

THEATRE RHINOCEROS *PUBLIC RELATIONS* – E MAIL – jtally@therhino.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2019..

For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:

Video: <https://youtu.be/Q3fMcczyzjE>

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Theatre Rhinoceros presents...

SISTER ACT – THE MUSICAL*

Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Glenn Slater, Book by Bill & Cheri Steinkellner. Additional book material by Douglas Carter Beane.

Directed and Choreographed by AeJay Mitchell

May 17-June 1, 2019

Limited Engagement - 3 Weeks Only! - 15 Performances.

Opening Night: Sun., May 19 - 7:00 pm (Reception to follow)

Gateway Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111

www.TheRhino.org

****SISTER ACT replaces previously announced ACTION HERO by John Fisher, which will be performed June 6-July 6, 2019 at the Phoenix Theatre (414 Mason St. in SF)***

SYNOPSIS:

Disco diva wannabe Deloris Van Cartier is placed in a convent through a witness protection program, after witnessing a murder committed by her former gangster boyfriend, Curtis Shank. As he tries to locate her, Deloris begins to chafe at the constraints of convent life and, much to the dismay and disapproval of Mother Superior, has a liberating influence on the convent's choir and other nuns. The success of the choir, under Deloris's direction, brings publicity and much-needed financial support to the convent; but it also alerts Shank about Deloris's whereabouts. As Shank and his goons close in on the convent, it looks like only a miracle will save Deloris. Come see *Sister Act* get The Rhino touch. Will the wanders and surprises never cease?

Shows are at **Gateway Theatre, 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) SF, CA 94111**

– Embarcadero BART **Tickets are \$20- \$60** and available at

https://therhino.audience1st.com/store/12?show_id=42

or 1-800-838-3006. (All Previews are pay-what-you-wish at the door.)

Sister Act features Bay Area Actors: Abraham Baldonado, Abigail Campbell, Joyce Domanico-Huh, Jarrett Holley, Kim K. Larsen, Crystal Liu, Paul Loper, Lisa McHenry, Claire Pearson, JC Quimpo, Jasmine Robinson, Anna Smith, Branden Noel Thomas,* Dee Wagner.

***Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.**

Tech Credits:

David Draper (Costume Designer); **Tammy L. Hall** (Music Director), **Colin Johnson and Sean Keehan** (Lighting Designers); **Erik Flatmo** (Set Designer); **AeJay Mitchell** (Director and Choreographer); **Isaac Traister** (Stage Manager).

Performance Dates: May 17-June 1 2019

Previews (3) Fri., May 17- 8:00 pm (No Press at Previews Please)
Sat., May 18 - 3:00 pm
Sat., May 18 - 8:00 pm

Opening Night: Sun., May 19, 2018 - 7:00 pm (Reception to follow)

Perf. Dates & Times: Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. - 8:00 pm
Sat. Matinees - 3:00 pm
Tue., May 28 – 7pm (only Tuesday performance)

Individual performance dates are: May 17-June 1 2019

May 17, 2019	- Fri. - 8:00 pm (Preview)
May 18	- Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm (Preview)
May 18	- Sat. - 8:00 pm (Preview)
May 19	- Sun. – 7:00 pm (Opening night)
May 22, 23, 24	-Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 8:00 pm
May 25	- Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
May 25	- Sat. - 8:00 pm
May 28	- Tue. 7:00pm
May 29, 30, 31	- Wed., Thurs., Fri. - 8:00 pm
June 1	- Sat. Matinee - 3:00 pm
June 1	- Sat. - 8:00 pm (Closing night)

To arrange an interview with directors or any of the actors or for additional info, contact **Joe Tally** – 510-506-4924 jtally@therhino.org

Bios:

AeJay Mitchell (Director) was nominated for a Best Choreography Award by the Bay Area Critics Circle Awards for his work on *Priscilla* in 2017. The current Director of Theatre at Contra Costa School of Performing Arts, they more recently directed the World Premiere of Kheven LaGrone's *The Legend of Pink* for Theatre Rhino with critical applause. AeJay is a company member of Black Artists Contemporary Cultural Experience, where had the privilege to play in the language of Robert O'Hara in BOTH *Bootycandy* and *American Maul* at BRAVA! Bay Area theatre credits Include: Actor 4/Another Black Man in *We Are Proud To Present...*(San Jose

Stage Company); Kemi in *Rose in America* (Alter Theatre Ensemble); Miss Roj/Kid/Narrator in *Colored Museum*, E-Mem in *X-Tigone*, and Borraccio in *Much Ado About Nothing* (African American Shakespeare Theatre Company); Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q* (NCTC); Gibbs in *Dogfight* (SF Playhouse); Tobias Twitch in *Something for the Boys* (42nd Street Moon); C.C. White in *Dreamgirls* (Broadway by the Bay); Scarecrow in *The Wiz*, Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* and Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls* (Berkeley Playhouse); and Jonathan Harker in *Dracula* (Inferno Theatre).

Alan Irwin Menken (Composer) is an American musical theatre and film score composer and pianist. Menken is best known for his scores for films produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios. His scores for *The Little Mermaid* (1989), *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), *Aladdin* (1992), and *Pocahontas* (1995) have each won him two Academy Awards. He also composed the scores for *Little Shop of Horrors* (1986), *Newsies* (1992), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1996), *Hercules* (1997), *Home on the Range* (2004), *Enchanted* (2007), *Tangled* (2010), and *Sausage Party* (2016), among others. He is also known for his work on musical theatre works for Broadway and elsewhere. Some of these are based on his Disney films, but other stage hits include *Little Shop of Horrors* (1982), *A Christmas Carol* (1994) and *Sister Act* (2009).

Menken has collaborated with such lyricists as Howard Ashman, Tim Rice, Glenn Slater, Stephen Schwartz and David Zippel. With eight Academy Award wins (four each for Best Score and Best Song), Menken is the second most prolific Oscar winner in the music categories after Alfred Newman, who has nine Oscars. He has also won eleven Grammy Awards, a Tony Award and other honors.

Glenn Slater (Lyricist) is an American lyricist who collaborates with Alan Menken and other musical theatre composers. He was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Original Score for the Broadway version of *The Little Mermaid* at the 62nd Tony Awards in 2008, his second Tony nomination for *Sister Act* at the 65th Tony Awards in 2011, and his third Tony nomination for *School of Rock* at the 70th Tony Awards in 2016. Slater was born in Brooklyn, New York. Raised in East Brunswick, New Jersey, he graduated from East Brunswick High School as part of the class of 1986; he became interested in drama while at high school after an unsuccessful effort as a songwriter with a band.^[1] In 1990, he graduated from Harvard University where he composed Hasty Pudding Theatricals' 141st production, *Whiskey Business*.

Bill Steinkellner and Cheri Steinkellner (Book) are a husband and wife screenwriting duo, known for their work on *Cheers*, *Teacher's Pet*, its film adaptation of the same name, and *Bob*.

Douglas Carter Beane (additional Book material) is an American playwright and screenwriter. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and raised in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, Beane now lives in New York. His works include the screenplay of *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*, and several plays including *The Country Club* and *The Little Dog Laughed*, which was nominated for the 2007 Tony Award for Best Play and *As Bees in Honey Drown*, which ran at New York's Lucille Lortel Theatre in 1997. Beane often writes works with sophisticated, "drawing room" humor. Beane wrote the book for *Xanadu*, a stage musical adaptation of the

1980 film of the same name, for which he received a Drama Desk Award and a Tony nomination.

Theatre Rhinoceros - Founded in 1977, The Rhino is the longest running LGBT theatre in the nation. We develop and produce works of theatre that enlighten, enrich, and explore both the ordinary and the extraordinary aspects of our queer community. Our emphasis is on new works, works about under-represented members of the larger queer community, and revivals of lesser known queer classics.

Over the years Theatre Rhinoceros has received many awards of recognition including: Theatre Rhinoceros Day in the City Proclamation from Mayor Gavin Newsom, State Assembly Certificate of Recognition from Senator Mark Leno, recognitions from Congressperson Nancy Pelosi and Assembly Persons Tom Ammiano and Carole Migden, numerous Cable Car, BATCC and TBA Awards and Nominations, and the GLAAD Media Award for Best LGBT Theatre.

Calendar Editors:

WHAT: ***Theatre Rhinoceros presents...***
SISTER ACT – THE MUSICAL*
Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Glenn Slater, Book by Bill & Cheri Steinkellner. Additional book material by Douglas Carter Beane.

Directed and choreographed by AeJay Mitchell
May 17-June 2, 2019

****SISTER ACT was formerly announced for May 31-July 7.***

SYNOPSIS:

Disco diva wannabe Deloris Van Cartier is placed in a convent through a witness protection program, after witnessing a murder committed by her former gangster boyfriend, Curtis Shank. As he tries to locate her, Deloris begins to chafe at the constraints of convent life and, much to the dismay and disapproval of Mother Superior, has a liberating influence on the convent's choir and other nuns. The success of the choir, under Deloris's direction, brings publicity and much-needed financial support to the convent; but it also alerts Shank about Deloris's whereabouts. As Shank and his goons close in on the convent, it looks like only a miracle will save Deloris. Come see *Sister Act* get The Rhino touch. Will the wonders and surprises never cease?

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PRESS INFO: For press materials and hi-res color press photos, visit:
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Public Service Announcements (PSA's) for

SISTER ACT – THE MUSICAL

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A Theatre Rhinoceros production at the Gateway Theatre in SF.

15 seconds:

Theatre Rhinoceros invites you to see SISTER ACT – THE MUSICAL.

The famous Whoopi Goldberg movie that became the hit musical now gets the Rhino twist when a drag queen singer has to go into hiding as a nun. But she's not the only nun in drag-- not at Rhino!

SISTER ACT plays May 17-June 1 at The Gateway Theatre - 215 Jackson St., (at Battery St.) in San Francisco.

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30 seconds:

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- Directed by AeJay Mitchell

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1 minute:

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