



2013

It was “Nunsense” – And The Audience Laughed to Tears

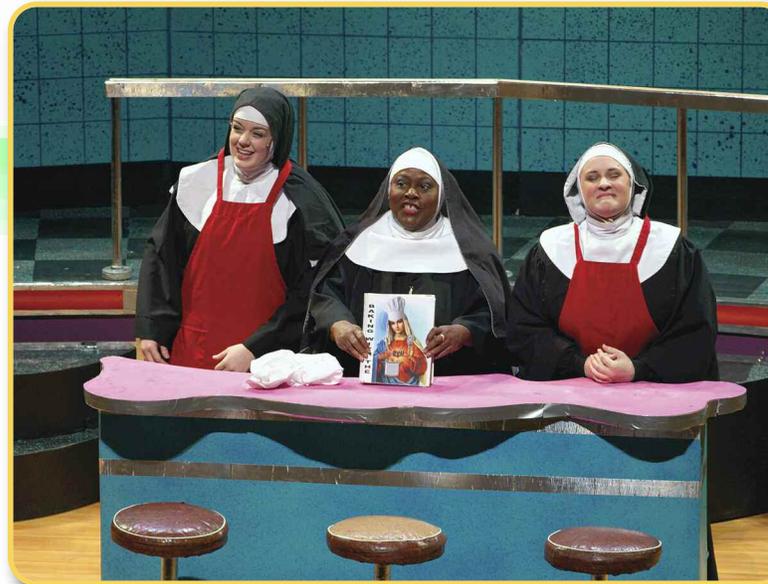
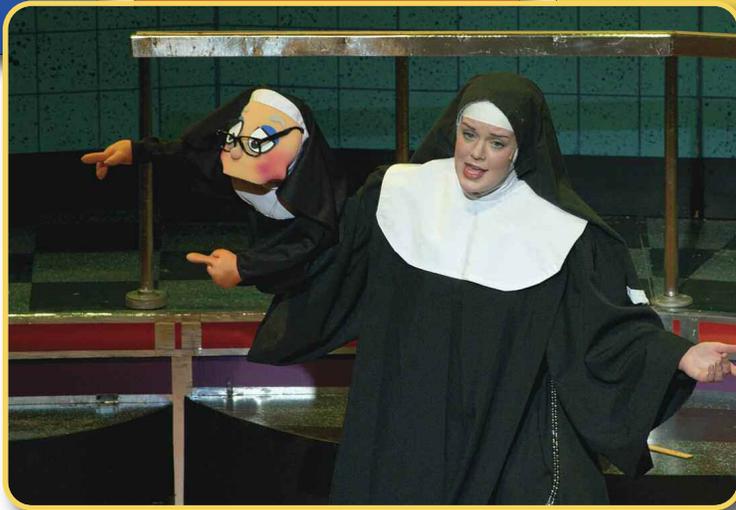
The Nuns took charge of the stage in Little Theatre with the song, dance and comedy hit “Nunsense” following the Awards Banquet.

Written in 1985 by Dan Goggin, “Nunsense” holds the record for the second-longest running off-Broadway Musical. This musical for the KRWA conference was directed by Kathryn Hauptman, who is director of The Forum Theatre in Wichita, producer of the show.

“Nunsense” tells the story of five nuns working to raise money for another sister’s burial. Though that may seem like a heavy topic, the musical is full of catchy numbers and plenty of humor. This presentation was affectionately irreverent, slightly risqué and ridiculously entertaining. Audience members were at time wiping tears from their eyes because of some of the complete nonsense of Nunsense.

“Nunsense” was headlined by Karla Burns, a Tony-nominated Wichita State alumna, in the role of Mother Superior. Burns, the first African-American woman to win London’s Olivier Award, displayed her international and Broadway experience ... showing what it’s like to be a





“mother superior” — to be in charge, admired, honored, but also to be humble. WSU alumna Sarah Gale McQuery played Sister Mary Hubert and current student Emily Pirtle played Sister Mary Amnesia. Cary Hesse, as Sister Robert Anne, and Stacy Farthing, as Sister Mary Leo, rounded out the cast.

Forum music director Tim Raymond played the piano and led an unseen combo backstage to accompany the sisters and occasionally pop up in a window as “Father Tim” to provide a straight man for a one-liner. The sprawling set was designed by Craig Green to look like a gym where students are preparing to perform “Grease,” complete with a painted floor, a soda counter and fountain.



In introducing the show, producer and director Hauptman commented, “You don’t need to be Catholic to identify with the nuns as teachers, mentors — people who have

influenced us, and shaped us yet did so in a way that is memorable and lovable. They are nuns but they are also real people, somewhat quirky and fun, but real and we love them all the more for it.”

The show was simply great fun — brilliantly presented by an astonishingly talented cast playing some very eccentric characters. It was an incredible production for the 46th Annual KRWA conference. And the audience showed their appreciation with a rousing standing ovation.

