll forgive the limitations put on us by the loss of so many of our sisters, but if they hadn't *died*, we wouldn't have to *bury* them, and then there wouldn't *be* this little show in the first place.

REV. MOTHER. (to **SR. HUBERT**) But they *did*, we *have* to, and there *is*, so there you are!

(Using the index fingers of both hands and pointing them at each others faces they "zap" each other in unison: ZZZZZZTT. Then REV. MOTHER continues to the audience.)

REV. MOTHER. (cont.) Now, about a week ago I held tryouts for our show and I picked the sisters whom I felt were the very best – of what's left of us – and I asked each one of them to prepare something that best displayed her talent.

SR. HUBERT. But first, I thought you might be interested in knowing some of the history of the Little Sisters of Hoboken and that's what our next song is all about.

REV. MOTHER. (sarcastically) Thank-you, Hubert.

SR. HUBERT. Don't mention it.

(SR. HUBERT exits stage right door and immediately returns with the rest of the cast while REV. MOTHER continues with the audience.)

REV. MOTHER. You see, we started out running a leper colony. Oh, I know some of you probably think that's a bit distasteful, but all the other causes were taken! You see, it all began when we –

(The cast is in place but SR. AMNESIA is in SR. LEO's spot and SR. LEO interrupts REV. MOTHER by whispering something in her ear. Without another word, REV. MOTHER takes SR. AMNESIA by the shoulders and moves her to the proper position. SR. LEO goes to her spot.)

(to SR. AMNESIA) Wasn't that a fun trip?!!!

(SR. AMNESIA nods.)

Alright, are we ready? Let's do it!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR. Five, six, seven, eight!

(Music Cue 04: A DIFFICULT TRANSITION)

ALL.

AVE MARIA! IT'S SO HEAVENLY TO BE A
MEMBER OF A GROUP THAT'S PUTTIN' ON A SHOW!

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

IT'S GREAT!

ALL.

ALTHOUGH IT IS A DIFFICULT TRANSITION
FOR WE STARTED OFF AS MISSIONARIES
WHICH, OF COURSE, IS OBVIOUSLY
MUCH MORE APROPOS.

SR. AMNESIA.

BUT THEIR MISSION GOT IN TROUBLE.

SR. LEO.

AND THAT BURST THEIR HOLY BUBBLE.

REV. MOTHER.

WE WERE CAUGHT IN AN IMBROGLIO,

SR. HUBERT.

AND WE FINALLY HAD TO GO.

ALL.

SO WE HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
IF WE'RE NOT ABSOLUTELY GRAND.

SRS. AMNESIA & LEO.

FOR WE FEEL A LITTLE QUEASY,

ALL.

WE'RE UNEASY IN THIS SHOW.

REV. MOTHER. Let me start from the beginning. Now pay
attention! We're going to give you the history of our
order and you're going to be quizzed on it afterward.

(spoken:)

FILLED WITH GREAT ANXIETY
SISTER HUBERT SAILED WITH ME
AND SISTER ROBERT ANNE
TO A LAND OF UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCE.

WE REACHED OUR DESTINATION
WITH A BIT OF TREPIDATION
FOR WE'D COME TO ORDER LEPERS
BACK TO WORK IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

NO!

SR. HUBERT.

NO!

SR. LEO.

NO!

SR. AMNESIA.

NO!

REV. MOTHER. Oh, no! That's not right! We'd come to
join an order working *with* lepers on an island *south* of
France. That's it!

ALL.

EACH OF US, AS BEST WE COULD,
CUT A TREE AND CHOPPED SOME WOOD
WHICH THEN WAS USED IN BUILDING
HUMBLE HUTS FOR QUARANTINE.

WHEN SISTER MARK YVONNE
HAD FINISHED UP THE PORTA-JOHN,
WE ALL SAT DOWN AND WAITED
FOR THE FIRST OF THOSE UNCLEAN.

REV. MOTHER. And they came from everywhere!

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

THERE WERE HOTTENTOTS WITH ROTTEN TOTS
IN BASKETS ON EACH MOTHER'S HEAD.

SRS. AMNESIA & LEO.

AND ZULUS, THEY CONCLUDED
NEVER UNDERSTOOD A THING THEY SAID.

SR. HUBERT.

UBANGIS WHO WERE GANGING UP
ON NATIVES WHO WERE BEING FED.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

AND SWAZI WHO WERE GOOSING
ALL THE BUSHMEN IN THE LINE AHEAD.

ALL.

IT WAS DREADFUL!
THE PYGMIES HAD THEIR NOSES

STUCK IN EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS
WHILE WATUSIS HAD THEIR BUSINESS
STUCK IN EVERYBODY'S NOSE.

BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER,
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW,
WAS THAT EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS
WAS ABOUT TO DECOMPOSE.

REV. MOTHER.

HUBERT, ROBERT ANNE, AND I
ARE LUCKY THAT WE'RE STILL ALIVE
FOR SISTERS WENT TO PIECES
AT A DEVASTATING RATE.

WHEN A NOVICE SPILLED HER FOOD,
AT FIRST, WE THOUGHT HER RATHER CRUDE
TILL WE REALIZED HER HAND
WAS ON THE FLOOR WITH HER FORK AND HER PLATE!

ALL. Wait!

REV. MOTHER. There's more!

SR. HUBERT.

THE PROTESTANTS, IT SEEMS,
HAD SET OUT TO WRECK OUR DREAMS.

ALL.

WE HAD HUMBLE HUTS
WHILE THEY BUILT LEPER CONDOS-BY-THE-SEA.

REV. MOTHER.

COMPETING FOR EACH LEPER
PUT OUR MISSION WORK IN JEOPARDY.
SO WE DEVISED A PLAN
TO AVOID CATASTROPHE.

SR. HUBERT

WE CHALLENGED THEM TO RACE
CAUSE WE THOUGHT WE'D TRUMP THEIR ACE
IN THE HUNDRED METER DASH
WHEN WE ENTERED SISTER ROSE.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

BUT AS SHE WAS VICTORY-BOUND,
HER SCHNOZ FELL ON THE GROUND.

ALL.

IF IT HADN'T FALLEN OFF
SHE'D HAVE WON IT BY A NOSE!

REV. MOTHER.

POOR ROSE!

ALL.

OOOOHHHHHH...BUMMER!

REV. MOTHER.

HUBERT, ROBERT ANNE, AND I
HAD MANAGED ONCE MORE TO SURVIVE
BUT THIS TIME WE KNEW
WE WERE IN A TRULY HOPELESS SPOT.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

SO WE PACKED UP WHAT WAS LEFT,
FEELING TOTALLY BEREFT,
AND GOT OUT WHILE THE GOING
WAS STILL ABLE TO BE BE GOT.

REV. MOTHER, SRS. ROBERT ANNE & HUBERT.

WE CAME BACK HOME TO HOBOKEN
BUT WITH SPIRITS SO BROKEN
NO ONE REALLY KNEW
IF WE'D PULL THROUGH.

SRS. AMNESIA & LEO.

THEN REVEREND MOTHER PRAYED
THERE WOULD BE A NEW CRUSADE.

ALL.

AND WE WERE DOING GREAT
TILL SISTER JULIA MADE THAT STEW!
(*eyes heavenward*) MON DIEU!
AVE MARIA, IT'S SO HEAVENLY TO BE A

REV. MOTHER.

MOTHER!

SRS. ROBERT ANNE, LEO, & HUBERT.

SISTER!

SR. AMNESIA.

SISTER!

(REV. MOTHER gives SR. AMNESIA the eye for not singing "Sister" with the others.)

ALL.

MAKING A DEBUT IN FRONT OF YOU.
IT'S A DIFFICULT TRANSITION
FOR THE MISSIONER'S POSITION
WAS UP TILL NOW THE ONLY ONE WE KNEW,
IT'S SAD, BUT TRUE.

SO WE HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
IF WE'RE NOT ABSOLUTELY GRAND.
BUT WE WILL DO OUR BEST
TO SEE THAT YOU'RE IMPRESSED.
WE HOPE WE'LL PASS THE TEST.
NOW THE REST IS UP TO YOU! AMEN!

(Quick blackout. Lights up.)

(REV. MOTHER & SR. HUBERT stay toward center stage
as SR. LEO exits left door. SR. ROBERT ANNE exits right
door followed by SR. AMNESIA.)

SR. HUBERT. (seeing SR. AMNESIA leaving) Sister Amnesia.
Sister Amnesia, where are you going?

SR. AMNESIA. (pointing to the exit) I was just going with what's-
her-veil.

SR. HUBERT. But aren't you in charge of the quiz?

SR. AMNESIA. Oh, I forgot.

(SR. AMNESIA goes to the locker to get her ruler.)

SR. HUBERT. I just can't seem to get through to her,
Reverend Mother.

REV. MOTHER. I know. I keep hoping if she remembers who
she is, we'll discover she belongs to the Franciscans.

(REV. MOTHER exits left door as SR. AMNESIA comes
center.)

SR. HUBERT. Now, Sister Amnesia. Try to remember what I
teach in the novitiate: Gentle, but firm. (She stomps her
foot.)

SR. AMNESIA. Gentle, but firm!

(Pause...SR. HUBERT points to SR. AMNESIA's foot and she stomps it. SR. HUBERT exits left door making the sign of the cross as she goes. SR. AMNESIA takes a deep breath and snaps to attention, ruler in hand.)

SR. AMNESIA. *(cont.)* Alright! Sit up straight! Eyes forward! Pay attention! Do you know what time it is!!?

(She hits the palm of her hand with the ruler. It obviously hurts and she grimaces, rubbing her hand on her thigh. She reverts to her wide-eyed innocent self.)

You know, I *always* know what time it is. Because back at the convent we have this huge clock with the twelve apostles pasted on it. And I always know when the big hand is on the John and the little hand is on the Peter it's time for the sisters to go down on their knees... and pray!

And now it's time for that quiz that Reverend Mother warned you about. *(She takes the index cards with the questions out of her pocket and hooks the ruler on her belt.)* Okay! Here are the questions that you should have the answers to, if you were paying attention to that last song. Could I have some lights, please?

(house lights up)

Oh, thank-you.

Now if you know the answer, raise your hand. Are you ready?

(She waits for response, which is usually weak.)

Are you ready!!!?

(response)

Good! Question number one: The leper colony was established on an island south of _____.

(Audience yells out France.)

SR. AMNESIA. *(cont.)* I asked you to raise your hands! Alright. I'm going to give you one more chance – same question. The Leper colony was established on an island south of_____.

(She calls on someone.)

Would you have known the answer if everyone hadn't blurted it out?

(Audience member responds.)

Good, you're honest. I have a prize for you.

(She goes into the audience. As she goes down the steps, she hollers to the balcony: "Now you people in the balcony, don't feel left out. After all, you're closer to heaven!")

(She goes to the winner, holding the prize up for all to see.)
Look everybody, it's a genuine Saint Christopher Motorist Prayer Card! And see, it says here, "I am a Catholic. In case of accident, please call a priest.

(to winner) Are you Catholic?

<p><i>(if yes:)</i> Oh, good! Then you won't have to scratch anything out. But if you're Catholic you should know that you're supposed to stand up when Sister calls on you.</p>	<p><i>(if no:)</i> I knew that. You know why? If you were Catholic you'd know that you're supposed to stand up when Sister calls on you. What are you?</p>
--	--

(Winner answers.)

Who do you call?

(Winner answers.)

Well, then you just scratch this out and write in "I am a _____. In case of accident please call _____."

SR. AMNESIA. *(cont.)* Now I must tell you. Saint Christopher is no longer a saint. Yeah. I think he must've had an accident or something. I guess that's why we got these at a discount. So I would buckle up if I were you. Give our winner a hand everybody!

(SR. AMNESIA returns to the stage.)

Okay. Question number two. This is harder than the first one. Why? *(She pauses for a moment and then realizes there is more to the question.)* Oh! Why did the sisters leave the leper colony?

(Music Cue 05A: QUIZ TIMER)

(The timer music plays until SR. AMNESIA hears the correct answer. The answer is: "They lost the race to the Protestants." But SR. AMNESIA usually accepts anything to do with the race/condos etc. to keep the show pace up. If no hands raise she says, "I'll give you a hint." She mimes racing and indicating her nose falls off. Whatever answer she gets she says "Close enough!")

(Music Cue 05B: QUIZ FANFARE)

(She goes into the audience to the next winner, making sure the winner stands up. She holds the prize up for all to see.)

It's a Holy Card of a saint! Do you know who he is? *(Hint: He liked animals and little birds...)* It's Saint Francis! You know some people think Saint Francis was a sissy! But that's not right! Reverend Mother explained to me that he was *of* Assisi. That's very different. Give our winner a hand.

(Winner sits down.)

Okay...how many Catholics do we have here tonight! *(She picks someone.)* I have a prize for you just for being Catholic! I bet you never thought it would pay off! *(giving prize)* For you I have a medal of a saint. You can stick it anywhere you like! That's Saint Dymphna.

She's the patron saint of people with mental disorders.
Reverend Mother says I should pray to her everyday!

(SR. AMNESIA goes back to the stage.)

Now I have one last question that Sister Hubert wanted me to ask.

(REV. MOTHER opens the stage left door slightly to hear what's going on.)

Do you think it was wrong for Reverend Mother to buy a Plasma TV before all of the sisters were buried?

(REV. MOTHER comes rushing on and whisks SR. AMNESIA off through the stage right door. SR. AMNESIA protests, "But they didn't answer.")

(Music Cue 05C: QUIZ FANFARE)

(REV. MOTHER returns to center stage.)

REV. MOTHER. Well, I think that's about enough time on the quiz. Now, I'd like to present Sister Mary Leo in her interpretation of "Morning at the Convent." Sister –

(Music Cue 06: BENEDICITE)

(SR. LEO enters left wearing a bathrobe and huge fluffy slippers which are covering her pointe shoes. She carries a Teddy Bear. She sits on the bed.)

SR. LEO.

I WAKE UP ALL BLEARY
WHEN I FIRST HEAR THE
AGE OLD QUERY:

SR. HUBERT. *(sticking her head in stage left)*
BENEDICITE. *(then disappears)*

SR. LEO. Dominus.

THANK GOD WE CAN'T SPEAK TO EACH OTHER,
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO BE CHEERY.

(She stands and removes the robe. She is underdressed in her habit.)

SR. LEO. *(cont.)*

PUT ON THE TUNIC AND SCAPULAR,
THEN THE WIMPLE – LOOK, NO MIRROR!
THE GUIMPE AND VEIL
COMPLETE THE NUN'S COUTURE.

(She sits back down on the bed.)

AT AN UNGODLY HOUR
THE BELL IN THE TOWER
SIGNALS A WARNING.

(The school bell rings loudly.)

WE'VE MADE IT THROUGH
ONE MORE NIGHT.
IT'S TIME TO GREET A NEW MORNING.
BUT BEFORE I GO DOWNSTAIRS
I CLEAR MY HEAD OF WOES AND CARES
BY DANCING MY WAY
THROUGH MY MORNING PRAYERS.

(She removes her slippers revealing the pointe shoes and the dance begins.)

DANCING IS THE WAY I PRAY.
I CAN HAVE A PERFECT DAY,
IF I START OFF WITH A TOUR JETE!

(Strip music starts and SR. LEO starts belting the song.

SR. HUBERT *sticks her head out the door.)*

SO IF YOU WAKE UP FEELING BLAH,
TRY MY PROVEN FORMULA.

(SR. LEO sees SR. HUBERT and looks appropriately apologetic. SR. HUBERT disappears.)

POINTE YOUR TOES AND PLIE.
ONCE EACH DAY!

(Music Cue 06A: BENEDICITE PLAYOFF)

(SR. LEO acknowledges applause. SR. HUBERT enters stage left door.)

SR. HUBERT. Sister Mary Leo that was just wonderful. I wish
I could dance like you do!

SR. LEO. Well, you could have seen a lot more but Reverend Mother won't let me wear a tutu.

SR. HUBERT. (*moving toward the bed*) Now, you know how Reverend Mother feels about the traditional habit.

SR. LEO. I know. "If God had wanted everyone to look like people...

BOTH. ...He wouldn't have invented nuns!"

(*They both "ZZZZZZT" each other with their index fingers mocking REV. MOTHER.*)

SR. HUBERT. That's right.

SR. LEO. But when I entered the convent I planned to dedicate my life to God through the dance. If I can't wear a tutu, I'll never become a famous nun ballerina!

(*Music Cue 07: THE BIGGEST AIN'T THE BEST*)

SR. HUBERT. Sister Mary Leo! Have we forgotten about humility?

(*SR. LEO looks embarrassed. SR. HUBERT moves downstage center and sings directly to the audience.*)

I'VE ALWAYS TAUGHT THE NOVICES
THAT GOD IS ON THEIR SIDE,
WHEN THEY'RE LOOKING FOR THE STRENGTH
TO AVOID THE SIN OF PRIDE.

SR. LEO. (*sitting on the bed responds*)

I KNOW THAT BEING HUMBLE
IS A VIRTUE WE HOLD DEAR.
BUT HOW CAN I BE HUMBLE
AND ADVANCE IN MY CAREER?

SR. HUBERT. Sister Mary Leo! Your vocation *is* your career. (*to audience*) Would you excuse me for a moment? (*She goes and sits on the bed next to SR. LEO.*) Sister, I'd like to say something before this goes any further. You see, I wanted to be a nun ever since I was a little girl. My dream was to enter the convent... (*She looks off to stage right where REV. MOTHER exited to be sure she isn't listening.*)...work my way up to Mother Superior, and then turn the Little Sisters of Hoboken into - (*She*

stands and with great gusto shouts.) – the BIG SISTERS OF NEWARK!!! Well, the first lesson I had to learn upon entering the convent was that we do not strive for position – just perfection. Besides (She imparts her strategy.) she who exalts herself shall be humbled. But she who humbles herself (again with gusto) shall be exalted!

(SR. HUBERT sits back down on the bed and continues the song.)

REVEREND MOTHER IS THE BOSS
AND SO I MUST OBEY.
BUT AS MISTRESS OF THE NOVICES
I SHINE IN MY OWN WAY.

SR. LEO.

YOU MEAN IF I'M REALLY HUMBLE
I COULD HAVE A SHOT
AT A BIT OF EXAULTATION
WITH MY SIMPLE LOT?

SR. HUBERT. You, got it, kid!

THE BIGGEST AIN'T THE BEST.
VERY OFTEN WE'RE IMPRESSED
BY A TINY DIAMOND CHIP
THAT SEEMS TO OUTSHINE ALL THE REST.
SO PAY ATTENTION NOW.
HERE'S WHAT YOU MUST DO.
DON'T DEMAND THE SPOTLIGHT.
LET THE SPOTLIGHT COME TO YOU.

(The spotlight comes on to SR. HUBERT and then moves to SR. LEO.)

SR. LEO. I'm beginning to see the light.

SR. HUBERT.

REMEMBER SISTER HILDA
WHOSE ENDOWMENT WAS SO GREAT?

SR. LEO.

WHEN SHE PUT ON HER COLLAR
IT STOOD OUT LIKE A PLATE.

(SR. LEO holds her collar out straight.)

SR. HUBERT.

WELL, ONE DAY WHEN THE BISHOP CAME
AND SHE WENT TO THE DOOR,
AS SHE KNELT TO KISS HIS RING
SHE FELL FLAT OUT ON THE FLOOR -

*(SR. HUBERT starts to fall forward off the bed. SR. LEO
grabs her so she doesn't hit the floor.)*

- AND PROVED:

BOTH.

THE BIGGEST AIN'T THE BEST,
AS THE BISHOP WILL ATTEST.
THE LORD TELL US THE LEAST
ARE OFTEN THOSE THAT ARE THE BLEST.

SR. HUBERT.

SO LET THAT BE A LESSON TO YOU.
TRY TO UNDERSTAND.
THE PEOPLE WITH THE BIGGEST DRUMS
DON'T ALWAYS LEAD THE BAND!

BOTH. *(moving down center)*

OH, THE BIGGEST AIN'T THE BEST
VERY OFTEN WE'RE IMPRESSED
BY A TINY DIAMOND CHIP
THAT SEEMS TO OUTSHINE ALL THE REST.

SR. HUBERT.

SO DO WHAT YOU DO WELL.

SR. LEO.

I KNOW I'LL BE FINE.
(She crosses herself.)

SR. HUBERT.

JUST REMEMBER TO BE HUMBLE.
(SR. LEO genuflects.)

BOTH.

AS WE PROUDLY GO AND -

SR. HUBERT. Smile, Baby!

SR. LEO. Sparkle, Neely!

BOTH. Sing out, Louise!

- AND SHINE!

(REV. MOTHER enters from stage right door, applauding.)

(Music Cue 08: ROBERT ANNE'S SURPRISE)

(SR. ROBERT ANNE enters left on upper platform and then comes down right stairs to REV. MOTHER. She has her veil twisted into a turban with artificial fruit hanging from it. She is shaking maracas.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Well, what dy'a think? I call it the Convent Miranda look.

(SR. LEO and SR. HUBERT realize there is going to be trouble and sneak off stage left taking the bathrobe, slippers and Teddy Bear with them.)

REV. MOTHER. Sister! I am appalled! Now, you show some respect!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. C'mon...chill out, Rev. *(She puts her props on the lunch counter and fixes her veil properly.)* Listen, I've got another little surprise for you.

REV. MOTHER. Another surprise?

SR. ROBERT ANNE. *(to REV. MOTHER)* See, I realized when you arranged the program you hadn't included a solo for me and so I've been working on a special song with *(Father/Sister Musical Director's name)* and I thought you could find a spot for it in the show. Listen to this. Hit it, Father.

(During the above speech REV. MOTHER is trying to stop

SR. ROBERT ANNE. *She shakes her head no, etc.)*

(Music Cue 08A: ANOTHER SURPRISE)

WHEN I BECAME A NUN,

AT A VERY EARLY AGE.

I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN -

REV. MOTHER. (*interrupting*) Sister...Sister!

(*music out*)

Sister Robert Anne. You are the understudy. Do you realize what a great honor and responsibility that is? You must be ready at a moment's notice in case an emergency should arise. Take me, for example. I am the Mother Superior not a musical comedy star!

(*Music Cue 09: PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE*)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. (*aside to audience*) I realized that from the opening number!

REV. MOTHER. (*fuming*) Why, I oughta...

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Hey, listen:

(*to REV. MOTHER*)

I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL,
BUT I'D RATHER HAVE A SPOT
THAT IS JUST FOR ROBERT ANNE.
I'M NOT ASKING FOR A LOT.

AN UNDERSTUDY NEVER SHINES
UNTIL THE STAR IS ILL.
THEN THE CROWD IS HOSTILE.
THE STAR'S NOT ON THE BILL!

REV. MOTHER. Sister, I don't believe this is something to discuss in front of the audience.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE
POSITIVELY MEANS THIS KID'LL
NEVER GET A MOMENT
ON THE STAGE ALONE.
EVEN, GOD FORBID,
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED
AND YOU DID GET SICK -

(*A look of glee comes over SR. ROBERT ANNE's face. She crosses herself and then mimes getting sick to her stomach.*)

REV. MOTHER. Yes...

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

AN UNDERSTUDIED PART
IS NOT MY OWN.

I've been reading up on being an understudy and
believe me, it's *not* encouraging.

*(She pulls a book out from under her scapular which she
has tucked in her belt. It is titled "The Understudy." She
opens it and hands it to REV. MOTHER.)*

Here, read!

WHO HERE KNOWS THAT DOLLY LEVI'S
ALSO BIBI OSTERWALD?
CAROL CHANNING WASN'T SICK
SO BIBI WASN'T CALLED.
THIS GIRL, LENORA NEMETZ,
HAS IT ON HER RESUME
THAT SHE UNDERSTUDIED *EVERYONE*.
WHERE IS SHE TODAY?

REV. MOTHER. *(pointing to a page in the book)* Well, there's
Shirley MacLaine.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. No, No!

SHIRLEY DOESN'T COUNT.
THAT WAS JUST BIZARRE.
CAROL HANEY BREAKS HER LEG
AND SHIRLEY IS A STAR.

BUT THAT'S ABOUT AS RARE
AS LANA TURNER DOWN AT SCHWAB'S.
IT'S A MIRACLE WHEN UNDERSTUDIES
GET THE STARRING JOBS!

REV. MOTHER. Well, then I'd start prayin' if I were you.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. For what?

REV. MOTHER. A miracle!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Give me a break!

PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE
POSITIVELY MEANS THIS KID'LL
NEVER GET A LEAD

CAUSE EVERYBODY KNOWS
WHOEVER UNDERSTUDIED MERMAN
AS THE GYPSY MAMA
PERMANENTLY ENDED UP AS
"SECOND HAND ROSE."

SR. AMNESIA. (*yelling from off-stage*) Reverend Mother – I'm ready!

REV. MOTHER. I've got to get Amnesia out here for *her* number. We'll talk about this later.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. *Her* number! You gave her a number. She can't even remember who she is. My number's ready to go. Come on, Rev. I've got aspirations.

REV. MOTHER. Well, you can kiss your aspirations good-bye!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. (*with great frustration*) Oh!

(**REV. MOTHER** exits right, carrying the guitar, fruit, and Understudy book. **SR. ROBERT ANNE** comes center stage and continues the song.)

(*Music Cue 09A: SECOND FIDDLE CONCLUSION*)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. (*cont.*)

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT A WAY
TO GET A SOLO SPOT,
SO I CAN PROVE TO REVEREND MOTHER
WHAT IT TAKES, I GOT.
MAYBE THEN SHE'LL UNDERSTAND
THIS FEELING IN MY SOUL,
THAT I DESERVE A LEADING ROLE!

(**SR. ROBERT ANNE** starts to exit up right as **REV. MOTHER** enters through the right door followed by **SRS. AMNESIA, HUBERT, & LEO**. **SR. HUBERT** stops **SR. ROBERT ANNE** from exiting and they sit at the counter. **SR. LEO** takes her place on the stool next to the juke box as **REV. MOTHER** comes center stage with **SR. AMNESIA** standing behind her. The applause from the audience for **SR. ROBERT ANNE** is acknowledged by **REV. MOTHER** as if it is for her.)

REV. MOTHER. Oh, you don't have to applaud *every* time I come on. You know, I feel personally responsible for the predicament that's brought us here. You see, Sr. Julia has never been able to get a handle on her vocation. Only last week we had the Monsignor over for dinner so I asked Julia to prepare something a little special. A few minutes later I see her in the kitchen setting up the ironing board. I says, "Julia, what the hell are you doing?" She says, I'm gonna make pressed duck!

(a duck call is heard from the band)

C'mon, folks, it's not easy! We used to have seventy-one members in our order, but thanks to Julia we're down to nineteen. So I thought possibly if you knew a little more about us –

(SR. AMNESIA is tugging on REV. MOTHER's veil.)

(irritated) What?! What is it?

SR. AMNESIA. *(in a loud whisper)* Reverend Mother, I thought I was supposed to do this part.

REV. MOTHER. Oh, dear. I'm sorry. *(to audience)* I promised Sister here that she could do this part. *(to SR. AMNESIA)* You go right ahead, dear. I forgot. *(REV. MOTHER starts exiting right.)* It must be catching.

(Music Cue 10: SO YOU WANT TO BE A NUN)

(as REV. MOTHER passes SR. HUBERT to exit she adds:)
Keep an eye on her, Hubert.

SR. AMNESIA. *(center stage)* Hello. My name is Sister Mary *(pause)* oh, for a minute there I thought I remembered my real name. Anyway, I'm here to tell you what being a nun means to me. Reverend Mother tells me she is certain that if I give a good talk at least one of you will want to join our order. And I think it might be you – my *(She mentions the religion of a person she picked in the quiz.)* friend! I think it is just wonderful –

– THAT YOU WANT TO BE A NUN.
AND YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE FUN
TO BE ONE OF THE ONES WHO'S A NUN.

(She looks to the others for approval. They nod and clap politely.)

THEN THE ORDER YOU ELECT TO SELECT
SHOULD REFLECT, I SUSPECT
A DESIRE TO PERFECT ALL YOU'VE DONE
UP TILL NOW.
I WISH THAT SOMEHOW -

(SR. MARY ANNETTE, the nun puppet, suddenly appears. SR. AMNESIA has had her behind her back. SR. AMNESIA uses a crass speaking voice for SR. MARY ANNETTE. She is not a ventriloquist.)

SR. MARY ANNETTE. Stop!!! I can't stand listening to this.

SR. AMNESIA. Sister Mary Annette! *(the puppet bows)* What are you doing here? I thought you stayed in France with the Protestants!

SR. MARY ANNETTE. No way, Jose. *(to audience)* Girls, if you want to be a nun, join an order that still wears a habit!

SR. AMNESIA. Now, wait a minute, Sister. It's true that we still wear our habits to retain our magic spell, but even I know "a habit does not a nun make!"

SR. MARY ANNETTE. Oh, get real will ya! *(to conductor)* Hit it, Schweetheart!

IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE
WITH A WIMPLE YOU'LL LEARN
YOU GET INSTANT RESPECT
WHICH YOU DON'T HAVE TO EARN.

YOU MOVE RIGHT UP IN LINES
WITHOUT WAITING YOUR TURN.
VIRTUES LIKE PATIENCE
ARE NOT OUR CONCERN!

SR. AMNESIA. Oh, now Sister. I thought virtue was always our concern.

THINK ABOUT OUR SOLEMN VOWS.
THERE ARE THREE WE MUST ESPOUSE.
POVERTY, CHASTITY, AND OBEDIENCE,
(very loudly) NOW -

SR. MARY ANNETTE. What the hell are you trying to do?
Make me go deaf?

SR. AMNESIA. Don't be silly, Sister. You can't go deaf.
Everyone can see, "Nuns don't have ears!" Now where
was I?

(The puppet whispers something to SR. AMNESIA.)

Oh, yeah.

LET'S START WITH POVERTY EMPTY YOUR PURSE.
POVERTY MAKES BEING POOR EVEN WORSE!
GRANTED, IT'S NOT SO EXTREME FOR A NUN.
WE MAY NOT BE STARVING, BUT STILL IT'S NOT FUN.
NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN!
NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN!
NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT FUN, NOT F - U - N!
POVERTY'S NOT FUN.

SR. MARY ANNETTE. What d'ya mean, poverty's not fun?
YOU CAN'T DENY WE LIVE LIKE WE'RE FROM BEVERLY HILLS
WHILE MOTHER SUPERIOR PAYS ALL THE BILLS.
WAKE UP! SMELL THE COFFEE, GIRL! OUR LIVES ARE FIRST-
RATE.

FROM A NUN'S POINT OF VIEW, POVERTY'S GREAT!

SR. AMNESIA. What are you talking about, "poverty's great?"

SR. MARY ANNETTE. Well, isn't it obvious? We can *have*
everything. We just can't *own* it!

SR. AMNESIA. *(looking embarrassed)* Oh...

CHASTITY IS WHERE WE'VE FOUND
OUR POSTULANTS ARE LOSING GROUND.
YOU MUST BE CELIBATE.

SR. MARY ANNETTE.

YOU CAN'T SCREW AROUND!

SR. AMNESIA. *(shocked)* Sister!

OBEDIENCE IN NUMBER THREE.
WE CANNOT QUESTION WHAT WILL BE.
IF YOU HAVE NO OPINIONS
THE LIVIN' IS EASY -

Wait a minute. I think I'm beginning to remember
who I am.

SR. MARY ANNETTE. Yeah. And the cotton is jumpin' and
the fish are high. Can get we get back to obedience?
IF PAIN CAN MAKE YOU PERFECT
THEN THIS VOW IS FOR YOU.
EVERYTIME YOU DISOBEY
THEY BEAT YOUR ASS BLACK AND BLUE!

SR. AMNESIA. (*mortified*)
THE CONFESSIONAL'S WHERE SHE BELONGS.
EVERYTHING SHE SAYS IS WRONG.

SR. MARY ANNETTE.
SISTER'S JUST JEALOUS CAUSE I STOLE HER SONG.

SR. AMNESIA.
DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT -

SR. MARY ANNETTE.
YOU'RE SO FULL OF -

SR. AMNESIA.
DON'T FINISH THAT ONE!

SR. MARY ANNETTE.
NO HABIT, NO TICKET TO FUN!

SR. AMNESIA. (*pointing her finger at SR. MARY ANNETTE*)
THIS SONG IS -

(*SR. MARY ANNETTE bites SR. AMNESIA's finger.*)

OOOOWWW -

SR. MARY ANNETTE. Get the hook!

SR. AMNESIA.
DONE!

(*Music Cue 10A: NUN PLAYOFF*)

(*REV. MOTHER enters from right door sees SR. AMNESIA
and chases her and the puppet off. SR. AMNESIA exits
left door.*)

REV. MOTHER. Why didn't someone tell me she brought
that puppet?

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Don't look at me!

SR. LEO. Who knew?

REV. MOTHER. (*to SR. HUBERT*) You knew! I know you knew!

SR. HUBERT. (SR. HUBERT starts laughing.) Well, I knew about the puppet, but I had no idea she was gonna –

REV. MOTHER. (interrupting) What if we have some plain-clothes nuns in our audience? I certainly hope no one was offended.

SR. HUBERT. Please don't let this affect your generosity this evening.

REV. MOTHER. Really! We've just gotta get those girls out of the freezer! I mean, you never know when the Health Inspector might be coming around.

SR. AMNESIA. (re-entering from left door totally innocently, without the puppet) Did I miss something?

REV. MOTHER. Just the boat, dear.

SR. AMNESIA. Oh, Reverend Mother. We don't have a boat. Sister (indicating SR. ROBERT ANNE) drove the car!

SR. LEO. (getting up from the stool) Amnesia, Reverend Mother was just saying that she didn't know when the Health Inspector might be coming around.

SR. AMNESIA. Oh, he came this afternoon.

REV. MOTHER. What do you mean, "he came this afternoon?" You've been here all day practicing with us.

SR. AMNESIA. But he called yesterday.

ALL BUT SR. AMNESIA. What??!!?

(SR. ROBERT ANNE jumps up from the bar stool.)

REV. MOTHER. Amnesia, why don't you tell me these things?

SR. AMNESIA & REV. MOTHER. (in unison) I forgot.

REV. MOTHER. Oh, this is terrible. Amnesia, go and phone the convent right away and see if anything's happened.

(SR. AMNESIA runs up the steps to the phone while

SRS. ROBERT ANNE & LEO gather around the jukebox.

Simultaneously REV. MOTHER goes over to SR. HUBERT at the counter.)

This is just awful. Lord only knows what may have happened. Sister Hubert, I thought I told you to see that she reports everything to me!

SR. HUBERT. Now, don't you try to blame this one on me.
You're the one who bought the plasma TV!!

REV. MOTHER. Don't start with that. You know very well I
didn't realize there wasn't enough money.

*(Music Cue 11: **MOCK FIFTIES**)*

*(SR. ROBERT ANNE accidentally starts the juke box and
the four Sisters start 50's style dancing. REV. MOTHER
runs over to stop things and SR. ROBERT ANNE grabs
her and pulls her into the dance.)*

SRS. LEO & ROBERT ANNE.

SHA NA NA NA NA NA,
SHA NA NA NA NA NA,
SHA NA NA NA NA NA, NA! NA!

REV. MOTHER. Stop it! Stop it! Turn that thing off!

*(Note: If the new song **ONE LAST HOPE**, originally
found in the "Mega Nunsense Musical", is to be added
to the production, continue as written. If the new song
is not to be included, cut from here to: "SR. AMNESIA
comes running toward REV. MOTHER after hanging up
the phone.")*

SR. HUBERT. The important thing to remember is:

*(OPTIONAL MUSIC CUE 11A: **ONE LAST HOPE**)*

SR. HUBERT.

IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE THAT WE'RE PUTTIN' ON THIS
SHOW.

REV. MOTHER.

WE'VE GOTTA GET THOSE GIRLS IN THE GROUND.

ALL FOUR.

IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE,

REV. MOTHER.

HEY, YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHEN THE HEALTH
INSPECTOR MIGHT COME AROUND.
AND IT'S FAIR TO SUPPOSE, IF HE STICKS HIS NOSE INSIDE
OUR CONVENT FRIDGE,
HE AIN'T GONNA LEAVE THINKING HE'S SEEN A FOUR
SOME HANGING THERE PLAYING BRIDGE!

ALL FOUR.

WE KNOW WE'LL REACH OUR GOAL TO PLANT THE FOUR IN
 CLOVER
 IF EACH OF YOU GIVES A FAIR SHARE.
 SO WON'TCHA DIG DOWN DEEP SO WE CAN GET THIS OVER.
 SHOW THE ALMIGHTY YOU CARE! IT'S FOR A GREAT
 CAUSE,
 YOU REALLY CAN'T DENY IT, AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE.
 IT'S FOR A GREAT CAUSE,
 THE LORD WOULD SANCTIFY IT. WHO CAN REFUSE A DEAD
 NUN?
 SO WHEN WE PASS THE PLATE WE'LL BE ETERNALLY
 GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING YOU CAN DO.
 PLEASE BE GENEROUS TO A FAULT. OUR ONE LAST HOPE
 IS...

REV. MOTHER &**SR. HUBERT.**

YOU!

SRS. LEO & ROBERT ANNE.

BECAUSE IT'S A GOOD

CAUSE.

IT'S A

ALL FOUR.

G - O - O - D

GOOD, GOOD CAUSE!

*(END OPTIONAL MUSIC CUE 11A: ONE LAST
 HOPE)*

*(Music out. SR. AMNESIA comes running toward REV.
 MOTHER after hanging up the phone.)*

SR. AMNESIA. Reverend Mother. Reverend Mother, I got the
 answering machine.

REV. MOTHER. Well, what did it say?

SR. AMNESIA. *(in her most sophisticated voice)* Hello. You have
 reached the Convent of Mount Saint Helen's -

REV. MOTHER. *(interrupting)* Amnesia! Jump ahead!

SR. AMNESIA. *(looks at REV. MOTHER for a moment, takes a deep
 breath and like a tape recorder running at "Minnie Mouse"
 speed starts.)* Hello, you have reached the Convent
 of Mount Saint Helen's...*(gibberish...ending with)*

beeeeeeeeeeeep! *(pause)* and Sister Marie Eugene had to go down to the Board of Health for questioning!

REV. MOTHER. Oh, no! Now you've done it, Amnesia. Now you've really done it! This is a fine mess you've gotten us into!

SR. AMNESIA. *(starts to cry)* But, I didn't mean to. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to!

(SR. AMNESIA runs out left door followed by SRS.

ROBERT ANNE & LEO. SR. HUBERT gets up from the counter and comes to REV. MOTHER.)

SR. HUBERT. Regina, you didn't have to be so hard on her.

REV. MOTHER. Oh, you know I didn't mean it. Go and see if she's alright.

SR. HUBERT. Me!?

REV. MOTHER. Yes, you!

SR. HUBERT. *(starting toward left door)* Tote that barge. Lift that bale. What is this? *Showboat!!! (She exits.)*

REV. MOTHER. I tell ya, it's not easy being a Mother Superior these days. Trying to be a leader in these permissive times is almost impossible. Take Sister Robert Anne for example. When she entered the convent they told me she was streetwise. Now, I thought that meant she knew her way around town! That girl knows things you couldn't show on Cable television. Why, just this morning she comes into my office and says she's writing a book for her gym class on feminine hygiene. Do you know what she's gonna call it? *The Catholic Girl's Guide to an Immaculate Conception!!!* I'm tellin' you, it is not easy!

Sometimes I wonder why I ever became a nun in the first place.

I didn't have to, ya know. *(She flicks her veil off her shoulders like a movie star pushing her long hair back.)* I started out as a tightrope walker! – I'm not makin' this up! My mother and father had a high wire act. They were billed as "Two Tons on a Tightrope!" Well, our

whole family's a bit on the hefty side. My father said if we worked real hard we could be better than the Flying Wallendas – all us kids were in the act – well, all except Mary Claire – that's our sister. She took up with a contortionist and one night they were trying out a new position when, uh, well, uh (*She realizes her story is getting embarrassing.*) – that's another story. I was telling you about the act.

Anyway, we got booked in London and we had a wire stretched across the river – no net mind you! Well, "Two Tons on a Tightrope" were up there when suddenly the wire snapped and BOOM – BOOM – Two Tons in the Thames! Right then and there I promised the Lord if He'd save them I'd become a nun! Well, how did I know He was gonna come through?!! I thought they were goners for sure!

Well, since the Lord kept His part of the bargain, I figured I'd better keep mine, so here I am. But you wanna know the truth? (*very touchingly*) Now that I'm here, I wouldn't have it any other way.

Still, I gotta tell ya something.

(*Music Cue 12: TURN UP THE SPOTLIGHT*)

REV. MOTHER.

I SEE THE SPOTLIGHT
AND THOUGH IT'S NOT RIGHT
I SIMPLY CAN'T RESIST IT'S CALL.
FOR SOME NUNS IT'S BINGO
AT THE PARISH HALL.
TURN UP THE SPOTLIGHT
AND I HAVE A BALL!

I LOSE MY HEAD, THEN
I KNOW I'M DEAD WHEN
I START TO HEAR THAT LAUGHTER GROW.
IT REALLY WASN'T ALL THAT LONG AGO
WHEN I WAS UP THERE
IN THE SPOTLIGHT'S GLOW.

I CAN HEAR THE BRASS BAND.
 I CAN HEAR THE CROWD CHEER.
 THE GRAND MARCH BEGINS.
 THE CIRCUS IS HERE.

I CAN STILL HEAR THE RINGMASTER
 SHOUTIN' HE'S PROUD
 TO PRESENT US ON THAT WIRE
 HIGH ABOVE THE CROWD!

OH, IT WAS THRILLING.
 WE HAD TOP BILLING.
 EVERY NIGHT WE'D STEAL THE SHOW.
 PLEASE, FORGIVE ME,
 BUT DON'TCHA KNOW
 THIS IS MUCH MORE FUN
 THAN B-I-N-G-O...OH! OH!

(REV. MOTHER has moved up the stairs. She spots the umbrella, and remembering how she used the umbrella to balance herself on the tightrope, she takes it.)

I love this part! *(She goes across the imaginary tightrope.)*

TURN UP THAT SPOTLIGHT
 CAUSE WHEN I'VE GOT LIGHT
 I'M A BARREL FULL OF FUN.

(coming down to center stage)

I'M YOUR RIGHT REVEREND MAMA
 SAY, "HELLO, DALAI LAMA!"

Did ya get it? *Hello, Dolly* – "Dalai Lama???"

(if audience laughs) Oh, *(if audience groans)* Oy, vey!
 bless you all. Take me home, band!
 me home, band!

I'M YOUR RIGHT REVEREND MOTHER
 THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER.
 YOUR RIGHT REVEREND MOTHER,
 SUPERIOR NUN! OH, YEAH.....!

(Music Cue 12A: SPOTLIGHT PLAYOFF)

(REV. MOTHER is doing a "strut" across the stage as SRS. HUBERT & AMNESIA enter right and move the counter center stage. Music out.)

SR. HUBERT. Well, you're turning out to be a regular Sophie Tucker!

(REV. MOTHER looks embarrassed and hands the umbrella to SR. HUBERT who takes it and sticks it in the wastebasket next to the juke box. SR. AMNESIA sits at the counter.)

SR. AMNESIA. Was she a Mother Superior, too?

SR. HUBERT. Not quite, dear.

(SR. LEO enters left, on the upper level carrying a bouquet of lilacs. She proceeds down the steps to the stage. At first, only SR. AMNESIA sees her.)

SR. AMNESIA. Lilacs.

SR. HUBERT. What?

SR. AMNESIA. Li-lacs!

SR. HUBERT. *(thinking SR. AMNESIA is seeing things, tries to humor her)* Alright...

REV. MOTHER. *(now seeing SR. LEO)* Lilacs!

(SR. AMNESIA mimes to the audience "I just said that – twice!")

(Music Cue 13: LILACS BRING BACK MEMORIES)

SR. HUBERT. How beautiful. Where'd they come from?

SR. LEO. There's a card.

(She hands the card to REV. MOTHER.)

REV. MOTHER. Why, they're from the ladies of the Haddasah wishing us mazel tov.

SR. HUBERT. Wasn't that sweet of them?

SR. LEO. These sure bring back memories.

EVERYTIME I SMELL LILACS
I REMEMBER MY FIRST ROMANCE.

(REV. MOTHER looks shocked.)

I WAS PUTTING ON A BALLET IN MY BACKYARD
WHEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE DANCE.

(REV. MOTHER is relieved.)

SR. HUBERT. Everytime I smell lilacs

(singing)

I REMEMBER THAT VERY SPECIAL DAY

WHEN THE BISHOP CAME

AND GAVE ME MY NEW NAME:

(looking at her ring) Hubert – I thought I was gonna die!!!

SR. LEO. *(very excitedly)* Wait a minute! Wait a minute!

Amnesia, I've got an idea.

IF LILACS MAKE US REMEMBER THINGS

THAT HAPPENED LONG AGO,

ALL BUT SR. AMNESIA.

MAYBE THE FRAGRANCE CAN TAKE YOU BACKWARDS

IN TIME TO A PLACE YOU KNOW.

(SR. LEO hands the flowers to SR. AMNESIA who buries her head in them taking a loud audible sniff.)

SR. AMNESIA.

THEY SMELL VERY NICE, IT'S TRUE.

BUT THEY DON'T REMIND ME OF ANYTHING.

WAIT A MINUTE – YES, THEY DO!

ALL BUT SR. AMNESIA.

THEY DO?!

SR. AMNESIA.

I'M RUNNING THROUGH THE FIELD

WITH THE NEIGHBOR KIDS

WHEN I HEAR MAMA CALLING ME TO GO.

DINNER IS READY, HURRY HOME NOW –

(spoken) But I can't remember who.

REV. MOTHER, SRS. HUBERT & LEO. *(with great disappointment)*

Oh....

(Music Cue 14: THE WITCH)

(There is an immediate musical segue from "Lilacs" to "The Witch." SR. ROBERT ANNE enters from the left door with her habit tied up a la Norma Kamali pants, riding on a broom. She has put a funnel on her head, under her veil, creating a witch's hat.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. (*lets out a blood-curdling screech*) I'll get you my pretty. And your little dog, too! Deedle-y-dee-dee-dee-dee. Deedle-y-dee-dee-dee-dee!

REV. MOTHER. Robert Anne! Stop that this instant! This is not *The Wizard of Oz*. Who do you think you are, Margaret Hamilton?

(SR. ROBERT ANNE "ZZZZZZT's" REV. MOTHER.)

Listen, Missy!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Wait a minute! I have to tell you something important!

REV. MOTHER. Well, what is it?

SR. ROBERT ANNE. When I was in the Girls' Locker Room fixing my veil, I found *this!*

(SR. ROBERT ANNE *pulls out a small bag from under her scapular and hands it to REV. MOTHER.*)

I think one of our students has a serious problem.

SR. HUBERT. What kind of "serious" problem?

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Look, I know about these things and I need to explain...

REV. MOTHER. (*interrupting*) You can explain it later. Right now we've got to get ready for the first act finale.

(*Everyone starts asking "What's in the bag?", "Let's see", etc.*)

(*shouting over the confusion*) Hubert, get them ready for the first act finale!

(SRS. HUBERT, AMNESIA & LEO *exit right door.*)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. But, Rev...

REV. MOTHER. And get that *thing* out of your veil!

(SR. ROBERT ANNE *turns on her heels very indignantly and starts to exit left. As she gets to the bed she starts "sinking" and we hear:*)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. I'm melting...melting...melting...
(*Fading, she exits.*)

REV. MOTHER. If only she could. *(sitting down at the counter with the bag)* I'm terribly sorry for this delay, folks. They'll only be a moment. Now what is this she's fussing about?

(The spotlight fades up on REV. MOTHER as she discovers a small bottle in the bag.)

Well, it's called "Rush." It must be something for people in a hurry. *(examining the bottle)* I guess you take a spoonful after every meal—let's see — no — it says here: "Remove cap, allow to stand, aroma will develop." Aroma? What kind of aroma?

(She opens bottle and takes a whiff.)

Ooooh — Good Lord, it smells awful! Why would anyone want this stuff? *(looking at the bottle)* R — U...R — U...

(singing) ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT?

Is it warm in here? I'm awfully warm. It must be the wimple. Oh, I hope I don't get wimple itch. I don't know what the girls are doing with this stuff. It can't be good for you. It smells just awful.

(She turns her back to the audience, takes a quick sniff, and then turns back. She is starting to get the giggles.)

Is it hot in here? Whoa, it must be the lights. Alright. In a few minniments — monuments — mominna — *(laughing)* — SOON — *(laughing more with a snort)* we'll get back to Nundance — No! Flashnun! *(flipping the scapular in the air and laughing)* Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Nun — no, no, no. That's not right. Nun with the Wind! *(She gives a "Bronx cheer" or "Raspberry" [a sound mimicking flatulence] then turns to the band.)* What show is this?

MUSICAL DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR. Are you alright?

REV. MOTHER. *(getting up and walking toward the band)* Alright?! I've never felt better in my life. Hey, have you guys tried this stuff? Oh, of course, you have.

You're musicians! *(coming back to the audience)* Have you tried this? Have you...*(picking someone in the front of the audience)*...oh, you have. I know you have. You know this stuff is absolutely marvelous. I'm gonna take some back to the convent. *(taking a huge audible sniff)* Whooooooooaaaa! I'm going to Disney World!

(REV. MOTHER goes back to sit down and regain her composure.)

Okay. Let's all sit back and watch a coupl'a butch nuns dance. *(laughing raucously and then realizing what was said)* Did I say that? *(With right arm outstretched, she hits the top of the counter three times while saying.)* That's not right. *(hit three more times)* That's not right. *(looking left)* Come in! *(More laughing then turning toward center stool, she takes it like a steering wheel. In a low pitched voice.)* I got to drive Miss Daisy down to the Piggly Wiggly!

(Turning back on the stool REV. MOTHER slips off and down to the counter floor while her habit goes over the stool making her look pregnant.)

It's a miracle! Somebody call a donkey and get me to the manger. *(She starts to get up.)* Oh-oh. I'm stuck. I'm not kidding. I'm really stuck! Well, don't anybody rush up here to help me. Never mind, I'll do it myself. *(Struggling, she gets her leg over the stool and is on the floor.)* Free Willy! Free Willy! You know, it's hot in here!

(SR. HUBERT followed by SR. LEO & SR. AMNESIA enter right door.)

SR. HUBERT. Reverend Mother!

REV. MOTHER. Hubert! I've fallen and I can't get up.

(SR. HUBERT has changed to black tap shoes, but doesn't call attention to this fact. She gets REV. MOTHER on her feet.)

SR. HUBERT. Turn off that-

(Music Cue 15: TURN OFF THAT SPOTLIGHT)

Spotlight!

(spotlight out)

REV. MOTHER.

WAIT! I'M NOT QUITE -

SR. HUBERT.

YES, YOU ARE.

(SR. HUBERT takes REV. MOTHER off left as SRS. LEO & AMNESIA put the counter back.)

SR. AMNESIA.

SHE'S STONED!

SR. LEO.

COULD YA DIE!

(SR. ROBERT ANNE enters left door.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

SR. LEO.

REVEREND MOTHER GOT HIGH.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

I COULDA TOLD HER THAT STUFF MAKES YA FLY!

SR. AMNESIA.

YOU'RE GONNA FRY!

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

HEY, NOW I - didn't tell her to use it!

(All start talking at once... "You're gonna get it." "You should have known better" etc. SR. HUBERT, carrying a shopping bag enters right door.)

SR. HUBERT.

HEY, HEY! C'MON ALL OF YOU.

THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE

IN WHAT'S ABOUT TO ENSUE.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

I THOUGHT WE PLANNED THIS SONG FOR ACT TWO.

SR. HUBERT.

WELL, WE DID. BUT IT'S NOT. WE'VE GOTTA DO IT. NOW!

(We hear raucous laughter from REV. MOTHER offstage. SR. ROBERT ANNE takes the bag and all but SR. HUBERT exit the right door to change to tap shoes backstage.)

(Music Cue 16: TACKLE THAT TEMPTATION)

IF EVER YOU ARE TEMPTED TO TRANSGRESS, REMEMBER
THIS:

(REV. MOTHER opens left door and hollers:)

REV. MOTHER. Hubert! I just saw Elvis. He's alive! He's alive!!

(SR. HUBERT looks as if she can't believe what's happening as REV. MOTHER disappears behind the door.)

SR. HUBERT.

AN IDLE MIND IS WHERE THE DEVIL WORKS,
SO IN MY ANALYSIS –
IF BUSY HANDS ARE HAPPY HANDS
THEN DANCING FEET ARE BLISS! SO:

TACKLE THAT TEMPTATION WITH A TIME-STEP.
NOT A ONE-STEP OR A TWO-STEP, BUT A TIME-STEP.

(SR. HUBERT starts to tap dance.)

STAMP-HOP-SHUFFLE-STEP-FA-LAP-BALL-CHANGE
IN YOUR TAP SHOES.

YOU CAN CHASE THE DEVIL OUT
AND SHOUT THE GOOD NEWS.

TACKLE THAT TEMPTATION WITH A TIME-STEP
BEFORE TEMPTATION TACKLES YOU!

(hollering toward the right door) I said:

(ALL but REV. MOTHER enter through the right door singing and dancing. ALL are wearing multi-colored tap shoes.)

ALL.

TACKLE THAT TEMPTATION WITH A TIME-STEP.
NOT A ONE-STEP OR A TWO-STEP, BUT A TIME-STEP.
AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, THEN GO
AND SHUFFLE OFF TO BUFFALO.
TACKLE THAT TEMPTATION WITH A TIME-STEP
BEFORE TEMPTATION TACKLES YOU!

(Dance break occurs here featuring a tap challenge by each of the nuns. It ends with each one shouting out her name going into a final move during which REV. MOTHER enters left on the upper level right wearing the fruit hat used by SR. ROBERT ANNE as Carmen Miranda.)

SR. HUBERT. *(seeing REV. MOTHER)* Reverend Mother!
(to others) Get her outta here. She's ruining my big number!

(The others push her back out of the way.)

ALL BUT REV. MOTHER.

TURN UP THE SPOTLIGHT,
THOUGH THIS IS NOT QUITE
WHAT WE EXPECTED WE WOULD DO.

(REV. MOTHER breaks through the line again and is pushed back while belting out: "Gotta dance!")

WE'RE GONNA TAKE A BREAK,
PLEASE COME BACK FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE.
THERE'S A LOT MORE IN ACT TWO!

REV. MOTHER. *(sticking her head out between two sisters)* Peek-a-boo!

ALL BUT REV. MOTHER.

UNTIL THEN -

SR. HUBERT. Get her, Robert!

(SR. ROBERT ANNE grabs REV. MOTHER as ALL head for the left door to exit.)

REV. MOTHER. Toodle-oo!

(After ALL exit, REV. MOTHER sticks her head out the door and is in a tight spotlight. She is yanked back. Blackout!)

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

(NOTE: This opening joke section can be eliminated and the act started with SR. ROBERT ANNE coming on stage saying "I've just been told that Reverend Mother is still in the Girl's Locker room, etc." If that is the case, SR. HUBERT's lines would be deleted.)

(Towards the end of intermission, SRS. LEO, HUBERT, and AMNESIA go out and mingle with the audience on the orchestra floor. After a few minutes in the house we hear:)

SR. LEO. *(hollering)* Sister Hubert? May I tell a joke?

SR. HUBERT. Well, I guess that would be alright.

SR. LEO. How do you make holy water?

SR. HUBERT. I don't know. How do you make holy water?

SR. LEO. You boil the hell out of it!

SR. AMNESIA. I have a joke.

SR. HUBERT. Do you remember it?

SR. AMNESIA. Yeah, I think so. What did Jesus say at the Last Supper?

SR. HUBERT. What did Jesus say at the Last Supper?

SR. AMNESIA. Anyone who wants to be in the picture, get on this side of the table!

SR. LEO. Sister Hubert, you tell *your* joke.

SR. HUBERT. Oh, alright. Why did Moses wander around the desert for forty years?

SR. AMNESIA. Why *did* Moses wander around the desert for forty years?

SR. HUBERT. He was a man. And men never stop to ask for directions!

(SR. ROBERT ANNE enters left door and comes downstage center.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Sister Hubert, are you out there?

SR. HUBERT. Yes, what is it, Sister?

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Can you come up here? I need to talk to you.

(SR. HUBERT followed by SRS. LEO & AMNESIA come up on stage. The house lights fade out.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. *(cont.)* You can go on talking, folks. We'll be starting in just a minute.

(The four Sisters huddle for a moment.)

(to audience) I've just been told that Reverend Mother is still in the Girls' Locker Room saying an Act of Contrition. So – the understudy is on!!! *(to the other Sisters)* Why don't you guys go get ready for the next number and I'll handle everything out here. No problem.

(SRS. AMNESIA & LEO exit left door.)

SR. HUBERT. Are you sure you're okay?

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Oh, yeah. No sweat.

(They high-five each other. SR. HUBERT exits left door.)

Alriiiiiight! Now that I have you alone for a few minutes I'd like to share something with you that I think you'll get a kick out of. And that's some more of my habit-humor. *(She starts twisting her veil, creating braids.)* Now, you're probably wondering what nuns do in their spare time. Well, this particular nun likes to create other nuns. For instance:

Sister Pocohontas: "How."

(swagging the braids) Ri – co – la! Sister Heidi.

Here's one of my favorites: *(twisting the braids around her ears)* Help me, Obi Wan Kenobi – you are my only hope.

(She turns upstage and flips the veil over the side of her face so the white veil lining looks like the Phantom Mask and she turns and limps toward the audience. The band plays a measure or two of the "Phantom" theme.)

(if audience laughs) Oh! *(if audience is quiet)*
You got tickets! Nobody got tickets?

Okay, I got one more. This takes a little time so bear with me. *(to CONDUCTOR)* Hey, Father. How 'bout a little mood music?

(Music Cue 17: THE VEIL)

(The following section is spoken while twisting the veil into two braids and then tying them around the head, creating an up-do.)

You know, I do these for my students. They think they're hysterical. Of course, they love to laugh. That's how I get through to them. You know, by being funny. I teach seventh grade. That is a rough age to be. I oughta know. When I was in seventh grade I got sent to Saint Clare's School for the Deplorable. Okay, here we go. The final impression of the evening: *(a la Katherine Hepburn)* "The callalilies are in bloom again. Such a strange flower."

(She comes down the stairs as Katherine Hepburn, bows and puts her veil back as it should be. Music out.)

Let's not mention this to You-Know-Who. Reverend Mother does not always appreciate my methods or my behavior. But ya gotta understand. I grew up in Canarsie. You know where that is? Brooklyn! Yo Mamma! Scungili! *(pronounced skoon-JEEL)* You had to be tough. And I was. I was one tough kid.

(She gets the stool from beside the juke box and brings it down center and sits. If she accompanies herself she also gets the guitar/uke.)

See, my dad was never around much and my mom had to work two jobs, so us kids were alone a lot. I was always

in trouble – that's why I got sent to St. Clare's. But, hey, it's okay. Things have worked out. My background even paid off a little bit. Not only do I *drive* the convent car, I can *strip* it faster than any mechanic in Hoboken! You know a lot of the guys back in the hood still can't believe I'm a nun. But I have to tell you why. It's all because of Sister Rose Francis.

(*Music Cue 18: GROWING UP CATHOLIC*)

She was the Head of Saint Clare's. Boy, oh boy, she was somethin' else. She was the one person who made me believe I was worth something. And I want to be just like her. Sometimes I miss Saint Clare's. Things were really different back then. It was a long time ago.

AT SAINT CLARE'S SCHOOL, RELIGION CLASS

BEGAN WITH MASS EACH DAY.

IT WAS SAID IN LATIN THEN.

THAT'S HOW I LEARNED TO PRAY.

THE NUNS APPEARED IN BLACK AND WHITE.

(*SRS. HUBERT, LEO, AMNESIA, enter upper left and position themselves like a choir on the stairs. They "ooh" as SR. ROBERT ANNE continues singing.*)

AND SO DID EVERY RULE.

THINGS WERE EITHER WRONG OR RIGHT

AT SAINT CLARE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

THE "CHOIR".

HOSANNA!

ALL.

HOSANNA!

HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS.

EXCELSIS, IN EXCELSIS.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

BUT THEN THE RULES BEGAN TO CHANGE

AND MANY LOST THEIR WAY.

WHAT WAS ALWAYS BLACK AND WHITE

WAS TURNING SHADES OF GRAY.

ALL.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,
HOLY LORD.

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

THOUGH MASS IS SAID IN ENGLISH NOW,
TO MAKE US MORE AWARE,
CONFUSION SEEMS TO REIGN SUPREME.
LIKE GOD, IT'S EVERYWHERE.

(THE "CHOIR" again sings "oohs".)

THE CHURCH IS QUITE PROGRESSIVE NOW
THOUGH PEOPLE RIDICULE
THE FACT THAT SO MANY THINGS ARE OPTIONAL,
IT'S HARD TO FIND A RULE.

THROUGH IT ALL I'VE OFTEN SAID
THOSE ANCIENT LATIN PRAYERS
THAT I FIRST LEARNED WHEN GROWING UP -
CATHOLIC - AT SAINT CLARE'S.

THE "CHOIR".

HOSANNA!

ALL.

HOSANNA!
HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS!
IN EXCELSIS, IN EXCELSIS,
IN EXCELSIS!

(Lights fade out, then back up quickly. SR. ROBERT ANNE puts the stool back during the blackout. THE "CHOIR" sisters come down center to congratulate SR. ROBERT ANNE on the nice singing. REV. MOTHER enters from the right door very excitedly muttering to herself. She is carrying a summons.)

REV. MOTHER. This is a catastrophe!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. What's the matter with you?

REV. MOTHER. This summons just came! That's what's the matter with me!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Well, it can't be that bad.

REV. MOTHER. Oh, no? Take a look.

(She hands the summons to SR. ROBERT ANNE and continues walking stage left and out the stage left door while saying:)

I've got to go pray for guidance. I should have stayed with the circus!!

(The SISTERS crowd around SR. ROBERT ANNE as they all look at the summons and gasp!)

(Music Cue 19: CLEAN OUT THE FREEZER)

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT THE FREEZER,

SR. LEO.

BY TOMORROW MORNING.

SRS. HUBERT & AMNESIA.

CAUSE THE JERSEY BOARD OF HEALTH
HAS SENT THE FINAL WARNING.

ALL.

THEY'RE NOT BUYING OUR LINE
THAT DEAD NUNS RISE AND SHINE.
WE MUST COMPLY OR FACE A FINE.

WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT THE FREEZER
CAUSE THEY KNOW WE'RE THE ONES
WHO HAVE REFUSED TO START DEFROSTING
THOSE FOUR BLUE NUNS!
THE TIME HAS COME TO SEND THEM OFF TO THEIR
REWARD

AND LET THEM GREET THE LORD!

HEAVEN AWAITS!
SO PACK 'EM IN CRATES
AND TELL SAINT PETER
THEY'LL BE AT THOSE PEARLY GATES.
AND TELL HIM THESE ARE NUNS ON ICE
THAT WE'RE CERTAIN DIDN'T SIN,
AND WE'D BE VERY GRATEFUL
IF HE'D LET 'EM COME IN.

WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT THE FREEZER
 BY TOMORROW MORNIN'.
 SOMEONE HOLLER TO GABRIEL
 TO BLOW HIS HORN 'N'
 WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING
 TO THAT HEAV'NLY DOOR
 TELL 'EM THERE'S GONNA BE FOUR MORE!

WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT THE FREEZER
 AND DEFROST THE DEAD.
 BECAUSE THE JERSEY BOARD OF HEALTH
 IS CLAIMING THEY WERE MISLED.
 THEY'RE NOT BUYING OUR LINE
 THAT DEAD NUNS RISE AND SHINE.
 WE MUST BURY THEM INSTEAD.
 THEY'RE NOT BUYING OUR LINE -
 NUNS RISE AND SHINE -
 WE MUST BURY THEM INSTEAD!
 They're dead!

(The phone rings. All but SR. HUBERT holler "I'll get it" and start toward the phone with SR. LEO leading. REV. MOTHER has entered from the left door to see what the commotion is about. At the stairs SR. LEO turns and says:)

SR. LEO. I'll get it! I'm the novice!

(The others shrug their shoulders as SR. LEO answers in her lowest sexiest voice.)

Hello. Mount Saint Helen's.

REV. MOTHER. Well, who is it, Leo?

SR. LEO. It's Sister Mary Euthanasia!

ALL. Our nurse!

(Music Cue 20: EUTHANASIA'S CHORD)

(The lights flicker a la grade B horror movie.)

SR. LEO. She says, "Sister Julia, (ALL cross themselves.) Child of God, was trying out a new chicken dish. Chicken with Correctol - or something like that. Anyway, it

backfired! – She's in the hospital getting her stomach pumped.

REV. MOTHER. Oh, Lord deliver me. Is she coming over to do the show?

SR. LEO. *(into phone)* Is she coming over to do the show? *(to REV. MOTHER)* No.

REV. MOTHER. No?

SR. LEO. No!

REV. MOTHER. Whoa!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Oh!

Hey, I can do my number!

REV. MOTHER. I don't think so!

(SR. LEO has hung up the phone and come back with the others.)

Well, I'll just have to fill in for Sister Julia. Now let's see – I'll need her book – does anyone know what happened to her book?

SR. AMNESIA. Uh-oh. I forgot to bring it in. I left it in the station wagon.

REV. MOTHER. Well, I've got to have that book. Will one of you get it please?

SRS. LEO, AMNESIA, & ROBERT ANNE. I will!

REV. MOTHER. Alright, all three of you go.

(They all run off right.)

(Music Cue 22: JUST A COUPL'A SISTERS)

REV. MOTHER. Oh, Hubert. We've got sisters in the freezer, Marie Eugene's down at the Board of Health, and I don't know Julia's part. What's a Reverend Mother to do??!!

SR. HUBERT.

EVERYTIME YOU HAVE TO FACE A CRISIS –
WHO'S THE ONE WHO HELPS YOU MUDDLE THROUGH?

REV. MOTHER.

ALRIGHT. I CONFESS IT. YES, THE TRUTH IS:
I COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.
(to Conductor) Hit it!

BOTH.

WE'RE JUST A COUP'LA SISTERS
PLAIN AS WE CAN BE.
JUST A COUP'LA SISTERS
WHO'VE DISCOVERED HARMONY.

REV. MOTHER.

OH, SURE I COULD GO SOLO.

SR. HUBERT.

GOING SOLO CAN BE FUN.

BOTH.

BUT WHEN TWO SOLOS GET TOGETHER
THEY HARMONIZE AS ONE - NUN.
WE'RE JUST A COUP'LA SISTERS
OUT HERE HAVING FUN.

REV. MOTHER. (to **SR. HUBERT**)

THE MISTRESS OF THE NOVICES,

SR. HUBERT. (to **REV. MOTHER**)

AND REVEREND NUMBER ONE!

REV. MOTHER.

IT'S TRUE, I AM IN CHARGE HERE,
BUT I KNOW I'M NOT ALONE
AS LONG AS SISTER HUBERT
ADDS HER

BOTH.

HARMONIZING TONE.

SR. HUBERT.

I TRAIN ALL OUR NOVICES
AND DO IT ON MY OWN.
CAUSE I KNOW REVEREND MOTHER'S NEAR -
A STEPPING STONE.

REV. MOTHER. A stepping stone? A stepping stone to what,
Hubert?

SR. HUBERT. Oh, Regina. It was just a rhyme. You see, the only other word I could think of was *overgrown* and I know how sensitive you are about your weight.

REV. MOTHER. Hubert! I'll have you know, I am not fat! I simply retain water.

SR. HUBERT. Ladies and gentlemen – Lake Superior!!!

(REV. MOTHER *glares at SR. HUBERT who pulls them together.*)

BOTH.

PUT US BOTH TOGETHER
AND WE'VE GOT IT ALL.

REV. MOTHER.

THE MELODY –

SR. HUBERT.

THE HARMONY –

BOTH.

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL.

SR. HUBERT.

ALL WE NEED IS MARY
THEN WE'D HAVE A SINGING GROUP.

REV. MOTHER.

EVERY TOM AND DICK AND HARRY
IS A MARY IN THIS TROUPE!
Sister Mary Thomas,

SR. HUBERT. Sister Mary Richard,

REV. MOTHER. Sister Mary Harold,

SR. HUBERT. Sister Maryknoll.

BOTH. Sister Mary Martin, Sister Mary Pickford,

Sister Mary Sunshine. Hey, we're on a roll.

Sister Mary Hartman, Sister Mary Astor,

SR. HUBERT. Sister Merry Widow –

REV. MOTHER. Sister, that's enough!

SR. HUBERT. Sister Mary Poppins, Sister Merry Christmas!

REV. MOTHER. Sister, that's enough of this "Mary" stuff!

BOTH.

WE'RE JUST A COUP'LA SISTERS
IN WHAT YOU'D CALL "RARE FORM"
WHO'VE COME TO ENTERTAIN YOU
BY SINGING UP A STORM.
SWANEE, HOW I LOVE YA,

SR. HUBERT.

I LOVE REVEREND MAMMY!

BOTH.

WE'RE JUST A COUPL'A SISTERS,
PLAIN AS WE CAN BE.
JUST A COUPL'A SISTERS
WHO'VE DISCOVERED HARMONY!

(SR. HUBERT and REV. MOTHER exit right and return immediately on applause and bow. SR. AMNESIA quietly enters right door carrying the cookbook which she places on the counter. She stands behind the counter. A second later SR. ROBERT ANNE enters upper left and stops at the top of the stairs.)

REV. MOTHER. And now, ladies and gentlemen –

SR. ROBERT ANNE. *(interrupting)* Presenting – The Dying Nun!

(Music Cue 23: SOUP'S ON)

(SR. ROBERT ANNE comes down the left stairs and exits the left door followed by SR. LEO who comes center stage for her dance. REV. MOTHER & HUBERT look at each other in disbelief. REV. MOTHER goes to the bed and sits down. SR. HUBERT sits at the counter. "The Dying Nun Ballet" proceeds starring SR. LEO with support from SR. ROBERT ANNE. During the ballet SR. ROBERT ANNE mimes feeding SR. LEO the soup and then they dance together to the music of "Fantasia" until SR. LEO starts getting sick and SR. ROBERT ANNE runs offstage. SR. LEO continues the ballet, struggling to dance. At the sound of the "Psycho music" SR. ROBERT ANNE appears as the Grim Reaper and taps SR. LEO till she dies

onstage. At the end of the ballet REV. MOTHER rises from the bed.)

REV. MOTHER. Sister!!!

SR. LEO. Robert Anne said you'd think it was funny!

REV. MOTHER. Robert, I've about had it with you. One more time and you'll be the "dying nun!" (*pointing to SR. LEO's Flying Nun style headgear*) Now get her outta that thing.

(SR. ROBERT ANNE slams the two "wings" of the hat together atop SR. LEO's head. Now she looks like a sailboat.)

SR. LEO. It was just a joke!

REV. MOTHER. Well, it wasn't funny. Who do you think you are? Sally Field?

SR. LEO. (*very indignantly*) Yes. And they liked me. They really liked me!

(SR. ROBERT ANNE pulls SR. LEO offstage left before there's any more trouble. SR. AMNESIA moves the counter to center stage as SR. HUBERT imitates SR. LEO dancing.)

REV. MOTHER. Hubert, stop that. She'll see you.

SR. HUBERT. Well, it was pretty funny.

REV. MOTHER. It wasn't. It's not enough that I've got to contend with Sister Robert Anne. Now, she's corrupting the novices.

(The sisters are putting on aprons stored in the counter as they continue the conversation.)

REV. MOTHER. Anyway, it's not worth talking about. We've got something much more important to discuss. And I'm talking about the publication of this book – "Baking with the B.V.M."

SR. HUBERT. I think since some of the people in our audience may have brought non-Catholic friends. We should explain that the B.V.M. is the Blessed Virgin Mary.

REV. MOTHER. I was just getting to that, Hubert. Thank-you very much!

(REV. MOTHER ducks below the counter to put on a chef's hat. At the same time SR. HUBERT beats her breast three times, i.e. Mea Culpa, as if to say "Well, Excuuuuse me!" Then REV. MOTHER rises wearing the chef's hat. SR. AMNESIA is mesmerized and after a second speaks:)

SR. AMNESIA. Reverend Mother, you look like the Pope!

SR. HUBERT. Hey, Regina. Do your Pope Benedict imitation.

REV. MOTHER. No...

SR. HUBERT. Oh, come on. You want to see it, don't you, folks?

REV. MOTHER. Oh, alright.

(She raises her hand somewhat like Queen Elizabeth then tilts her head and snores.)

REV. MOTHER. Enough... Well, now, folks, first of all, the book has a beautiful cover featuring a picture of our Blessed Mother in her cook's hat and apron. Wait till you see this. You're gonna love it. *(She shows the cover.)* So you see, when you're not using it for baking it makes a lovely devotional addition to your kitchen.

(SR. AMNESIA is tugging on REV. MOTHER's sleeve.)

I know, dear. Sister Amnesia has designed a terrific wooden stand for the book.

(SR. AMNESIA gets a wooden stand from under the counter and proudly places it on the counter. It is a disaster. REV. MOTHER is stunned.)

Did you make that?

(SR. AMNESIA nods proudly, yes. REV. MOTHER turns to SR. HUBERT.)

She made that. *(to SR. AMNESIA)* All by yourself?

(Again SR. AMNESIA nods. To SR. HUBERT:) All by herself. Nice house –

SR. HUBERT & REV. MOTHER. Nobody home!

REV. MOTHER. *(pointing upward to the right)* Look, Amnesia. An angel!

(SR. AMNESIA steps out from behind the counter looking up in the air as REV. MOTHER grabs the wooden stand and tosses it behind the counter. SR. AMNESIA steps back and before she can say that she didn't see the angel REV. MOTHER continues.)

Flew in, took the stand, flew out! *(indicating the countertop)* Look, all clean. Well, shall we take a look at the book?

SR. HUBERT. Why not?

(REV. MOTHER opens the book. All "Ooooh" with delight.)

(From here down to 'Music Cue 24', the script is printed in the prop cookbook and does not need to be memorized!)

REV. MOTHER. I can see that the Main Section is just chock full of unusual recipes especially suited to the Catholic Kitchen. For example – Here's Cesar Franck's Panis Angelicus. A delightful taste treat consisting of two hot dogs, wrapped in anchovies and served on a slice of Angel Food cake???!! *(looking horrified)* Has anybody ever tested this stuff?

SR. HUBERT. Why, no – we only saw the book today. I thought you went over all this with Julia.

REV. MOTHER. I went over it? I thought you...etc.

(The two began arguing simultaneously. REV. MOTHER saying such things as "I can't do everything." SR. HUBERT saying "Well, neither can I". Argument escalates until we hear SR. HUBERT say:)

SR. HUBERT. Don't you remember, we were watching the Food Channel and when that chef got chopped you said, "Oh, that reminds me, I've got to check out Julia's book!"

REV. MOTHER. Well, it's too late now, isn't it?

SR. HUBERT. In a word, yes!

REV. MOTHER. Well, we'll just go on. Look, how cute. The Mortally sinful Devil's Food Cake.

SR. AMNESIA. If you eat that, will you go to hell?

REV. MOTHER. Maybe...but what a way to go!

SR. HUBERT. Here's one. Mary Magdalene Tarts! I'll bet they're easy!

REV. MOTHER. And cheap!

(They both laugh at their own jokes.)

SR. AMNESIA. Look. Here's a recipe for Boy Scouts.

REV. MOTHER. Why don't you read that one, Amnesia?

(taking the book, SR. AMNESIA starts reading silently)

Out loud, Sister.

SR. AMNESIA. Oh. "Boy Scout Treats." It says, "First, get twelve brownies *real* hot!"

(REV. MOTHER pulls the book back. She and SR. HUBERT look down into the book and then to each other.

REV. MOTHER rips the page out, and continues.)

REV. MOTHER. It's a misprint. Moving right along...here's an interesting section: Holiday Recipes.

SR. HUBERT. Now, this looks pretty good. Turkey Stuffing.

REV. MOTHER. It says you take one package of regular stuffing mix.

SR. HUBERT. One package, regular stuffing mix.

REV. MOTHER. One onion, minced.

SR. HUBERT. One onion.

REV. MOTHER. One cup of unpopped popcorn.

SR. HUBERT. Unpopped popcorn.

REV. MOTHER. Mix it all together.

SR. HUBERT. Mix together.

REV. MOTHER. Stuff it in your bird.

SR. HUBERT. Stuff it in your bird.

REV. MOTHER. Put your bird in the oven.

SR. HUBERT. Bird in the oven.

REV. MOTHER. 400 degrees.

SR. HUBERT. 400 degrees.

REV. MOTHER. (*turns page*) And when his ass blows off he's done!

(The two continue to look at each other and the book until laughter peaks.)

I can't believe that lame-brain Julia!

SR. HUBERT. Holy Smoke!

(SR. HUBERT is pointing to the book. SRS. LEO & ROBERT ANNE enter left door.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. What's the matter? Is something burning?

REV. MOTHER. No, she's included the recipe for that soup.

ALL BUT REV. MOTHER. What??

REV. MOTHER. Look, it's right here – vichyssoise soup.

SR. LEO. Well, the *recipe* isn't poison, is it?

REV. MOTHER. How should I know? I should have known better that to trust that nitwit! Well, we certainly can't sell this thing.

SR. HUBERT. Well, what are we going to do? We were counting on the books to bring in some extra money.

(Music Cue 24: SECOND FIDDLE [REPRISE])

SR. LEO. I could do my fire baton.

SR. HUBERT. No fire baton!

SR. AMNESIA. I could do my bird calls.

REV. MOTHER. And what, dare I ask, are your bird calls?

SR. AMNESIA. Here birdie, birdie. Here birdie, birdie!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. I don't believe this!

REV. MOTHER. What?

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

I'M CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE
STILL PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE
WHILE YOU PEDDLE POISON RECIPES.

YOU COMPLETELY DISREGARD
THAT I'VE WORKED VERY HARD
ON A SONG -

REV. MOTHER. Well, sing it, please!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Do you really mean it?

REV. MOTHER. Yes. Do it before I change my mind.

(SR. ROBERT ANNE goes up toward the band area as if to prepare the conductor. SRS. LEO & AMNESIA put the counter back stage right and exit.)

(heading to the right door) Good Lord, I feel like I'm back in the Leper Colony the way things are falling to pieces around here.

SR. HUBERT. *(following REV. MOTHER)* How could Julia be so stupid?

REV. MOTHER. How could I be so stupid? *(She exits.)*

SR. HUBERT. *(turning to audience)* Let me count the ways. *(She exits.)*

(SR. ROBERT ANNE moves downstage center.)

(Music Cue 25: I JUST WANT TO BE A STAR)

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

WHEN I BECAME A NUN
AT A VERY EARLY AGE,
I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE CONVENT
AND A LIFE UPON THE STAGE.
SO WHEN REVEREND MOTHER SAID,
"WE'RE PUTTIN' ON A SHOW,"
I MUST TELL YOU, I WAS THRILLED TO DEATH.
I COULDN'T WAIT TO GO.

WELL, NOW TO MY SURPRISE
REVEREND MOTHER DIDN'T SEE
WHAT'S SO OBVIOUS.
THE STAGE IS MEANT FOR ME.
MONEY AND FAME,
I DON'T DESIRE.
I ONLY WANT TO SPARKLE
I'M NOT HERE TO START A FIRE!

I DON'T CARE IF I'M EVER RICH OR FAMOUS
I JUST WANT TO BE A STAR.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU KNOW WHAT MY NAME IS (ROBERT!),
I JUST WANT TO BE A STAR.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. (*cont.*)

I WANT TO BE
THE NUN WHO MAKES YOU CHEER.
THE NUN WHO'S OUT IN FRONT
INSTEAD OF AT THE REAR.
FOR ONCE, I WANT
TO LEAD THE BAND
AND HAVE THE CROWD
IN THE PALM OF MY HAND.

I DON'T CARE IF I'M EVER RICH OR FAMOUS,
I JUST WANT TO BE A STAR!

WHEN WE BEGAN THIS SHOW,
THEY WERE REALLY GREEN.
THEY DIDN'T KNOW A CHORUS LINE
FROM A CHORUS QUEEN.
THEY DIDN'T REALIZE
THAT IN THE CHORUS LINE
YOU NEVER GET TO STRUT YOUR STUFF,
YOU NEVER REALLY SHINE!

I DON'T CARE IF I'M EVER RICH OR FAMOUS,
I JUST WANT TO BE A STAR.
SURE, IT'S TRUE. MY ONLY CLAIM TO FAME IS,
"I GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A STAR!"

I KNOW MY VOW OF POVERTY
SAYS I CAN MAKE A FORTUNE,
BUT WHEN WE'RE EIGHTY
AND SETTIN' ON THE PORCH IN
THE OLD NUNS' HOME,
AND THEY ASK WHO WE ARE
I JUST WANT TO SAY:
"HEY! I WAS A STAR!"

(SRS. LEO & AMNESIA enter right each with a feather fan as back-up dancers. SRS. LEO & AMNESIA have a feather boa which they pass to SR. ROBERT ANNE.)

I DON'T CARE IF I'M EVER RICH OR FAMOUS,
JUST SO I CAN BE –
THE CHORUS LINE IS NOT FOR ME –
I'M RED HOT TO BE A STAR.
YO! REGINA! PARK YOUR OWN DAMN CAR.

(SR. ROBERT ANNE throws the car keys off stage right. SRS. LEO & AMNESIA run offstage left.)

I JUST WANNA BE A STAR!

(Music Cue 25A: STAR PLAYOFF)

(SR. ROBERT ANNE is strutting around the stage and comes downstage left and is teasing a man with her boa. REV. MOTHER comes onstage from the right door followed by SRS. AMNESIA and LEO who "hang" upstage. When REV. MOTHER gets to SR. ROBERT ANNE she shakes the keys at her. SR. ROBERT ANNE takes the keys and REV. MOTHER takes the boa. SR. ROBERT ANNE stands shamefully silent.)

REV. MOTHER. *(addressing audience member)* You're no help at all! *(to SR. ROBERT ANNE)* Well, our little sparkler turned out to be quite a firecracker!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. *(sincerely)* I'm sorry, Reverend Mother.

REV. MOTHER. Well, that was quite a surprise, Robert. You were sensational!

SR. ROBERT ANNE. I was??!

REV. MOTHER. Yes, you were.

(REV. MOTHER gives her a big hug and then speaks:)

That'll be six Our Fathers and seven hundred Hail Marys!

(She then takes the boa and sends SR. ROBERT ANNE to the center stage area to join SRS. AMNESIA & LEO who also move center.)

REV. MOTHER. *(cont.)* And now, ladies and gentlemen, we'd like to present our version of –

(Each puts on an army hat as her name is mentioned.

SR. ROBERT ANNE *is making contact with the audience member.)*

– Patty – , Maxine – , and Laverne – the Saint Andrews Sisters of Hoboken in a number they've prepared especially for this evening.

(REV. MOTHER starts offstage right and catches SR. ROBERT ANNE.)

Robert!! Leave that man alone!

(REV. MOTHER continues off right "working the boa" and before she is offstage turns back one more time and reprimands the audience member.)

I'm watching you!

(When REV. MOTHER is off, SR. ROBERT ANNE turns to cue the CONDUCTOR.)

(Music Cue 26: THE DRIVE-IN)

ALL THREE.

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY
WHEN LIFE WAS QUITE SERENE.
THE DAYS WERE RATHER UNEVENTFUL,
WHAT YOU'D CALL ROUTINE.

THEN CAME THAT FATAL NIGHT
WHEN JULIA MADE HER VICHYSOISE.
FOR FIFTY-TWO, "BON APPETIT"
WAS ALSO "BON VOYAGE."

THEN OUR TRANQUIL LIFE WAS OVER
FOR WE KNEW WHAT WE MUST DO.
WE HAD TO RAISE THE MONEY
TO INTER THE FIFTY-TWO!

AT TIMES IT ALL SEEMED HOPELESS
AND MUCH MORE THAN WE COULD BEAR.
WE WOULD ALL HAVE LOST OUR MINDS

HAD WE NOT STOPPED - AH -

SR. ROBERT ANNE.

TO GO TO THE DRIVE-IN,

SR. AMNESIA.

AT THE SKYLINE DRIVE-IN,

SRS. LEO & ROBERT ANNE.

DRIVE-IN,

SR. LEO.

WE CAN ALWAYS SURVIVE IN.

SRS. AMNESIA & ROBERT ANNE.

WE SURVIVE IN,

ALL THREE.

TIMES OF STRESS AND STRAIN.

DOO DOO BEE DOO BEE DOO

DOO DOO BEE DOO BEE DOO

DOO DOO BEE DOO BEE DOO WAH!

GIVE YOURSELF A CHANGE OF SCENE

BY ALTERING THE DAY'S ROUTINE.

FIND THE NEAREST MOVIE SCREEN

AND LET YOURSELF GO.

IT'S BETTER THAN A MAGAZINE

OF COURSE, YOU'LL WANT TO KEEP IT CLEAN.

BUT IF IT'S A BIT OBSCENE,

WHO'LL EVER KNOW?

THAT YOU'VE BEEN TO THE DRIVE-IN.

HEY, WHEN YOU ARRIVE,

FIND A PLACE TO PARK AND DIVE IN

TO A BOX OF BUTTERED POPCORN AND REVIVE YOURSELF.

YOUR SPIRITS COME ALIVE WHEN

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONNIVE.

THERE ISN'T A RIVAL

WHEN A DRIVE'LL MEAN SURVIVAL.

SR. LEO.

AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVE IN,

SRS. AMNESIA & ROBERT ANNE.

YOU ARRIVE IN,

SR. AMNESIA.

THE SKYLINE DRIVE-IN,

SRS. LEO & ROBERT ANNE.

DRIVE-IN.

SR. AMNESIA.

IT'S THE ONE PLACE I'VE BEEN,

SRS. LEO & ROBERT ANNE.

ONE PLACE I'VE BEEN

ALL THREE.

THAT'LL CHASE THE BLUES AWAY.

(The three go get the lunch counter and bring it center stage turning it around the reveal the back end of the Grease car.)

ENOUGH BALLYHOO ABOUT WHAT TO DO.

IT'S TIME TO ROLL OUR HOMEMADE CONVENT FILM

DISPLAY.

SCIDDLY-AH-DOO-BEE-DOO-WAH-WAH-WAH!

(Music Cue 27: NUNSMOKE)

(The three face upstage and sit on the stools. Lights go to blue.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Bring in the movie screen!

(Nothing happens.)

I said, bring in the movie screen!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR. It won't come down. It looks like it's stuck.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Oh, for Pete's sakes. C'mon, Leo. Let's go try to fix it.

(SRS. ROBERT ANNE & LEO exit out the left door, while SR. AMNESIA has slipped down behind the lunch counter. As the lights come up, she peeks her head up above the counter.)

SR. AMNESIA. I don't think that was supposed to happen. *(to conductor)* Father, I don't think that was supposed to happen.

CONDUCTOR. I know.

SR. AMNESIA. So, what do I do now?

CONDUCTOR. Why don't you tell 'em one of your stories?

SR. AMNESIA. Oh, they don't want to hear one of my stories.

CONDUCTOR. Sure, they do. *(He leads audience applause.)*

SR. AMNESIA. Oh, they do! Do you remember that story I was telling you last week?

CONDUCTOR. Yeah. That was a good one. Do you remember it?

SR. AMNESIA. Yeah, I think so. *(turning to audience)* Okay. I'm gonna tell you a story. It's about me. *(She pulls the bed out and lies down. She has a larger R + 2 on the bottom of her shoes.)*

(Music Cue 28: I COULD HAVE GONE TO NASHVILLE)

SOMETIMES IN THE MORNING
BEFORE THE FIRST BELL RINGS,
I LIE HERE WIDE AWAKE
WONDERIN' ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

(She sits up.)

LIKE WHO I AM, OR WHAT I'D BE
IF I WERE NOT A NUN.
I SUPPOSE I COULD BE ANYTHING
BUT IF I COULD BE ANYONE -

(She gets up off the bed.)

I'D LIKE TO BE COUNTRY SINGER
LIKE LORETTA LYNN.
WITH A DELUXE WINNEBAGO
THAT I COULD TRAVEL IN.

I'D HAVE WIGS LIKE DOLLY PARTON
I MIGHT EVEN PIERCE MY EARS.
I'D HAVE RHINESTONE STUDED COWBOY BOOTS
AND A SEQUINED GOWN FROM SEARS.

SR. AMNESIA. *(cont.)*

I'D HAVE ME SOME BACK UP SINGERS,

(The SISTERS sing a couple of back-up lines from offstage.)

AND A REAL LIVE BLUEGRASS BAND.

AND I WOULD GO TO NASHVILLE

AND APPEAR AT OPRYLAND.

I'D SING SONGS OF INSPIRATION.

I'D SING SONGS IN TIME OF STRIFE.

SONGS LIKE "DROP KICK ME, JESUS,
THROUGH THE GOAL POST OF LIFE!"

Wait a minute – wait a minute. It's all comin' back to me – I was going to be a country singer. And there was a contest – a big contest – and I remember walking out on this huge stage –

AND WHEN THEY TURNED UP THAT SPOTLIGHT

ALL THAT GLITTERED THERE WAS ME.

PEOPLE ALL WERE SAYING,

"SHE'S ANOTHER BRENDA LEE!"

OH, I COULD'VE GONE TO NASHVILLE

AND BECOME A COUNTRY STAR.

BUT SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE OF ME

WAS CALLING FROM AFAR.

(She moves back toward the bed.)

I STARTED MY NEW LIFE

INSIDE THE CONVENT WALL.

BRENDA LEE HAD GIVEN WAY

TO SISTER MARY

(She pauses.)

– Paul –

Sister Mary Paul – Sister Mary Paul – that's it!

(She jumps up on the bed.)

I'm Sister Mary Paul!!!

I REMEMBER IT ALL –

OH, I COULD'VE GONE TO NASHVILLE
AND BECOME LORETTA LYNN
BUT SOMETHING MUCH MORE POWERFUL
WAS CALLING FROM WITHIN.

OH, I COULD'VE GONE TO NASHVILLE
BUT I CAME HERE THAT DAY.

*(She kneels on the bed and the lights come down to a
pinspot on her face.)*

I MUST SAY A LITTLE THANK-YOU PRAYER
THAT IT ALL TURNED OUT THIS WAY. AMEN.

(Music Cue 28A: NASHVILLE PLAYOFF)

*(Blackout. Lights up. SR. AMNESIA is jumping on the
bed.)*

Come out here, everybody. I remember who I am.
Hurry. I remember who I am!

*(ALL come onstage from various entrances to be
determined. REV. MOTHER comes to the side of the bed.)*

REV. MOTHER. Well, who are you?

SR. AMNESIA. I was going to be a country singer and I was
going to Nashville, but I felt I had this calling and
so I decided not to become a big star and I became
unimportant like all of you!

(The Sisters do a "take" to each other.)

I'm Sister Mary Paul!

(REV. MOTHER helps SR. AMNESIA off the bed.)

SR. LEO. Sister Mary Paul! That's a nice name. Isn't it,
Hubert?

(A novice puts the bed back.)

REV. MOTHER. You know I remember hearing about a
Sister Mary Paul when we were in France, but when
we came back here no one knew what happened to
her – and then you mysteriously appeared and all you
could tell us was that a crucifix hit you on the head. So
you're Sister Mary Paul.

(REV. MOTHER steps aside "in thought" as SR. ROBERT ANNE motions for SR. AMNESIA to come to her.)

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Do you remember everything?

SR. AMNESIA. Well, I think so. You see, I won this contest, and I was going –

REV. MOTHER. (*very excitedly*) Contest. Oh, my heavens! That's it!

ALL BUT REV. MOTHER. What??

REV. MOTHER. Sister Mary Paul was the name of the nun who won the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes and they could never find her. (*to SR. AMNESIA*) That's you! We've got the money! Saints be praised! We're rich!!!

(*Music Cue 29: GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO*)

ALL.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

SR. HUBERT. Somebody call The Prize Patrol!

SR. LEO. This means we can bury the last four dead sisters.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. And get a TIVO for the Plasma TV!

SR. AMNESIA. (*A la "Shake 'n' Bake" commercial*) And I helped!

REV. MOTHER. You certainly did, dear. You know, I was really starting to get worried about having to defrost those girls tomorrow morning.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Yeah! Jersey smells bad enough already.

REV. MOTHER. Robert!

SR. HUBERT. It just goes to show that the Lord does, indeed, work in mysterious ways.

SR. ROBERT ANNE. One minute we're desperate –

SR. AMNESIA. The next minute we're rich.

SR. LEO. You just never know what the Almighty has planned.

SR. HUBERT. Today, the Mistress of Novices, tomorrow –

SR. LEO. (*interrupting*) Tomorrow, the world could be saluting the first "nun ballerina."

REV. MOTHER. Of course, dear – and I'll be a size five!
(*to audience*) The important thing is that we can send those last four sisters off to their heavenly reward. And we can get back to concentrating on our own heavenly rewards. Because after all, each and everyone of us here has the potential to become a saint!

SR. HUBERT. And you know something?

REV. MOTHER. What?

(*Music Cue 30: **HOLIER THAN THOU***)

SR. HUBERT.

IT'S NOT THAT HARD TO BE A SAINT.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO
IS PICK A SAINT TO EMULATE
WHO MOST EMBODIES YOU.
THEN FIGURE OUT WHAT MADE THAT SAINT
THE IDOL OF TODAY.
THEN FOLLOW IN THOSE FOOTSTEPS
AND YOU'LL EARN THE RIGHT TO SAY:

REV. MOTHER. Look out, girls. She's got the spirit!

(*Everyone backs away giving **SR. HUBERT** center stage.*)

SR. HUBERT.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN
CAUSE I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I THANK GOD ALMIGHTY
THAT I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

Alright. See how easy it is? Somebody, pick a saint.

SR. AMNESIA. Saint Bernadette!

SR. HUBERT. That's an excellent choice, Sister.

BERNADETTE OF LOURDES
CAN BE EASILY ACHIEVED.
SHE SAID SHE SAW A VIRGIN
WHICH, OF COURSE, NO ONE BELIEVED.

PEOPLE SAID SHE'D LOST HER MIND,
THERE WAS NO LADY THERE.
SO GO AND FIND A VIRGIN
THEN COME BACK HERE AND DECLARE:

SR. HUBERT. (*cont.*)

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN
CAUSE I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I THANK GOD ALMIGHTY
THAT I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
Sisters, can you help me out?

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT.

DOOT, DOOT, DOO. DOOT, DOOT, DOO.
DOOT, DOOT, DOO. DOOT, DOOT, DOO.

SR. HUBERT. That's it, girls. Let's have another.

REV. MOTHER. Saint Lucy! I Love Lucy!

SR. HUBERT.

LUCY WAS A VIRGIN
SO IF THAT TEST YOU DON'T FAIL.
LUCY COULD BE PERFECT
EXCEPT FOR ONE DETAIL.

LUCY WAS A MARTYR
WHICH COULD BE A BIT SEVERE.

REV. MOTHER.

I THINK I'LL PICK A LIVING SAINT
AND STICK AROUND TO HEAR:

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

SR. HUBERT. Preach, girlfriend!

REV. MOTHER.

I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN
CAUSE I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

REV. MOTHER & SR. HUBERT.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I THANK GOD ALMIGHTY
THAT I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT.

DOOT, DOOT, DOO. DOOT, DOOT, DOO.
DOOT, DOOT, DOO. DOOT, DOOT, DOO.

SR. HUBERT. Alright, good people. There's something else
I want to tell you.

YOU CAN BE SAINT ANTHONY
AND RUN A "LOST AND FOUND,"
IF YOU'RE INTO TORTURE
SAINT AGNES WAS RENOWNED.

MARY MAGDALENE IS PERFECT
FOR THE HOOKER WITH A DREAM.
WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE
NOTHING'S TOO EXTREME.

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

SR. HUBERT. Alright, girls bring it down. Bring it down.

(Back-up singing continues softly.)

Listen to me now, good people. When you leave here
tonight *(today)* we want you to go home and pick
a saint – so that you can get *downwwwwwn!* – to get
uuuuuuuuup! – and get out on that road to heaven!
Alright, put your hands together!

(SR. HUBERT leads hand-clapping.)

Now, can I get an "A-men?"

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT. A-men!

SR. HUBERT. A-men!

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT. A-men!

SR. HUBERT. A-A-men!

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT. A-A-men!

SR. HUBERT. A-A-men!

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT. A-A-men!

ALL.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN
CAUSE I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I THANK GOD ALMIGHTY
THAT I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

SR. HUBERT. One more time!

ALL.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOW.
I FEEL LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN
CAUSE I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU.
I'VE GOT THE SPIRIT NOOOOOOOOWWWW.

SR. HUBERT.

I FEEL LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN -

(SR. HUBERT riffs as we hear the others shouting such things as "Praise the Lord." "Sing it, Sister" etc.)

I SAID, I FEEL LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN -

SR. ROBERT ANNE. Why, Sister? Why?

SR. HUBERT.

BECAUSE -

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT. Why?

SR. HUBERT.

BECAUSE -

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT. Why?

SR. HUBERT.

BECAUSE I AM HOLIER -
THAAAAAAAAAAAAANNNNN

SR. HUBERT.

THOU!

ALL BUT SR. HUBERT.

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU,

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU,

I'M HOLIER THAN THOU,

ALL.

HOLIER THAN THOU! YOW!

(Music Cue 31: NUNSENSE [REPRISE])

ALL.

TURN UP THE SPOTLIGHT,

CAUSE WHEN WE GOT LIGHT

ALL THAT WE CAN SAY IS

"IT REALLY HAS BEEN FUN,

THANK-YOU EACH AND EVERYONE."

IT'S TIME TO END OUR PLAY!

BY THE WAY,

GOD BLESS YOU EACH DAY!"

(Music Cue 32: BOWS AND EXIT MUSIC)

END ACT TWO

COSTUME PLOT

All five actresses wear the habit of "The Little Sisters of Hoboken" consisting of:

- Black tights
- Black long sleeve T-shirt
- Black orthopedic oxford shoes
- Black tunic with breast pocket
- Black belt buckled in the back
- Rosary hung from the left side of the belt
- Black scapular
- White guimpe (bib collar)
- White wimple (headpiece)
- Black veil lined with white*

The Reverend Mother wears a crucifix that hangs just below the guimpe (bib collar). The cord on the crucifix goes under the guimpe.

If glasses are worn to give added character to any of the nuns, they should be of plain design, with the "arms" worn inside the wimple.

Any additional "costume" pieces are listed under "props."

*The novice, SISTER MARY LEO, wears an all-white veil.

SUGGESTED SET DRESSING

Statues of Mary and Joseph

"Grease" Logo hung upstage

Jukebox upstage center

24" Stool placed stage right of juke box

School trash can placed stage left of juke box

Large poster of James Dean

Large poster of Marilyn Monroe (in swimsuit with velcro tags for adding skirt)

Easel with poster announcing "Little Sisters of Hoboken Benefit"

Easel skirt with velcro used used to cover Marilyn Monroe

Lunch counter on rolling platform with 2 or 3 stools. Back of lunch counter painted to look like the rear end of a car. It should have drop down door on the back with a shelf inside to hold Baking Scene items.

Small bed with spread and pillows

One or two sets of lockers

Wall phone or pay phone

Electric school bell or large handbell

Additional items can include things like a fire extinguisher, appropriate school signage, and posters.

HAND PROPS

Quiz Questions on 3x5 cards (SR. AMNESIA)
3 quiz prizes per performance (SR. AMNESIA)
Bathrobe (SR. LEO)
Pointe Shoes (SR. LEO)
Bedroom Slippers to cover pointe shoes (SR. LEO)
Large Funnel With Elastic attached to wear under the veil to create The Witch (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Witch's Broom (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Lilacs with Gift Card (SR. LEO)
Small paper bag with "Rush" bottle inside (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Chef's Hat with elastic chin strap for "Dying Nun" sequence (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Chef's Hat for Baking with the BVM (REV. MOTHER)
3 Aprons for Baking with the BVM (REV. MOTHER, SRS AMNESIA & HUBERT)
Dying Nun Hat (SR. LEO)
Sister Mary Annette puppet (SR. AMNESIA)
Plastic Fruit hung on Wire Headband (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Maracas (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Small Book entitled "The Understudy" (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Shopping bag weighted to appear to have shoes inside (SR. HUBERT)
Summons from the New Jersey Board of Health (REV. MOTHER)
Large "Baking with the BVM" Cookbook (SR. AMNESIA)
Homemade Crooked Wooden Bookstand (SR. AMNESIA)
Wooden Ruler with a belt clip attached (SR. AMNESIA)
"Clicker" (REV. MOTHER)
Keys on a belt clip (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
Feather Boa (SR. ROBERT ANNE)
2 Featehr Fans (SRS. AMNESIA & LEO)

BLACKPANEL

BULLETIN BOARD

BULLETIN BOARD

ORCHESTRA

SOLOISTS

SEAT

STAND

COUNTER

JURY BOX

STILL

TRASH CAN

PAYPHONE

STAIRS TO AUDIENCE

MOUNT SAINT SCHOOL

Set Design by Barry Axtell

Set Design



Close up of stool, jukebox, and trash can



Front of lunch counter

*Photos courtesy of author

Set Design



Back of lunch counter
*Photo courtesy of author

Set Design



*Photo courtesy of author

DAN GOGGIN (Book, Music & Lyrics) came to New York from Alma, Michigan to study as a classical countertenor. He began his professional career singing in the Tony award-winning Broadway production of *Luther* starring Albert Finney. While appearing in a comic folk-duo called "The Saxons" he began writing. This led to scores for the off-Broadway musical, *Hark!* (in which he also appeared), the Broadway production of *Legend* and two revues. Goggin received the 1986 Outer Critics' Circle Awards given to *Nunsense* for Best Musical, Best Book, and Best Music. *Nunsense* and *Nunsense 2: The Second Coming*, both starring Rue McClanahan have been recorded for the A&E Television Network. *Nunsense 3: The Jamboree* toured the U.S. starring Georgia Engel and has been recorded for television at the Grand Ole Opry starring Vicki Lawrence. *Nunsense A-Men!* opened at the 47th Street Theatre in New York in June 1998 and has since been produced with *Laugh-In's* Arte Johnson, impressionist Frank Gorshin, and Olympic Champion Greg Louganis. *Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical* premiered in October 1998, followed by a national tour starring Dody Goodman, Jeff Trachta and Dawn Wells. *The Nuncrackers* television special playing on the PBS network starring Rue McClanahan with guest star John Ritter, received an Emmy nomination for Best Musical Score. *Meshuggah-Nuns: The Ecumenical Nunsense* premiered in September 2002 and is currently out on DVD. The All-Star touring production of *Nunsense* featuring Kaye Ballard, Georgia Engel, Mimi Hines, Darlene Love and Lee Meriwether marked the 20th anniversary of the original show. In 2004 Dan's "serious piece" *The Traditional Latin Mass* was recorded by cast members and friends. In 2005, *Nunsensations: The Nunsense Vegas Revue* premiered, and in 2008 there was a national tour starring Sally Struthers. In 2009, *Sister Robert Anne's Cabaret Class (A one-nun musical)* and *Nunset Boulevard: The Nunsense Hollywood Bowl Show* opened. Most recently, the original *Nunsense* celebrated it's 30th Anniversary with the Mega-Nunsense version featuring a cast of 60 in the Saint Louis Muny's 11,000 seat amphitheatre. www.nunsense.com.

Rentals/Sales of Little Sisters of Hoboken nun habits, rosaries, the "dying nun Hat," the sister Mary Annette puppet, show prizes, DVDs, CDs, and gift items are available from Nunsense/Nunstuff, Route 9-D, Garrison, NY 10524. Phone: 1-800-YES-NUNS. www.nunsense.com