





Director's Notes

It feels like a very long time since I was last writing director's notes for a production at Whitchurch High School, with the significant national events of the past two years making their impact known. Thankfully, however, the show must go on, and through the past two years the arts sector has fought to return, and this is no less of an understatement with the Music and Drama departments here in Whitchurch High School. It is a great pleasure to be writing director's notes once more, but even more so because of what it represents; the return to the stage for the Whitchurch High School Upper School Production.

Sister Act is a divine musical comedy and a sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, sisterhood and music based on the hit 1992 film of the same name. It tells the hilarious story of the disco diva Deloris Van Cartier ('as in Cartier') whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a murder. Under protective custody she is hidden in the one place she won't be found – a convent! Disguised as a nun and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own. Featuring original music by Tony and 8-time Oscar winner Alan Menken and songs inspired by Motown, soul and disco, this joyous, feel-good musical is one nostalgia-filled trip that you will never forget.

Rehearsing for any Upper School production is extremely rewarding and valuable, but this musical has taken on new significance for all involved as we have navigated the ever-changing field of restrictions, whilst whole-heartedly relishing being able to be back doing what we love. I am constantly wowed by the dedication of all the pupils involved, from our extremely capable principal leads who are taking on such significant responsibility with the sheer number of musical routines to say the least, to our hard-working and reliable ensemble, always keen to step up to any role asked of them. Not to mention the back-stage crew who have been so eager to get back into the process too – they traditionally have to wait the longest until their 'call time' and the number of emails and requests to start attending have been noticeably increased this year! This is yet another production carried by a hard-working family of young actors, singers and crew who have dedicated themselves and given freely of their time to create the production you are about to watch.

I must also take the time to thank all of the staff, volunteers, and sponsors this year who have worked so hard, and contributed in a variety of ways to help bring this production to stage. As the musical sings of sisterhood, you cannot help but see the parallels of community and support amongst all those involved in the process.

Although this is now the third upper school production, I have been lucky enough to direct at Whitchurch High School since joining in 2013, in many ways it always feels like your first; the rush of excitement and emotion, the new challenges, joys and tiredness(!), and the surge of pride when the pupils hit the stage! I am so thankful to be back at it with our musical director and my friend Lara Jones Price, and once again want to thank my colleagues in the Drama Department for their help and support (and cups of tea!).

Please forgive any sploshes of water on this entry, the room may perhaps have grown dusty, and the emotions have been high. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, our valued (and much missed) audience, to Sister Act; brace yourselves Sisters!

Rachel Leonard

Hallelujah, we are back!

Deciding on the next school musical is always a difficult decision but 'Sister Act' was always a top contender, and we knew that it had the potential to be a great follow up to 'We Will Rock You'. Alan Menken has written an energetic and infectious score, with a mix of Motown, soul and disco and it will most definitely leave you singing in your seats. The mix of voices is well suited for our current cohort of students and I'm extremely proud of what we will share with you this evening.

The putting on of a musical is a huge undertaking which involves dedication and commitment from so many. I continue to be swept away by the power of the Whitchurch High school community and how our students commit to our busy rehearsal schedule. The cast, crew and staff have worked tirelessly to bring this story to life for you amidst laughter, excitement, and the pure joy of working together. From early morning singing to late night sectionals, each one of them has played an enormous part in its result.

The performing arts industries have had a particularly difficult time in the pandemic, and we are all aware how much music enriches wellness in our day to day lives and allows us to come together collectively. We are so grateful to finally present a live show with a live band. (Huge thanks to Phil Hurley once again for the amazing tech!)

Sister Act is a story about friendship, and this shines through in the camaraderie amongst all our cast this year. This is also fitting to mention my sidekick and friend, Miss Rachel Leonard who shares in my creative vision and fully supports any crazy ideas I may have. A big thank you also to my music department colleagues whose support is invaluable. We hope you enjoy the show.

Lara Jones Price

STAIR RUNNER

experts and
ROGER OATES

stockists



STAIR RUNNERS

CHOOSE ANY CARPET IN-STORE AND WE CAN MAKE IT INTO A STAIR RUNNER



Full Cast

Deloris Van Cartier (Sister Mary Clarence) - Scarlett Lewis

Mother Superior - Milly Wikeley

Sister Mary Robert - Carrie Taylor

Sister Mary Patrick - Lauren Price

Sister Mary Lazarus - Miranda Holden

Monsignor O'Hara - Rubiee Kirby-Jones

Curtis - Callum Bridge

Eddie - Sam Snook

Pablo - Reuben Turpy

TJ - Gethyn Hunt

Ernie - Evie Howell

Principle Nuns

Sister Mary Grace - Lauren Taylor

Sister Mary Lucretia - Grace Hatch

Sister Mary Theresa - Juliet Triggs

Sister Mary Carmella - Eva Jazani

Sister Mary Ignatius - Lowri Hulson

Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours - Alys Fraser

Sister Mary Agnes - Katie Jenkins

Sister Mary Gertrude - Lily Withers

Sister Mary Clara - Freya Stevenson

Sister Mary Francis - Amelia Francis

Deloris' Dreamgirls

Lauren Taylor

Grace Hatch

Juliet Triggs

Alys Fraser

Cop

Georgia Whiteley

Cab Driver

Emily Cox

Newscaster

Beth Gibbons

Multi-role Ensemble

Sophie Price

Evie Howell

Beth Gibbons

Ruby Hoffer

Emily Cox

Georgia Whiteley

Ella Griffiths

Miri Tyre

Amy Isaac

Jessica Hurley

Kitty Margetts

Band

Conductor/Keyboard 1 - Lara Jones Price

Keyboard 2 - Charlotte Cobner

Drum Kit - Alun Horgan

Percussion - Celi Johnston

Bass - Kyle Jones

Guitar - Paul Goodyear

Reed 1 - Judith Winterbottom

Reed 2 - Kat Klegg

Trumpet 1 - Sian Davis

Trumpet 2 - Michael Triggs

Trombone - Lloyd Pearce

Production Team

Director - Rachel Leonard

Musical Director - Lara Jones Price

Stage Manager - Ffion Harding

Assistant Stage Manager - Elin Chichester and

David O'Rourke

Lighting Design - Stage Lighting Services

Sound Design - Stage Sound Services

Set Construction - Phil Hurley, Mike Williams, David Union

and Barry Slack

Choreography - Rachel Leonard, Scarlett Lewis and

Sophie Webb (JSC Dance)

Programme and Photography - Andrew Rooke

Ticket Sales - Upper and Lower School Offices, Linda

Shepstone

Crew

Izzy Graham, Ellie Owen, Oliver Sayers, Isabelle Cames, Sebastian Brailey, Ellie-Louise Ryan, Sienna Jones, Chloe Ryan, Amelie Carter, Lara Sayers, Eddie Davies, Elin Chichester, Chloe Jenkins, Andrew Nind-McDonald, William Margetts, Joel Hopkins, Luca White, Ellie Williams and George Lewis

Special Thanks

Whitchurch High School Estates Team for their constant support during rehearsals and the week of production.



"You put the boogie into my soul!"



Scarlett Lewis Deloris Van Cartier

I have always been passionate about the theatrical arts and have performed in countless stage dramas, musicals and pantomimes both in the in the UK and Alberta, Canada. I was educated and trained at the Calgary Arts Academy and in Cardiff, attended the Mark Germin Stage School and the Welsh College of Music and Drama. In addition to performing, I enjoy contributing to performances by choregraphing dance routines. I also play the guitar, sing and write songs in my free time. Since joining Whitchurch High School I have been lucky enough to play 'Freddie Mercury' in We Will Rock You and 'Mercutio' in Romeo and Juliet. I'd like to thank the Music and Drama department for the endless support that they have given me over the years. I'm so excited to be playing the iconic role of 'Deloris' in my final school production and hope that you enjoy - stay fabulous baby!

Milly Wikeley Mother Superior

I am currently studying Music, History and Welsh Baccalaureate for A Levels at Whitchurch High School. My love of music has enabled me to be part of the Cardiff & Vale Youth Choir and School Orchestra where I play the double bass. I have been lucky enough to perform in some prestigious musical events that include performing for Dame Shirley Bassey. I have always played an active role within the music and drama departments and am thrilled to be performing in my third production. I play the role of "Mother Soup" (as we've so lovingly nicknamed her!) and so excited I've been given the opportunity to bring my first principal role to life in my final year at school. I am delighted to be offered a place at Leeds Conservatoire studying composition for film, a dream career of mine. I hope you enjoy getting down to the hymns but please, NO moves like Travolta!"



SASTER WHE 2014

Carrie Taylor Sister Mary Robert

This is my second production having played a 'Teen Queen' in the school production of 'We Will Rock You'. I have been a member of Suzanne Scales Performing Arts School since the age of three being involved in productions of Seussical, Bugsy Malone, Cats and this March had the honour of playing Sandy in Grease. I have also participated in the Go Theatre's production of The Little Mermaid at the Sophia Gardens Open Air Festival and Bring Them Home in Cardiff Castle. I have been taking private singing lessons with Louise Ryan for 2 and a half years. I am thrilled to be playing the role of Mary Robert and I think, like the character, I have grown in confidence over the course of the show. I am hugely grateful to the Music and Drama departments, the crew and everyone involved for making this show happen. It's an incredible experience with awesome people and despite the craziness I will miss it. Hope you enjoy!!

Lauren Price Sister Mary Patrick

I have taken part in many different musicals and concerts ranging from professional to amateur. I have workshopped and performed lots of projects at the Wales Millennium Centre including Tiger Bay, where I was a water boy, Roald Dahl's City of the Unexpected, where I played the role of Megan who helped try to save the Giant Peach, and a sewer child in the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang UK Tour. I have also danced as a red squirrel for Welsh National Opera's UK Tour of The Cunning Little Vixen. I began singing lessons with Glenda Pasley at the age of 6 and attend Debbie Chapman Dancers, and Everyman Youth Theatre. This is my second production at Whitchurch High School, the first being We Will Rock You, where I performed as a 'teen queen' which I really enjoyed. There have lots of amazing people who have helped me along the way and I wish to thank them all.





Miranda Holden Sister Mary Lazarus

I am currently studying my A Levels in Music, Drama and Sociology. This is my third production at Whitchurch High School after performing in 'We Will Rock You' and 'Romeo & Juliet'. I have very much enjoyed getting back to performing on stage as it is a great passion of mine and a career I wish to pursue in the future. I am a member of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama's Young Actors Studio and am really looking forward to auditioning for future acting roles. I enjoy playing musical instruments and play piano and percussion. Performing in Sister Act has been a brilliant experience and has brought many happy memories I will take with me after I finish at Whitchurch. I would like to thank the amazing Music and Drama departments for all their support and encouragement over the years, I'll miss you all next year.



Lauren Taylor Sister Mary Grace

I am excited to be performing in my first school production especially after seeing many previous amazing performances. I have been a member of the Suzanne Scale School of Performing Arts since 2011 and performed in 'Cats', 'Bugsy Malone' and am currently playing Rizzo in 'Grease'. I was part of the production 'The Little Mermaid' with Go Theatre at the Cardiff Everyman Open Air Theatre Festival and sung in the choir at Cardiff Castle for the 'Bring Them Home' Concert with Welsh West End stars Lucie Jones and Gruffydd Wyn.



Grace HatchSister Mary Lucretia

I am looking forward to performing in my second school production having previously been in the ensemble for Romeo and Juliet. I have been part of Suzanne Scales Performing Arts School for the past 6 years and performed in both 'Cats' and 'Bugsy Malone'. For the past year I have been a part of Stage Box Kids which allows me to take classes with industry professionals. My singing and dance teachers have helped me grow in confidence and allowed me to really enjoy this year's production. My hobbies include ballet and playing the piano.



Juliet TriggsSister Mary Theresa

I have enjoyed taking part in numerous school concerts over the years, both singing and playing the cornet. I am looking forward to going on tour this summer as a member of the National Youth Choir of Wales. In April I will be competing in the National Youth Brass Band Championships with the Cardiff County and Vale of Glamorgan Youth Brass Band, in which I play first cornet. I really loved being part of the last two school productions, 'We Will Rock You' and 'Romeo and Juliet', and it has been great to be back performing again in Sister Act.



Eva Jazani Sister Mary Carmella

I enjoy musical theatre and performing and am a dedicated member of many extracurricular music and drama activities within school including being a part of both the Upper School Choir and the Chamber Choir. I have been singing for 4 years and am Grade 5 in Musical Theatre. I was lucky enough to be in the school production 'We Will Rock You' and played a part in the BBC show 'His Dark Materials'. I've really enjoyed being a part of the Sister Act production, every rehearsal has been brilliant am very excited to perform in it.



Lowri Hulson Sister Mary Ignatius

I'm currently in Year 10 and am so pleased to be doing GCSE Drama with the opportunity to perform in school productions. I have always enjoyed performing since Primary School and am grateful to my parents who enrolled me at Stagecoach School of Performing Arts at the age of 9. I have never been in a school production before and am very excited to be involved in Sister Act. I have loved the movie for a long time and think it's a really fun, feel-good musical. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting new people and hope you enjoy the show!



Alys Fraser Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours

I am so thrilled to be playing Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours, a slightly crazy but with a big kind heart. I am involved in many extra-curricular activities including ballet, Jazz and have singing lessons with Glenda Pasley. I have been in multiple Gang Shows and performed in a production of the Little Mermaid. I am a dedicated member of the WHS Chamber Choir and am in the ensemble of High School Musical debuting later this year. I am currently auditioning for 'The Workshop' in Cardiff Bat which I hope will lead me onto bigger productions in the future.



Katie Jenkins Sister Mary Agnes

I've always loved acting since a small child and have starred in multiple productions. I attend drama school each Saturday with many of my friends. Performing in Sister Act has felt like a breath of fresh air, whenever I have felt stressed over schoolwork the fun of the musical has kept me occupied. I love the goofiness of being an elderly nun discovering how to sing angelically. The highlight of the sister act experience for me is meeting all of these talented people and having the confidence to befriend them. Sister act is a wonderful and whimsical musical with a comical plot.



Lily WithersSister Mary Gertrude

I am a year 12 student of Whitchurch, and I am studying drama, geography and maths. I have been an active member of drama department since year 7 and it was then that I discovered drama was something I am really into. I took the opportunity to apart of the school production of 'Romeo and Juliet' back in 2020. I hadn't been a part of a musical before, and it will be great to be preforming again. It was so fun to be a part of this production as sister Mary Gertrude, Sister Act will definitely be something I will not forget, So I hope you enjoy the show.



Freya Stevenson
Sister Mary Clara

This is my third school production having previously been in 'We Will Rock You' and 'Romeo and Juliet'. I perform regularly as a member of the Everyman Theatre Group and have played key roles in 'A Mid-Summer Nights Dream' and 'King Lear'. I have reached grade 8 in the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art examinations and grade 6 for guitar and singing. I am currently in Year 12 studying History, French, Law and Music through the Extended Project Qualification. I am excited to perform in this year's school production of 'Sister Act'.



Ffion Harding
Stage Manager

I have performed in many shows from playing the Artful Dodger in Oliver with CAST to performing in Flesh at the Sherman Theatre with Chapter Arts. I have been part of several acting workshops, one of which being in the Royal Welsh Collage of Music and Drama, where I developed many of my skills, that have led me to further opportunities within my acting career. Sister Act has been an opportunity to develop my skills both offstage as well as onstage, with the role of Stage Manger being both a challenge and a pleasure. I hope you enjoy the show!



Jaymie Kirby-Jones Monsignor O'Hara

I am currently studying AS Levels in Drama, Media and Skills Challenge at Whitchurch High School and am excited to be performing in my second school production as a cast member. I have been involved in Drama and Music since Year 7 and have always taken an active role in all parts that I have played. I am a member of the Erasmoose Theatre Company where I have played starring roles such as The Cowardly Lion, Verruca Salt and The Artful Dodger. I've had an absolute blast being part of Sister Act. I hope you enjoy the show!



Sam Snook Eddie

I am a Year 10 student at Whitchurch High School and an aspiring composer and musician. I am an established player of the French horn, piano and am teaching myself guitar and ukulele. At GCSE I am studying both Music and Drama. I have recently released several singles for fun, and I plan on releasing more music in the future. This is my first ever acting performance, and I want to thank everyone involved for making it so memorable and a blast to be part of. I hope you enjoy the show as much as we've enjoyed performing it!



Callum Bridge
Curtis

I have developed a passion for Music and Drama and joined a local Drama group performing in several shows that include the Wizard of Oz, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Oliver. For the school production 'Sister Act' I am playing the part of Curtis Jackson, a club owner who is a notorious, cocky and controlling character. I have really enjoyed playing this part, a character I have never portrayed before. I love sport and have played in a sports team at Whitchurch High School since Year 7 and was very proud to win the Cardiff Cup.



Reuben Turpy

I have always had a passion for performing and have been in stage academies since I was 5 years old appearing in shows such as Oliver, Annie and Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat. I am currently rehearsing for a production of We Will Rock You, in which I play the lead role of Galileo. I am an enthusiastic cellist and pianist, playing both instruments to a grade 5 standard. As well as playing for the orchestra and string group at Whitchurch High, I am a member of the Cardiff County and Vale of Glamorgan High School's Orchestra, in which I play the cello.



Gethyn Hunt

I am so excited to be part of this year's school production 'Sister Act'. I have loved going to rehearsals, meeting new people and making new friends. I play the character TJ that is a silly, dumb character. I have been involved in drama since a young age and been involved in many shows over the years. It is a passion of mine to pursue a career in acting and intend to further my skills by taking drama for GCSE and A Level perform applying for performing arts at university. I wish to thank the amazing drama department for giving me the chance to perform in my first school production.



Evie Howell

Although I have not taken drama GSCE I am thrilled to be a part of the show. I have previously performed in musicals such as Alice in Wonderland, The Wizard of Oz and Annie as a member of the stage group 'CAST'. I love to sing and mountain bike and I am a committed member of Whitchurch Cycling Club, volunteering and developing skills further as a hobby. I feature is Sister act as the gangster 'Ernie'. Being a part of Sister Act is a brilliant experience and I am excited to be a part of the show. I hope you all enjoy the show!



"I may be a fossil, but my skills are colossal."

Musical Numbers

- 1. Take Me To Heaven Deloris, Michelle and Tina
- 2. Fabulous, Baby! Deloris, Michelle and Tina
- 3. The Perfect Place Nuns
- 4. **Here Within These Walls** Mother Superior, Deloris and Nuns
- 5. It's Good to be a Nun Nuns and Deloris
- 6. When I Find My Baby Curtis, TJ, Joey and Pablo
- I Could Be That Guy 7. Eddie and Ensemble
- 8. Here Within These Walls (Reprise) Mother Superior and Nuns
- 9. **Raise Your Voice**
 - Deloris, Sister Mary Patrick, Sister Mary Lazarus, Sister Mary Robert and Nuns
- Take Me To Heaven (Reprise) 10.
 - **Deloris and Nuns**



ACT TWO

Entr'acte 1.

2.

- The Band **Sunday Morning Fever**
- Monsignor O'Hara, Deloris, Mother Superior, Eddie and Nuns
- 3. Take Me To Heaven (Newscast)
 - Deloris and Nuns
- 4. I Haven't Got a Prayer
 - Mother Superior
- 5. **Bless Our Show**
 - Deloris, Sister Mary Patrick, Sister Mary Lazarus, Sister Mary Roberts and Nuns
- 6. Benedicta-ta for Now
 - Mother Superior and Nuns
- 7. The Life I Never Led
 - Sister Mary Robert
- 8. Fabulous Baby! (Reprise) Eddie, Deloris, Nuns and Ensemble
- 9. Sister Act
 - **Deloris**
- 10. When I Find My Baby (Reprise)
 - Curtis
- 11. The Life I Never Led (Reprise)
 - Sister Mary Robert
- 12. Sister Act (Reprise)
 - Deloris and Mother Superior
- 13. Spread the Love Around
- Full Company Raise Your Voice 14.
 - **Full Company**

"You are a visionary. I am a godsend."



Acknowledgments



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Music by ALAN MENKEN Lyrics by GLENN SLATER

Book by CHERI & BILL STEINKELLER

Additional Book Material by DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

Orchestrations by Doug Besterman

Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by Michael Kosarin

Produced on Broadway by Whoopi Goldberg & Stage Entertainment in association with The Shubert Organization and Disney Theatrical Productions

Originally Production Developed in Association with Peter Schneider & Michael Reno and produced by Stage Entertainment

World Premiere Produced by Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena CA and Alliance Theatre, Atlanta GA Sheldon Epps, Artistic Director Susan V. Booth, Artistic Director, Lyla White, Executive Director Tom Pechar, Managing Director Tom Ware, Producing Director



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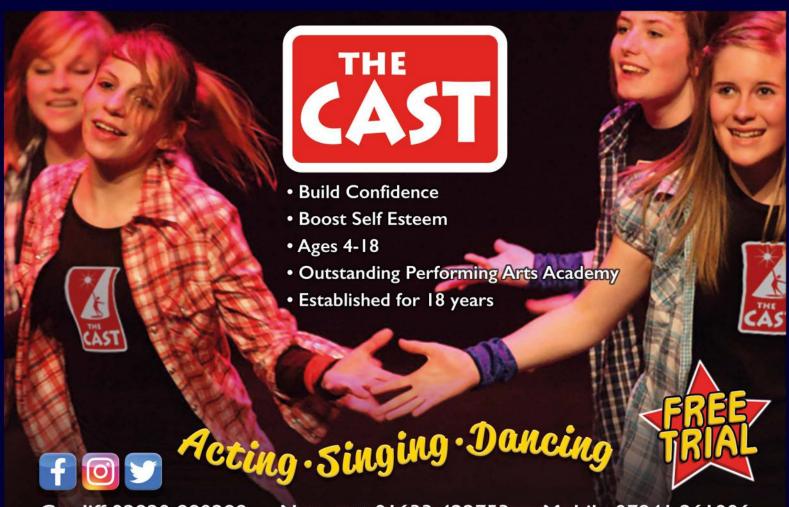


For more information contact:

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Past Productions

1991 WILLY RUSSELL **OUR DAY OUT** 1992 **WEST SIDE STORY** LEONARD BERNSTEIN & STEPHEN SONDHEIM 1994 INTO THE WOODS STEPHEN SONDHEIM & JAMES LAPINE 1995 **ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE** HENRIK IBSEN 1996 CABARET **KANDER & EBB** 1997 THE FIRE RAISERS MAX FRISCH STEPHEN SONDHEIM & GEORGE FURTH 1998 COMPANY 1999 **GREGORY'S GIRL BILL FORSYTH** STEPHEN SONDHEIM & GEORGE FURTH 2000 MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR NIKOLAI GOGOL 2001 2002 SOUTH PACIFIC **RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN** 2003 **ROMEO + JULIET** WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE 2004 **SWEET CHARITY COLMAN & SIMON & FIELDS** 2005 **BLOOD BROTHERS** WILLY RUSSELL **RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN** 2006 CAROUSEL 2007 MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE 2008 OKLAHOMA! **RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN SWEENEY TODD** STEPHEN SONDHEIM 2009 2010 A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE ARTHUR MILLER 2011 FIDDLER ON THE ROOF **BROCK & HARNICK** 2012 A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE 2014 **WEST SIDE STORY** LEONARD BERNSTEIN & STEPHEN SONDHEIM 2015 **FACE** BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH INTO THE WOODS STEPHEN SONDHEIM & JAMES LAPINE 2016 2017 A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE ARTHUR MILLER BEN ELTON & BRYAN MAY 2019 WE WILL ROCK YOU 2020 **ROMEO + JULIET** WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE 2022 SISTER ACT CHERI & BILL STEINKELLNER



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