

Synopsis: *Sister Act*

THE
LYRIC STAGE
YOUR THEATRICAL HOME

APR 7 - MAY 14

And then there were nuns.
A divine, feel-good musical comedy.

MUSIC BY
ALAN MENKEN LYRICS BY
GLENN SLATER

BOOK BY
BILL & CHERI STEINKELLNER

WITH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY
DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

DIRECTED BY
LEIGH BARRETT

MUSIC DIRECTOR
DAVID F. COLEMAN

CHOREOGRAPHY BY
DAN SULLIVAN



ACT ONE

On Christmas Eve 1977, disco singer Deloris auditions for a nightclub with her backups ("Take Me To Heaven"). The owner, Curtis – who is also her boyfriend – tells her she's not ready, but promises to get her discovered when she is. He leaves with his henchmen, leaving Deloris with a gift: his wife's blue fur coat. Devastated, Deloris decides to try and make it on her own ("Fabulous, Baby!").

In the alley outside the club, Curtis confronts his thugs; one of them has been reporting to the cops. All four insist on their innocence, but Curtis shoots and kills Ernie right as Deloris walks into the alley. She tries her best to talk her way out of the situation and exits; Curtis sends the remaining thugs after her. At the police station, Deloris reports what she saw to Officer Eddie, who reveals that Ernie was in fact his informant. Eddie

tells her that she needs to testify in order to convict Curtis, but that the police will need to put her in hiding in the meantime.

Eddie brings Deloris to Queen of Angels Cathedral, where the nuns are preparing for Christmas Mass. Monsignor O'Hara informs Mother Superior that someone has made an offer to buy the church, and the Archdiocese is considering it, meaning that the church could be shut down. He also tells her that she will be housing a wayward woman for the police, who are making a generous donation. Upon meeting each other, neither Deloris nor Mother Superior are overjoyed about the situation, but resign themselves to their respective fates. As Deloris tries to bring her worldly comforts into the convent with her, Mother Superior insists that she must live gracefully and with adoration during her stay ("Here Within These Walls").

The nuns gather for Christmas dinner and are interrupted by Deloris as they bow in prayer. Mother Superior has given her a new name, Mary Clarence, and tells the nuns that she has come from another order. Deloris meets her companions: Sisters Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Mary Martin-of-Tours, and the oldest, Mary Theresa. Mother Superior attempts to guide Deloris in prayer, but she botches it and insults the prepared food, leading Mother Superior to order the nuns into ritualized fasting. She leaves, and the sisters share with Deloris their favorite aspects of nunnery ("It's Good to Be a Nun").

Deloris complains to Mother Superior, who responds that God has sent Deloris here for a reason, and she should take the hint. After Mother Superior leaves, Mary Robert mentions the noise and cigarette smoke from the bar across the street, prompting Deloris to go "shut it down" with a hesitant Mary Patrick and Mary Robert in tow. Meanwhile, at the police station, Curtis sees Deloris' fur coat and realizes that she is Eddie's star witness. Eddie is forced to release them, as his only evidence is circumstantial. At the same bar, Curtis assures his cronies that Deloris won't last long wherever she is; she'll miss her old life and come crawling back to him, at which point he will kill her ("When I Find My Baby").

Just then, Deloris and the sisters walk in, all wearing their habits – deeming them virtually unrecognizable by Curtis and the others. Mary Robert and Mary Patrick are initially startled, but begin warming up to the bar when they realize how kind the other patrons are to nuns. They find a jukebox, and one of Curtis' gang members gives Deloris a nickel to start it; she recognizes him, but he does not recognize her. As she is trying to get the sisters to leave, a drag queen in a coat like the one Curtis gave her enters, and the gang mistakes her for Deloris, allowing the sisters and Deloris to escape safely.

Outside the bar, Mother Superior sends Mary Robert and Mary Patrick back to the convent and scolds Deloris before leaving. Eddie tells her that she will need to stay at the convent for a year; Deloris, horrified and convinced that Curtis will find her, storms off, leaving Eddie to ruminate on his persona and his desire to rise above it (“I Could Be That Guy”). Back at the convent, Mother Superior restricts Deloris to working with the choir as her punishment. As she leaves, Monsignor O’Hara arrives, telling Mother Superior that the church will be purchased by the antiques dealers on Sunday after mass. The sisters, he says, will be split up and sent to different parishes, news which devastates Mother Superior (“Here Within These Walls - Reprise”).

At her first practice with the choir, Deloris realizes that they are terribly in need of help. Impressed by her talent, the nuns ask her to teach them how to sing properly. She tells them that singing is more than just ritual and notes – it’s praise and rejoicing. Though unsure at first, the sisters quickly catch on, and they improve by leaps and bounds over the course of the week (“Raise Your Voice”). To the Monsignor’s and the sparse congregation’s delight, and Mother Superior’s terror, Deloris leads the choir in a religious rendition of her standard disco number (“Take Me to Heaven - Nun Choir”). Mother Superior calls Eddie and demands that Deloris be gone by the end of the service.

ACT TWO

At confessional, Mother Superior scolds Deloris for violating a house of worship, and tells her that Mary Lazarus will be resuming directorship of the choir. Then Monsignor O’Hara arrives, telling both of them that the antiques dealers loved Deloris and the choir so much, they decided to donate the money to the church instead of purchasing it. He implores Mother Superior to let Deloris stay, calling them a visionary and a godsend, respectively. Mother Superior begrudgingly agrees to let Deloris lead one hymn per service. Under this arrangement, the services become so popular that the church makes the newspaper and is invited to perform for the Pope (“Sunday Morning Fever”).

In his office, Curtis is threatening a cab driver who he thinks has information about Deloris when he suddenly sees her on the TV. Realizing that the convent is where she is hiding, he lets the cab driver go and tells his men to come up with a plan. They are confident they will be able to womanize their way in (“Lady in the Long Black Dress”). Meanwhile, Mother Superior is still wrestling with her vehement distaste for Deloris’ influence (“I Haven’t Got a Prayer”) but is overjoyed when she gets a call from Eddie – Deloris is no longer safe at the convent, and he is on his way to get her.

The sisters are also restless in their rooms; they are anxious to perform for the Pope, and ask Deloris to lead them in a blessing (“Bless Our Show”). Mother Superior enters and tells Deloris to get her things, revealing Deloris’ true identity – and her own deceit – to the heartbroken nuns. After Deloris leaves, however, Mother Superior finds a bookmarked Bible under her pillow. Mary Robert finds Deloris and asks to come with her, revealing that she doesn’t know whether nunnery is her calling (“The Life I Never Led”). Deloris tells her that only she can make the right choice for herself, and offers her purple boots as a parting gift. In return, Mary Robert gives her a rosary.

Eddie arrives and takes Deloris back to his apartment to hide. There, he reveals that he had his gun taken away because of his anxiety, but that his superiors eventually gave it back to him. Deloris thanks him for his honesty, and Eddie recalls watching her perform in high school, telling her he always had a crush on her and that she’s going to be a star (“Fabulous, Baby - Reprise”). Deloris indulges in this fantasy for a moment, but quickly realizes that it’s no longer what she wants; she misses performing with her sisters (“Sister Act”).

Curtis and his crew prepare to infiltrate the convent (“When I Find My Baby - Reprise”). Inside, Deloris interrupts the choir’s rehearsal and announces that she will be joining them to sing for the Pope. Mother Superior pulls Deloris aside and asks her to leave, reminding her that her presence puts everyone at risk, but Mary Robert steps in and dissents (“The Life I Never Led - Reprise”). Just then the gang breaches the convent, and the nuns scatter, taking them down one at a time. Curtis corners Mary Robert and is ready to shoot her when Deloris appears, telling Mary Robert to run.

Curtis mocks Deloris until Mother Superior suddenly appears, asserting that Deloris is a true sister and putting herself between Curtis and Deloris. He tries to push past her, but one by one, the other nuns step forward and create a protective barrier around Deloris (“Sister Act - Reprise”). As Curtis is about to shoot, Eddie enters and shoots him in the shoulder, then kisses Deloris as Curtis is dragged away. Mother Superior thanks Deloris and asks if she will return after the performance; Deloris says she will, and the two share a moment of understanding before joining the choir to perform for the Pope (“Spread the Love Around”).