

# PLAYBILL®

Mario's Restaurant  
710 Van Houten Ave  
Clifton, NJ



2023

(973) 928-7668

Presented by arrangement with Concord  
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

presents:

# MESHUGGAH-Nuns!



Producer  
Mark Peterson  
Musical Director  
Chick Barnes  
Stage Manager  
Jalmari Vanamo  
Choreographer  
Judi Niebuhr

Written by  
Dan Goggin  
Directed by  
Bill Kaufman

Feb.

25 & 26,  
2023

Mar.

3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12,  
18 & 19, 2023

*Fridays & Saturdays ~7:30 PM | Sundays ~4 PM*

## Dinner & Show: \$55

*Limited Reserved Seating*

Tickets may be reserved online, by phone or mail  
PO Box 4072, Clifton, NJ 07012

[www.theaterleagueofclifton.com](http://www.theaterleagueofclifton.com)

**Mario's Restaurant**  
**710 Van Houten Ave.**  
**Clifton, NJ 07013**



PRESENTS

# **MESHUGGAH-NUNS!**

## **The Ecumenic Nunsense**

by  
Dan Goggin

with

Chris Cantu  
Debra Carozza

Felicia Benson-Kraft  
Kathy Monroe

Melyssa Searcy  
Jalmari Vanamo

**Choreographer**  
Judi Niebuhr

**Producer**  
Mark Peterson

**Stage Manager**  
Jalmari Vanamo

**Musical Director**  
Chick Barnes

**Director**  
Bill Kaufman

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# CAST

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## Cast Members

Sister Mary Regina	.....	Felicia Benson-Kraft
Sister Mary Hubert	.....	Melyssa Searcy
Sister Robert Anne	.....	Debra Carozza
Sister Mary Paul	.....	Kathy Monroe
Howard Liszt	.....	Christopher Cantu
Ship's Purser	.....	Jalmari Vanamo

## Production / Creative

Director	.....	Bill Kaufman
Musical Director	.....	Chick Barnes
Choreographer	.....	Judy Niebuhr
Producer	.....	Mark Peterson
Stage Manager	.....	Jalmari Vanamo
Sets	.....	Ann Bertasso
Props	.....	Wendi Marak Jackie Saunier
Costumes	.....	Jessica Lohsen



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# SONGS

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## ACT I

- Prologue: "Extra! Extra!" ..... The Four Nuns & Howard  
"Anchors Aweigh" ..... The Four Nuns & Howard  
"Contrition (A Song of Guilt)" ..... The Four Nuns & Howard

### **Magic Music Play On – Band**

### **Amnesia's Magic Music – Band**

### **Magic Fanfare – Band**

- "Say It In Yiddish" ..... Howard & Reverend Mother  
"Tevye and Rev." ..... Sisters Robert Anne & Hubert  
"My Ship" ..... Sister Amnesia with Robert Anne & Hubert  
"The Potchky Polka" ..... Howard, Sisters Robert Anne, Amnesia & Hubert

## ACT II

- Opening Act Two – Reprise: "Extra! Extra!" ..... The Four Nuns & Howard  
"A Love Like This" ..... Sister Robert Anne & Howard  
Reprise: "Say It In Yiddish" ..... The Four Nuns & Howard  
"If I Were A Catholic" ..... Howard & The Four Nuns

### **Playoff: If I Were A Catholic – Band**

- "Three Shayna Maidels" ..... Sisters Hubert, Robert Anne & Amnesia  
"Matzo Man" ..... The Four Nuns & Howard

### **Playoff: Matzo Man – Band**

- "Fiddlerspiel" ..... The Four Nuns, Howard & Audience  
"Come Up And See Me Sometime" ..... Sister Mary Annette (Amnesia) & Howard

### **Portuguese Chord – Band**

- "I'll Find A Song To Sing" ..... Sister Robert Anne  
"Rock The Boat" ..... Sister Hubert with Three Nuns & Howard  
Finale- Reprise: "Anchors Aweigh" ..... The Four Nuns & Howard

- Bows & Exit Music** ..... Band

# Who's Who

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## **Bill Kaufman - Director**

Bill is excited to be returning here to direct this show. He last appeared here as King Herod in the outdoor production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and directed "Little Shop of Horrors" to much acclaim. He has been directing and acting on professional and local stages for many years and is proud to say that the passion is very much alive. Many thanks to the producers, cast and crew. Your efforts are always appreciated. Enjoy the show!!!

## **Chick Barnes - Musical Director**

Graduate Connecticut College, retired FA Prudential Securities, retired Music Director Annunciation Church Wayne. Over 30 years MD many North Jersey groups..Star Royale (Rhino Theatre), Pompton Lks; Brundage Park, Randolph; W Milford players, Bela Voce singers, etc. Highlight..60th birthday concert..Chick & Friends @ Weill/Carnegie Hall. Anchors Away Messhugah Nuns.



# Who's Who

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## **Felicia Benson-Kraft**

Mother Superior -Sister Mary Regina

Felicia is pleased to be playing Mary Regina for her third time. Felicia has performed as Mrs. Peacock in CLUE at The Bergen County Players, Mother Superior in the OG, Nunsense, at The Hackensack Theatre Company and has acted, produced and directed numerous theatre productions throughout New Jersey. She would like to thank Bill, for asking. The Cast and Crew, for being so understanding and lovely. My friends and family for always supporting me, putting up with me trying to learn my script and for always showing up...I love you all. This is dedicated to my Grandmama, who passed in July. She would of loved to see me dressed as a nun.....one more time!!

## **Christopher Cantu**

Howard Liszt

Chris has worked most recently with the Hudson Lyric Opera in productions of "La Boheme" and "Cavalleria Rusticana" as well as participating in extensive operatic concerts throughout the years. Chris enjoys spending time with his two amazing children, Annabeth (9) and Michael (7) and is gladly showing them the "ropes" in opera and musical theatre in the hopes that one day, they will be inspired to perform on stage! Chris currently lives in Pearl River, NY with his girlfriend, Gwen, and their Pomeranian dog Jojo!



# Who's Who

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## **Debra Carozza**

Sister Robert Anne

Debra returns to us in Clifton having portrayed Mary Magdalene in our production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" just over a year ago. She then went on to tackle another bucket list role as the Witch in "Into The Woods" for Eccentric Theatre Co. She is excited to be back working with Bill Kauffman, who directed her as Maria in "Comedy of Tenors" for Bergen County Playhouse (just before the pandemic). Debra graduated with a BFA from Adelphi University, and has performed both nationally and internationally. Some of her other favorite roles include Diana in "Next To Normal," Actress 1 in "Working," Karen in "Plaza Suite," and the Narrator in "Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." She grew up in the Catholic school system with nuns from Kindergarten through High School, sung for 2 popes in Rome, Italy, and is currently a cantor at OLPH in Oakland- her character comes from years of studying! Much love goes to her 2 boys, and dedicated to her mom (God rest her soul), she would've laughed...

## **Kathy Monroe**

Sister Mary Paul

Kathy Monroe is thrilled to be in her 1st TLC show! Past roles include Miss Hannigan ("Annie"-Trilogy Repertory), Camila Rosario ("In The Heights"-Defining Moments Theatre Co), Paulette Bonafonte ("Legally Blonde"-Rhino Theatre), & Monette Gentry ("Always a Bridesmaid"-RosenPAC). Thank you Ken, Josie, Jamie, Mom & Dad for the love and support. Yiddish word of the day- BESHERT; ברעשאַב meaning DESTINY.



# Who's Who

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## **Melyssa MD Searcy**

Sister Mary Hubert

Melyssa is elated to once again work with The Theatre League of Clifton as Sr Mary Hubert in this fun filled production of "Meshuggah-NUNS". A New Jersey native born and raised in Newark NJ, she has been singing and dancing from a very young age. At 14 she found her love for theatre. She has her bachelors in business while minoring in theatre and also does backstage and directing as well. She has a very extensive resume. Some of her roles include sister Mary Hubert, "NUNSENSE", Penelope Pennywise, "Urinetown", Leading player "Pippin" Annie Sheps, "IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU"

## **Special Thank You**

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Mario's Restaurant  
Alberto Molina  
Pastor Diane Curtis  
Living Hope Presbyterian  
Michael Healy  
TLC Volunteers



# Glossary

## Yiddish

- Bar Mitzvah — Coming of age ceremony  
Bei Mir Bist Du Shane — To me you are beautiful  
Bialy — Flat, crusty roll  
Boruch — Bless You  
Bris — Ceremony of circumcision  
Chutzpah — Nerve  
Dreidel — A child's spinning top  
Ferklemt — Beside oneself  
Goyem — Non-Jewish people  
Hava Nagila — Traditional Jewish tune  
Kvell — To take extreme pride  
Matzo — A flat cracker used for Passover  
Mazeltov — Congratulations  
Meshuggah — Crazy  
Oy, rachmones — An expression of Sympathy  
Plotz — Have a fit  
Seder — Passover meal  
Shalom — Peace be with you  
Yeshiva — Jewish School  
Yisgadal V'yiskadash — May God be great

## Catholic

- Adoramus te — We adore Thee  
Ave Maria — Hail Mary  
Benedicta tu — Bless you  
Blessed Virgin Mary Blue — Clear sky blue  
Credo in unum Deum — I believe in one God  
Dominus Vobiscum — The lord be with you  
Kyrie — Lord  
Sanctus Dominus Deus — Holy, Lord God

## Portuguese

- Eu mato aquela cachorra — I'm going to #%#\*&\*S!



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