

An amateur production by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd. on behalf of Music Theatre International of New York

ST ALBANS MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

(formerly St Albans Operatic Society)

presents



A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY

Music by **Alan Menken** Lyrics by **Glenn Slater**
Book by **Cheri Steinkellner & Bill Steinkellner**

Additional Book Material by **Douglas Carter Beane**

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

8th - 12th November 2016

Evenings at 7.45pm & Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

Box Office: 01727 844488



The Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans AL1 3LD
www.alban-arena.co.uk

Sister Act...

...tells the hilarious story of Deloris Van Cartier, a disco diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder. Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found - a Convent! Disguised as a nun and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own!

For everyone's enjoyment

We want you to enjoy the performance to the full so, as a courtesy to both audience and cast, please switch off all mobile phones and electronic devices. Video or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited.

Please note: This performance includes smoking, gunshots and strobe lighting
Thank you for your co-operation.



*Including
mobile phones*

Sisters with a whole lotta soul! Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls.

We would like to welcome you to this performance of our latest show Sister Act.

Following on from our hugely successful West End shows, *Grease* and *Hairspray*, we are fortunate enough to have the same production team for this show, although, Simon Gargrave who was our rehearsal pianist for the aforementioned shows, has now taken up the baton to Musically Direct this show, and an amazing job he has done, which will be apparent to you in approximately 15 minutes time!

We are also delighted to have Alan Cox direct for us once again and we are confident that you will all be equally blown away by his direction for this show as you have been in the past.

Sister Act is a show which embraces intrigue, religion, a love story (loosely) and a huge amount of humour. You could say it's about 'nuns with a different habit'! Set in the 1970's, (and for those of us 'young' enough to remember the 70's) it brings back memories of the fashion, dance styles and music genre of that era!

So please, sit back and enjoy the electrifying choreography of Matt Fowler, which will hopefully have you all dancing in aisles (if not the streets!) and the mind blowing performances of our exceptionally talented cast.

Thank you for joining us and enjoy your evening



Jane Foufas
Chairman SAMTC

Alan Cox - Director

Alan makes a welcome return to the Company as our director. He was previously responsible for directing our productions of *Sweeney Todd*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Follies*, *Grease* and, last year's critically acclaimed and sell-out blockbuster, *Hairspray*. He has also directed numerous productions for Watford Operatic at the Palace Theatre including: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Boyfriend*, *Cabaret*, *Mack & Mabel*, *West Side Story*, *Kiss me, Kate*, *Annie*, *Chess*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Gypsy*, as well as many productions for other societies. Alan is also actively involved with the Pump House Theatre Company in Watford, where he has directed many plays - *Equus*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Teechers*, *Lend me a Tenor*, *Dead Funny*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *God of Carnage* and *The*

Happiest Days of your Life, being some of his favourites.

He has also directed many of their award-winning drama festival productions, all of which have won copious awards, including best director. On many occasions his productions have reached the finals of the All England Drama Festival. Alan has also adjudicated the Bushey and South West Herts Drama Festival on more than one occasion.

"I was lucky enough to attend the opening press night of *Sister Act* at the Palladium in 2009 and enjoyed it so much I booked tickets again the next day. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to direct what is such a joyous, fun and uplifting show. To have secured such an amazing cast, led by the 'fabulous' and uber talented Vivienne as Deloris, still blows my mind. A big thank you to everyone backstage and, to Si and Matt, you guys are just the best. I really hope you enjoy the show as much as we have all enjoyed working on it".

Following *Sister Act*, Alan will be directing *The Pitmen Painters* at the Pump House Theatre in Watford, and will be back with us next November to direct *West Side Story*.



Simon Gargrave - Music Director

Simon is an all round musician, an experienced performer, composer and teacher. He teaches the piano for Hertfordshire Music Service, privately, and accompanies dance classes and a choir. Simon regularly plays timpani and percussion with local orchestras. As a concert pianist he has performed concertos by *Beethoven*, *Mozart* and *Grieg*. His compositions include a number of short orchestral pieces and film scores that have been received favourably by players and audiences alike. Simon has played in the theatrical pit for a wide range of shows including *Les Miserables*, *Hairspray* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, a production that was also staged at the Edinburgh Fringe. Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* marked his Musical Director debut followed by *Annie*, *The Wiz*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* and *Seussical* to name a few. *Sister Act* is Simon's first show as Musical Director for SAMTC.



Matt Fowler - Choreographer

Matt is delighted to be back on a SAMTC production team exactly 10 years after he first worked with them. That was '*West Side Story*' which he choreographed and played the role of Tony. In the interim he has directed/choreographed both '*42nd Street*' and '*Kiss Me, Kate*' and choreographed '*Sound of Music*' for SAMTC as well as directing for other local societies and production companies. Favourites include '*The Last 5 Years*' and '*I Love You Because*' for Brilliant Productions, '*Little Shop of Horrors*' for Watford Operatic, '*13*' and '*Miss Saigon: School Edition*' for Drama Spectrum and '*Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens*' for Cassio Operatic.

Matt also works as a teacher, teaching dance at Stagecoach Harpenden and teaching the Teen Actors for Drama Spectrum in Bushey.

Matt feels he was the perfect choice for this show having played the role of Jesus in '*Superstar*' earlier this year. He is totally down with Nuns!



Charlotte Gregory - *Mother Superior*

Previous roles for SAMTC include Sally Durant (*Follies*); Mrs Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*); Katisha (*Hot Mikado!*); Nellie Forbush (*South Pacific*); Muzzy Van Hossmere (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*); Lilli Vanessi (*Kiss me, Kate*); Ado Annie (*Oklahoma!*) and the title roles in *Calamity Jane* and *Hello Dolly*. Other favourite roles include Miss Hannigan (*Annie*); Florence (*Chess*); The Lady (*Blues in the Night*); and the Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*). Charlotte is the vocalist in the Jazz Goats, performing recently at the Royal Opera House and The V & A for the Oliviers www.jazzgoats.co.uk.

Vivienne Ekwulugo - *Deloris*

Vivienne is excited to be a part of this SAMTC production. The role of Deloris Van Cartier has been a wonderful opportunity and she is grateful for the chance to portray such a fun and iconic role. Vivienne's experiences include the role of Ms Sherman in City Academy's production of *Fame*, she was a finalist on BBC Radio 2 *Sold on Song* and has written and recorded three studio albums. One of these was co-written and produced by composer Richard Allain. When she is not on the stage, Vivienne is a Doctor of Education at a London university and also teaches Psychology in secondary education.



Stefanie Chadburn - *Tina*

Stefanie is delighted to be performing once again with SAMTC as she embarks on her third show with the company. She made her debut as Jan in their production of *Grease* and has not looked back since, enjoying playing the role of Penny Pingleton last year in *Hairspray* just as much! In addition to these roles Stefanie has previously performed in a range of shows, including principle dancer in *Fame*, *Barnum*, *Copacabana* and titled roles in *Summer Holiday*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *Stag's and Hen's*.

When Stefanie is not rehearsing, she enjoys sharing her love of dance with children of all ages as a Physical Education teacher. Stefanie has had fun balancing her two roles in *Sister Act*, as well as taking on the challenge of Dance Captain!

Julian Evans - *Curtis*

Julian trained at Mountview theatre school and has worked in TV, film and theatre. His past roles include Fred in *Kiss Me, Kate*, Colonel Fairfax in *Yeoman of the Guard*, Dick Dauntless in *Ruddigore*, Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*, Curly in *Oklahoma*, Bill Sykes in *Oliver!* and Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He works today as a corporate actor presenter.



Aditi Sawjani - *Michelle*

Aditi joined the musical theatre scene in 2010. This is her third show with SAMTC, having previously played Marty in *Grease* (2015) and a Dynamite in *Hairspray* (2015). Other favourite roles include Dorothy in *The Wiz* (Ruislip Operatic Society (ROS), 2014) for which she was NODA nominated for Best Female Lead, and more recently again with *Vivo D'Arte* (2016). Aditi has also played Tina in *Sister Act* (ROS, 2015), Bet in *Oliver!* and Kate in *Half a Sixpence* (2012) (both Harrow Light Opera Company). Outside of the arts, Aditi is a lawyer at Fladgate LLP in central London, specialising in commercial real estate.



Adam Feighoney - *Joey*

This is Adam's second appearance for St Albans Musical Theatre Company, having previously appeared as Sonny in *Grease* 2 years ago. He has performed with a number of other companies, with particular highlights as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet* and the school edition of *Les Miserable*. His favourite experience has been performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival twice with 2 brand new shows. First in a pirate musical which received 4 star reviews and the second in a time travelling musical where they sold out on 2 occasions. He is really looking forward to returning to the Alban Arena stage.



Patrick Rufey – Pablo

Patrick trained at the Guildhall school of Music and Drama. Performance Credits include: 'Tiny Tim' 'Scrooge', 'Young Cratchet' the RSC Adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol', 'Orin' *Little Shop of Horrors*, 'Will' The UK Premier of *The Musical Tails of Robin Hood*, 'Fredrick' *Broadway Pirates* 'Valjean' *Les Miserables*, 'Nanki Poo' *The Mikado*, 'Robert' *Company*, Bobby *Crazy For You*, 'Jack' *Into The Woods*, 'Arthur' *The UK Premier of Fast Food*, Nicely Nicely Johnson the UK Fringe Premier of *Guys & Dolls*, 'Robert' *Company* 'Billy' *42nd Street*, 'Alex' *Aspects Of Love*, Actor Newsrevue TV Credits include: 'The Bill', 'The Vicar of Dibley' & 'Darren' in the 1999 BBC Drama 'Hope & Glory'.

Oliver Sutton-Izzard - TJ

Oliver first took to the stage in SAMTC's production of *Oliver Twist* when he was nine years old and has been performing ever since. Originally training at the Act Now! Academy of Performing Arts, he has regularly appeared in shows all over St. Albans throughout his life. Some of his favourite and most memorable roles have been Marius in *Les Misérables*, Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*, Dakin in *The History Boys* and Garry Lejeune in *Noises Off* - most recently performing in SAMTC's production of *Hairspray* as Joey. However, he can also be found working as a Team leader at Waitrose!



Justin Jeffreys – Eddie

Justin's prayers were answered the day he found out he Could Be That Guy and he is beyond thrilled to be back at the Alban Arena in his second show for St Albans Musical Theatre Company, having previously played Corny Collins in *Hairspray* last year. His previous show credits include Mark in *RENT*, Oscar in *Sweet Charity*, Princeton in *Avenue Q*, Schlomo in *Fame*, Warner in *Legally Blonde*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Bud in *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, Cliff in *Cabaret* and Michael in *The Witches of Eastwick*. By day he works as a Publicity Manager for ITV.



Tony Bradburn – Monsignor O'Hara

After a lifetime of pleasure in amateur musical theatre in Harrow, Newcastle (Staffs), Stoke on Trent, Congleton, and Hemel Hempstead, Tony joined St Albans Musical Theatre Company in 2010 to sing chorus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Since then he has played a number of fun character parts in *Guys and Dolls*, *Annie*, *Follies*, *Oliver!*, *Kiss me, Kate*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and now *Sister Act*. Thanks SAMTC for the music. Tony's next role will be as Mr Badger at the Abbey Theatre production of *Wind in the Willows* next Christmas.

Andrea Campusano – Sister Mary Patrick

This production of *Sister Act* marks Andrea's fourth production with SAMTC and she is delighted to be back playing such a great role! Previous roles include, Addapearle (*The Wiz*), Shelley - Nicest Kid (*Hairspray*), Frenchie (*Grease*), Young Sally (*Follies*), Amalia Balash (*She Loves Me*), Ursala (*Sweet Charity*), Tessie Tura (*Gypsy*). When Andrea isn't performing, she is still found in the rehearsal room! She has choreographed over thirty five musicals for various companies including West Herts Youth Music, Tring Festival Company, Court Theatre Ltd, St. Albans Youth Music and Vivo D'arte. She is currently setting up the costume hire department in conjunction with Vivo D'arte.



Lizzie Tatton – Sister Mary Robert

Lizzie, born and bred in Somerset has always loved performing and trained in musical theatre at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Now living in Harpenden with her husband and cat, she teaches singing, piano and violin and enjoys being part of her church, St Albans Vineyard. She is thrilled to be combining her passions for God and performing in *Sister Act* and to be playing Sister Mary Robert, a character she strongly identifies with. She would like to dedicate this, her first performance with SAMTC, to her parents.

Mary Watkinson – Sister Mary Lazarus

This is Mary's first show with SAMTC and she has thoroughly enjoyed rehearsals with her 'sisters'. Mary has appeared in shows for Harpenden Light Operatic Society for over 30 years, appearing in many principal roles and as part of the chorus. Her most recent principal part was as husband murderer, Felicia Gabriel in *The Witches of Eastwick* - so playing a nun in *Sister Act* has been very different! Learning the part of Sister Mary Lazarus has been fun and Mary is looking forward to show week.



Act 1

Scene 1: Curtis' Nightclub
 Take Me To Heaven..... Deloris, Michelle & Tina
 Fabulous, Baby!..... Deloris, Michelle & Tina

Scene 2: An Alley

Scene 3: Police Station

Scene 4: Queen of Angels Cathedral/Mother Superior's Office
 Here Within These Walls..... Mother Superior & Deloris

Scene 5: The Dining Hall
 It's Good To Be A Nun..... Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert,
 Mary Lazarus & Nuns

Scene 6: A Hallway

Scene 7: Police Station
 When I Find My Baby..... Curtis, Joey, Pablo & TJ

Scene 8: Dive Bar

Scene 9: The Street outside of the bar
 I Could Be That Guy..... Eddie & the homeless

Scene 10: A Hallway
 Here Within These Walls - reprise..... Mother Superior

Scene 11: The Music Room
 Raise Your Voice..... Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert,
 Mary Lazarus & Nuns

Scene 12: In the Church
 Take Me To Heaven..... Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert,
 Mary Lazarus & Nuns

Act 2

Scene 1: A Confessional
 Scene 2: In the Church
 Sunday Morning Fever..... Deloris, Mother Superior,
 Monsignor O' Hara, Eddie, Mary Patrick,
 Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus & Nuns

Scene 3: Curtis' Office
 Take Me To Heaven - reprise..... Deloris & Nuns
 Lady In The Long Black Dress..... Joey, Pablo & TJ

Scene 4: Mother Superior's Office
 I Haven't Got A Prayer..... Mother Superior

Scene 5: Mary Clarence's Room
 Bless Our Show..... Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert,
 Mary Lazarus & Nuns

Scene 6: Changing Room
 The Life I Never Led..... Mary Robert

Scene 7: Eddie's Apartment
 Fabulous, Baby! - reprise..... Deloris, Eddie, Nuns & Fantasy Dancers
 Sister Act..... Deloris

Scene 8: Outside Queen Of Angels
 When I Find My Baby - reprise..... Curtis

Scene 9: Queen of Angels Cathedral
 The Life I Never Led - reprise..... Mary Robert
 Sister Act - reprise..... Deloris, Mother Superior
 Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus & Nuns

Scene 10: Sunday Papal Mass
 Spread The Love Around..... The Company
 Raise Your Voice - reprise..... The Company

There will be a 15 minute interval.

 **Cast** 
in order of appearance:

Mother Superior Charlotte Gregory
 Deloris Vivienne Ekwulugo
 Michelle Aditi Sawjani
 Tina Stefanie Chadburn
 Curtis Shank Julian Evans
 Joey Adam Feighoney
 Pablo Patrick Rufey
 TJ Oliver Sutton-Izzard
 Eddie Souther Justin Jeffreys
 Monsignor O'hara Tony Bradburn
 Sister Mary Patrick Andrea Campusano
 Sister Mary Robert Lizzie Tatton
 Sister Mary Lazarus Mary Watkinson

NUNS Susan Ackroyd, Natasha Baker, Cate Brooks,
 Stefanie Chadburn, Lucy Gardner, Becky Dale, Carla Dell, Annette Jacobsen, Ruth Morley,
 Kate Palmer, Kate Russell, Aditi Sawjani, Joyce Smith, Anna Statt, Lynsey Thomaidis, Karen Thorp,
 Isobel Wiggins

Other roles played by: Charlie Harden, Zodiac O'Neill,
 Howard Penning, Brett Tyrell



Production Team

Directed and Staged by.....Alan Cox
Music Director.....Simon Gargrave
Choreographer.....Matt Fowler
Production Manager.....Joyce Smith
Production Secretary.....Leah Prince
Stage Manager.....Anya Boucher
Deputy Stage Manager.....Buzz Coster
Stage Co-ordinator.....Chris Rook
Assistant Stage Manager.....Mel Adlam
Stage Crew.....Matt Catchpole, Terry Catchpole, David Croom,
Fi Foulkes, Mark Wiggins and Claire Stanley
Sound & Lighting supplied by.....Seventh Wave Audio
Set supplied by.....Scenic Projects
Lighting Desk Operator.....Brian Carroll
Follow Spot Operators.....Maggie Bradburn and Lewis Covey-Crump
Wardrobe.....Jane Foulfas assisted by Rosemary O'Toole
Costumes supplied by.....Dress Circle
Make-up and wigs.....Hannah Robinson and Tricia O'Toole
Props.....Mike Smith and team
Dance Captain.....Stefanie Chadburn
Marketing & Publicity.....Henrietta Wingate-Martin, Howard Salinger and team
Programme.....Graham Blundell, Michael Readman, Paragon Printing
Front of House.....Mary Myers and members and friends of the Company
Rehearsal Accompanists.....Emma Barry, Daniel Ephgrave, Steve Lethbridge, Clive Ogden and Karen Stocker
Rehearsal Prompt.....Jeanne Cavill
Photography.....Michael Readman

Many thanks to: The Alban Arena, Garden Fields JMI School and IBI Ltd for the Sister Act sign

Orchestra

Conducted by Simon Gargrave

Reed 1.....Phil Wayman
Reed 2.....Andy Stewart
Trumpet 1.....Paul Sutton
Trumpet 2.....Flis Kirk
Trombone.....Fred Slide
Keys 1.....Clive Ogden
Keys 2.....Graham Thomson
Keys 3.....Daniel Ephgrave
Guitar.....Dez Moss
Bass.....Gareth Covey-Crump
Drums.....Les Arnold
Percussion.....James Pickford