

Nunsense, Actos, Divas Divine

by Paul Myrvold

SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE

Nunsense

So what's funny about nuns? The very sight of a nun in a traditional habit automatically raises certain expectations – chastity, poverty, obedience – certainly. Maybe a bit of severity and rigidity tempered with Christian kindness. So when a nun does something unexpected, out of character, surprising, like wearing red sneakers, joining in a chorus kick line or uttering a mild expletive, we get... voilà!

Comedy! And when it is two full acts of song, dance, jokes and situation (a benefit performance to raise money to bury four dead nuns stored in freezer), we get *Nunsense*, a very entertaining show even the Pope could enjoy. Well, maybe not *this* Pope. JP II? I think so.

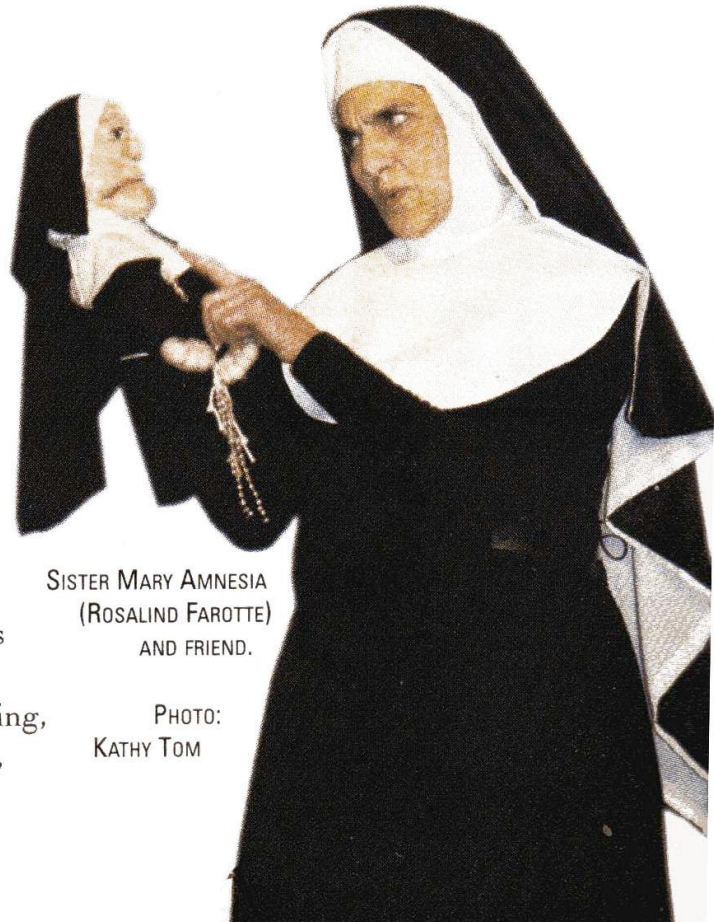
As Sister Mary Regina, mother superior of the Little Sisters of Hoboken, **Carol Harris** is comically stern, occasionally befuddled and hilariously stoned when she inadvertently sniffs a controlled substance. **Betsy Andrade** as Sister Mary Robert Anne, she of the red sneakers, a tough girl from Canarsie (that's in Brooklyn for you left-coasters) just wants to be a star and she gets her moment to shine in "I Just Want to be a Star."

Rosalind Farotte is endearing as the semi-detached Sister Mary Amnesia. My seatmate for the evening, the product of a Catholic education,

assures me that Ms. Farotte's character, especially in "The Quiz," is entirely authentic. Mildly exaggerated for comic effect of course. **Sandra Lewandowski** as Sister Mary Hubert sang beautifully, as always, especially in the rousing "Holier Than Thou."

Angelic of face and sweet of voice, **Allyson Finn** plays Sister Mary Leo, the "dancing nun." In pink ballet shoes and lamenting the lack of a tutu, she dances her morning prayer and in the second act dances the comic tragedy that struck down the frozen sisters in "Soup's On (The Dying Nun Ballet)." And **Marilyn Guerin** accompanied it all at the piano as Sister Mary Upright.

Nunsense continues through June 14 at Morgan Hill Playhouse.



SISTER MARY AMNESIA
(ROSALIND FAROTTE)
AND FRIEND.

PHOTO:
KATHY TOM