



SINGING SISTERS: The delightful cast of the 25th anniversary revival of *Nunsense* . Photo: Cherry Lane Theatre

Theater Review

25th anniversary revival of *Nunsense*:

Still a habit-forming delight

Nunsense

Written and directed by Dan Goggin

Through July 18, 2010

The Cherry Lane Theatre

38 Commerce Street

(212-239-6200)

www.cherrylanetheatre.com

By Scott Harrah

Dan Goggin's Off-Broadway standard, *Nunsense*, is back for its 25th anniversary revival at the venue where it all began in 1985: The Cherry Lane Theatre.

The story about the Little Sisters of Hoboken, who stage a fundraiser and show off their singing, dancing, comic and storytelling talents, has played throughout the nation and the world. *Nunsense* was written in more innocent times, long before the intense media coverage scrutinizing the Catholic Church. It celebrates and sends up Catholicism in a lighthearted way.

More of a revue with clever jokes than a musical, *Nunsense* contains great performances from Bonnie Lee as the imperious Reverend Mother Mary Regina; Bambi Jones as Sister Mary Hubert, the "Mistress of the Novices;" Maria Montana as Sister Robert Anne; Jeanne M. Tinker as Sister Mary Amnesia (she was hit over the head by a crucifix); and Stephanie Wahl as Sister Mary Leo.

Various types of nuns are exquisitely portrayed here: the joking nun, a streetwise nun from Brooklyn, the ballerina wannabe nun, the ditzy but lovable nun, etc.

Whether you're Catholic or not doesn't matter. The purpose of *Nunsense* is to make us laugh, and it succeeds brilliantly. It makes no profound statement, and never tried to be groundbreaking. A quarter of a century after it originally premiered, *Nunsense* remains a feel-good show that will likely continue to entertain audiences for years to come.

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