entre Stage



Music By **Alan Menken**  Lyrics By **Glenn Slater** 

**Book By** 

Cheri Steinkellner & Bill Steinkellner

Additional Book Material

Douglas Carter Beane

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

# **AUDITION NOTICE**

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

## Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in Centre Stage's 2026 production of Sister Act!

Sister Act is a feel-good musical comedy based on the hit 1992 film - but with some fabulous new musical numbers by the legendary Alan Menken. It follows Deloris Van Cartier, a glamorous lounge singer whose life takes a dramatic turn when she witnesses a murder. Forced into hiding in a convent, Deloris helps the nuns find their voices, and their inner disco, as they try to save the collapsing cloister. And what begins as an unlikely refuge from her gangster ex-boyfriend, shows Deloris that sisterhood and belonging can be found in the most unexpected of places.

Everything you need to know about auditioning for the show is in the information provided below or linked directly from it.

We realise that auditioning for a show, especially if you are new to Centre Stage, can sometimes be a bit daunting. So if there's any questions left unanswered by this Audition Pack, we're more than happy to answer them – please email <a href="mailto:sisteract2026@gmail.com">sisteract2026@gmail.com</a> and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

# **Key Information**

#### **Dates**

Pre-Audition Workshop	Sunday 16th November, Wheatsheaf Community Hall (2pm)
Audition Sign-Ups Open	Wednesday 19th November (Monday 17th November for members)
Auditions	Wednesday 10th, Friday 12th & Saturday 13th December, Theatre Deli
Recalls	Monday 15th & Wednesday 17th December (by invitation only)
Rehearsals	Saturday 17th January to Saturday 4th April (Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays)
Show Week	Sunday 5th April to Saturday 11th April

Evening performances from **7th April 2026 to 11th April 2026** will be at **19:30**. The matinee performance on **Saturday 11th April 2026** will be at **14:30**.

An important note about Easter - all cast members are expected to be available over the **weekend of 4th April 2026** and the day of **Monday 6th April 2025** (Easter Monday) at the venue, and **every evening of w/c 6th April 2026**.

### Locations

**Audition/Rehearsal Venues**: London Bubble (Elephant Lane, SE16 4JD), Theatre Deli (107 Leadenhall St, EC3A 4AF), the Boury Academy (Wyvil School, S Lambeth Road, SW8 2TJ) and the Wheatsheaf Hall (Wheatsheaf Lane, SW8 2UP).

**Performance Venue**: John McIntosh Arts Centre, The London Oratory School, London, SW6 1RX. *The closest station is West Brompton (District Line, Overground, Southern National Rail)*.

# **Director's Vision**

Get ready to praise the glitter, because we are taking you to *church*, darling... and this one comes with sequins and soul.

Our Sister Act is a full-throttle celebration of community, destiny and divine disco energy; with a huge side of heart thrown in for good measure. We're reimagining the convent as a space of radical inclusion; a found family of nuns who discover their power, their voices and their togetherness.

- We will be creating fully fleshed-out characters for the entire ensemble, so everyone has their own storyline and a chance to shine on stage.
- We're throwing open the pews and creating a cast that truly reflects the diversity of London's AmDram scene. We welcome individuals of all ages, races, backgrounds and experiences to join us for this joyous performance, celebrating every sister and mister who's ready to shine.
- We want to bring a bold and fresh take to this well-loved show, enhancing through dance wherever we can! We're planning full-energy, knock-your-habits-off choreography moments that spill from the stage and into the aisles, bringing the Queen of Angels Church to life.

At its heart, Sister Act is about finding strength in our differences and discovering we're stronger together than alone. We want that spirit to shine not just on stage, but in the rehearsal room too. As a creative team, we're committed to building a safe, welcoming and inclusive space where every voice is valued. This show is a celebration of joy and community, and we're making sure that energy fills every step of the production journey.

So keep hold of your habits because this production of *Sister Act* is going to raise the roof and raise your voice! Now, can we get an Amen?

# **Casting**

We are fully committed to the London Drama Societies' policies on Casting and Authentic Storytelling and Marketing, and ensuring these are implemented through making our Sister Act truly inclusive on stage, backstage and in our audience.

The character breakdowns include the gender of each character; however, we welcome performers of any gender identity (incl. non-binary, gender fluid and transgender performers) to audition for any role, provided they feel comfortable portraying the required gender and performing within the character's vocal range. If you have any questions on casting and gender, please email Centre Stage's Education and Diversity Officer, Elsie, at <a href="elsieit15@gmail.com">elsieit15@gmail.com</a>

The show is set in Philadelphia, so we're looking for actors who can perform with an American accent unless otherwise noted in the character descriptions. There are plenty of ensemble roles throughout the show, and we'll endeavour to showcase everyone's individual strengths. Each performer will have their own track and character focus within the production.

We're also keen to authentically represent a wide range of ages on stage and warmly encourage performers from older generations to audition. We understand that not everyone moves like they used to and that's absolutely fine - we're looking for portrayals of character and energy! We'll make accommodations wherever possible, so if limited dance experience (or creaky knees!) is giving you pause, don't let it - come and audition anyway!

# **Diversity & Inclusion**

Along with Sedos and Geoids, Centre Stage have a joint mission statement: "Collectively, we commit to take constant steps to be more inclusive and attract members and audiences reflecting London's diversity. We will identify and remove barriers to create a safe and inclusive environment. We want everyone to feel empowered to participate, on stage or off. We want stories to be told authentically."

We aim to nurture a representative membership where everyone feels welcome, regardless of gender, skin colour, age, body type, or any other characteristic. While we may aim to cast certain roles in a way that authentically reflects the story being told, we will always make choices based primarily on talent and ability to handle the demands of the role.

The Sister Act creative team is committed to working with each actor to create characters that are authentic to them. Amateur dramatics should bring joy above all else, and our emphasis is on inclusivity, while creating theatre of the highest possible quality to be enjoyed by our audiences and all involved. For more information about Diversity and Inclusion at Centre Stage London, please visit <a href="https://www.centrestage.london/diversityandinclusion">https://www.centrestage.london/diversityandinclusion</a>.

An anonymous digital feedback form will be available throughout the rehearsal process, providing a safe space for cast and crew to raise any concerns or suggestions. We want to ensure any concerns raised are compassionately and efficiently addressed in line with policies.

## **List of Characters**

Name	Description	Gender Presentation	Playing Age	Vocal Range
Deloris Van Cartier	An aspiring performer, trying to find both fame and a place in the world. Loud-mouthed and sassy, but ultimately caring. We are looking for a big personality with good comedic timing. We want to see the actor's own twist to an iconic role. Ideally, will be able to do some level of movement while singing, but won't need to be an advanced dancer. We will be casting this role in line with traditional casting with a Black actor.	Female presenting	25 - 40	E3 - F#5
Mother Superior	Head of the convent, sarcastic and rigid. Overly protective of her sisters in keeping them away from the outside world, clashing with Deloris's musical influence. Possesses inner righteousness. Ideally, will be able to do some level of movement while singing, but won't need to be an advanced dancer. Accent can be from the UK or America.	Female presenting	40 - 70	D3 - E5
Sister Mary Robert	A postulant, abandoned as a baby and raised at the convent. Shy and soft-spoken, but singing with Deloris lets her find her voice after her wallflower lifestyle has left her life feeling lacking. A loveable character with a strong singing voice.	Female presenting	16 - 25	F#3 - A5

Sister Mary Patrick	A nun of the convent. Consistently perky, enthusiastic and easily excitable.	Female presenting	30 - 50	G3 - E6
Sister Mary Lazarus	A nun of the convent and the head of the choir. Rather deadpan and the least welcoming of any of the nuns, but she gets caught up in Deloris's soul music.	Female presenting	35 - 70	F3 - B4
Monsignor O'Hara	The charming spiritual leader of the Queen of Angels Cathedral. His bottom line is to save their church, and he will do anything to support the bottom line – including forcing Mother Superior to house Deloris. Monsignor O'Hara should have a good stage presence and a sense of comic timing. He does not sing a solo in the show, so cast an actor with charisma who can take over the stage with an American or UK/Irish Accent.	Male presenting	35 - 60	E3 - G4
Curtis Jackson	A club owner, notorious gangster, and Deloris's boyfriend. Cocky and controlling, always on the verge of violence. We will be casting this role in line with traditional casting with a Black actor.	Male presenting	30 - 50	A2 - Ab4
Eddie Souther	The desk chief at the Philadelphia police station and a high school classmate of Deloris who helps get her into hiding. Faces a lot of nerves when under pressure, causing him to sweat profusely. He still yearns for Deloris after all these years, and dreams of being her hero. He will need to be a strong singer and have basic movement ability.	Male presenting	25 - 40	Ab2 - B4
TJ	Curtis's nephew and one of his thugs. Deft and cognizant of the fact, constantly in a state of ignorant bliss. We will be casting this role in line with traditional casting with a Black actor.	Male presenting	20 - 35	Db3 - Eb5
Joey	One of Curtis's thugs. Believes himself to be quite the ladies' man.	Male presenting	25 - 40	Db3 Eb5
Pablo	One of Curtis's thugs. A natural follower, constantly speaks in Spanish. We are looking for a performer of Latinx or Hispanic heritage.  *We are casting this role gender blind, but due to licence agreement, the performer needs to be comfortable performing this role as male presenting (referred to as he/him)	Male presenting*	25 - 40	C4 - F5
Sister Mary Martin-of- Tours; Sister Mary Theresa	Both Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours and Sister Mary Theresa are seasoned nuns of the convent. Mary Martin-of-Tours is clearly in her own world, but has her moments of surprising clarity whilst Sister Mary Thereas may look decrepit at a glance, but she secretly packs a punch. Both will have lines of dialogue and featured singing moments.	Female presenting	30 - 70	-

Michelle; Tina; Brandi; Tiffany	Deloris's back-up squad. Bringing sass and pizazz, these triple threats bring Deloris' dreams and ambitions to life.	Female presenting	20 - 35	Ab3 - F5
Ensemble	Sister Act is full of exciting featured roles for singers, actors, and dancers alike, so don't worry if one area isn't your strongest; we want to see what you bring to the table. Each and every ensemble member will get the chance to create a unique character and take the storytelling beyond what's on the page. The ensemble will also feature in a wider range of musical numbers than typically performed and will play a vital role in keeping the energy and momentum alive throughout the show.  Some of the roles we're looking for: Nuns; Altar Servers; Ernie; Newscaster; Bar Patrons; Fantasy Dancers.		ach and the nge of nergy	

# Workshop

The workshop on Sunday 16th November will be a chance to meet our creative team and put some friendly faces to the names! We will go through our vision and ideas for the show and offer a chance to ask questions, as well as work through the audition dance, and a group vocal number. It is not mandatory to attend the workshop in order to audition, however, it will provide a good chance to learn a bit more about the show and to learn some of the audition material together.

Sign-up to the workshop here

# **Auditions**

Sign up for *Sister Act* auditions via <u>TicketTailor</u>. Audition booking will open on **Wednesday 19th November at 9am** (Monday 17th November at 9am for members), and with limited audition slots available, we encourage you to sign up quickly to secure your place. Once all slots are filled, a waitlist will open on a first-come, first-served basis.

You can choose whether you would like to sing first or dance first - here is a guide:

Auditions Group A (Sing first)	Wednesday 10th December	18:45	20:30
Auditions Group B (Dance first)	Wednesday 10th December	19:45	21:30
Auditions Group C (Sing first)	Friday 12th December	18:45	20:30
Auditions Group D (Dance first)	Friday 12th December	19:45	21:30
Auditions Group E (Sing first)	Saturday 13th December	11:15	12:45
Auditions Group F (Dance first)	Saturday 13th December	12:05	13:35
Auditions Group G (Sing first)	Saturday 13th December	14:05	15:35
Auditions Group H (Dance first)	Saturday 13th December	14:55	16:25

You can indicate if you wish to be considered for multiple principal roles on your audition form; however, due to time limitations, it is likely that you will only be asked perform the materials for your preferred role (and be considered for the others you have indicated), unless the audition panel wishes to see more from you on the day.

Auditions will consist of:

- Reading a scene specific to one of the characters you'd like to be considered for.
  - If you would like to audition for Ensemble, please read for Sister Mary Patrick, or, if you'd prefer, any male-presenting character (as indicated in character descriptions above).
- Singing an excerpt of the specified song for the character, accompanied by the MD on piano.
  - If you would like to audition for Ensemble, please select either the Ensemble Upper or Lower excerpt to sing - pick whichever you are more comfortable singing.
- Singing a range check with the MD to help with music score planning.
- Dance or Movement Audition (in a group)

You don't need to be off book; however, we do expect you to be prepared and to be familiar with the audition material.

The audition panel will consist of Abi, Emily, Coren, Eve, and Nurin plus one member of the Centre Stage Committee. One of our producers (Nadya or Zoë) will meet you all outside.

It is important you fill out an <u>audition form</u> in advance - this will include uploading a photo so we know who everyone is! Once you have booked a slot on TicketTailor, please fill out the form as soon as possible (this is very helpful for us!) or at minimum four days before your audition date.

A note about auditions - we know that they are nerve wracking experiences, that definitely aren't everyone's favourite thing to do... Please be reassured that we as a creative team have experienced auditioning for shows and know exactly what you're feeling, and that over everything, we are wanting you to succeed and show us the very best of you!

A note on the dance audition - the dance audition will consist of two short sections from "Take Me to Heaven." The first will be about 20 seconds of Advanced choreography, followed immediately by a General section. The General section will have two versions: a more traditional choreography for stronger dancers (or anyone up for a challenge), and a movement version. For the General section, please only learn the Choreo version OR the Movement version - not both. All videos of the dance audition (incl. tutorials) will be available in the audition materials folder after the workshop.

If you'd like to try the Advanced audition, please do! We're especially looking for strong dancers in the ensemble, though lead roles may also feature advanced movement where suitable.

Some roles (including Mother Superior, Monsignor O'Hara and Curtis) will require less dancing ability but will still need to take part in at least the Movement dance audition - we'd much rather know what we're working with and then choreograph the show to make you all look fabulous! Please note that we will film the dance audition (only) in order to aid our memory during the casting process. It will be deleted once the show has been cast.

Please email <u>sisteract2026@gmail.com</u> if you have any queries about audition dancing or dancing requirements.

## Recalls

If you're invited to a recall audition, we may ask you to read/sing with other auditionees to see how you work opposite others. All material will be provided as early as possible on Saturday 13th December ahead of the recalls on Monday and Wednesday. Please note that we may not recall for all roles - so, (fear not!) not being recalled does not necessarily mean you haven't been cast.

### **Audition Pieces**

#### Audition Materials

Please note that all materials will become available after the workshop on Sunday 16th November.

### **Fees**

To help us put on this production, cast fees will be £140, which helps to cover a portion of production related costs including the hire of rehearsal space, costumes, set, lights, performance venue, etc.

We will be offering a cast fee payment plan, allowing fees to be paid in installments to reduce financial pressure on cast members. Please talk to us in confidence at the audition or email Centre Stage Treasurer (Stephen) at <a href="mailto:treasurer@centrestage.london">treasurer@centrestage.london</a> in advance of your audition if you are concerned the show fee might be a potential barrier to your participation in the show.

Additionally, we require that all auditionees become on-stage members of Centre Stage at a cost of £15 for the year. This is payable at time of booking your audition, unless you are already a member of Centre Stage.

You will also be expected to provide a few costume elements yourself including, but not limited to, tights, dance shoes etc.

# **Accessibility**

We welcome performers with physical or other disabilities to audition for the show. If you require any additional support for your audition, please email <u>sisteract2026@gmail.com</u> so that we can make sure we can accommodate you to audition.

If you would like more information on accessibility of the Bridewell Theatre and/or our rehearsal venues please contact us and we'll be happy to help.

We plan to make reasonable accommodations for any performers who require adjustments due to neurodivergence, accessibility and religious practices. As a team, we aim to be flexible and will always be open to conversations with our cast to ensure they feel comfortable and supported at all times.

# **Production Team**



#### **Co-Director** - Abigail Odat

Abigail's first taste of the London AmDram scene came with Centre Stage's 9 to 5 in 2016 and she was instantly hooked by the community spirit. After six years overseas, returning for The Wedding Singer felt like coming home. Before making her way to the UK, Abigail performed, choreographed and directed across a wide range of genres with theatre and dance societies in New Zealand and Australia. Nothing makes her happier than seeing others discover the same buzz she gets from being on stage!



#### **Co-Director** - Emily Taylor

After moving to London a few years ago Emily joined Centre Stage's The Wedding Singer, and was recently a Featured Dancer in Cygnets' Pippin. Returning to am-dram after almost 5 years felt like a big step and Centre Stage offered a welcoming environment, allowing her to find and foster lasting friendships - it's one of her favourite things about Musical Theatre, and knows a show like Sister Act will bring people together to enjoy the best MT has to offer! She studied Theatre and Performance at the University of Leeds, devising and directing various styles of theatre, as well as performing, producing and directing in Leeds Student Union's musical societies.



#### **Choreographer - Coren Hall**

Coren has been part of the London AmDram scene since 2021 after graduating from university where she choreographed (award-winning!) dances and showcases for Queen Mary Dance Company. Having only taken up dance seriously at university, she thoroughly believes dance is for everyone - regardless of ability - and that it should be fun and (healthily) challenging! And of course this production of Sister Act will be a dancing EXTRAVAGANZA! Coren is passionate about making every cast member feel proud of themselves on stage and has a soft spot for the ensemble (and all the storylines happening beyond what's written down...)



#### **Musical Director - Eve Millward**

Eve is currently the Musical Director of Centre Stage's production of Jesus Christ Superstar. She has been involved in music since she could reach the piano, going to music school in Birmingham on Saturdays and catching the bug for big musicals when playing for a local production of Les Miserables. Since leaving university Eve has been a musical director, audition pianist and pit player for shows across London. Previous MD credits include: Big Fish (King's College London, 2022), Pippin (Quay Players, 2023), A Little Show of Horrors (WLOS, 2023), Alice in Wonderland (Phoenix Players, 2024), The Grinning Man (WLOS, 2024), Murder Most Gruesome (Phoenix Players, 2024).



#### <u>Assistant Musical Director</u> - Nurin Abdul Aziz

Nurin has been involved in amateur musical theatre and a cappella for over 10 years, and is excited to take her first steps into a creative team role as an AMD/vocal coach. She was recently the vocal/music captain in her most recent show with Mayhem Theatre and has been part of the London AmDram scene as a performer for the past two years. Outside of theatre, she has been deeply involved in a cappella and close harmony singing as a soprano with post-uni group ChoirCo, and previously leading her university group as president and chair of the a cappella society. Her previous artistic direction experience includes a 100-person Malaysian cultural showcase and a self-written jukebox musical.



#### Producer - Nadya Mere

Nadya joined the amdram community last year as a cast member in The Wedding Singer with Centre Stage, and she has loved continuing to perform with the various amdram societies since. Although this will be her first time going behind the scenes for amdram, she has experience in various creative team roles from her university's musical theatre society, including producing, directing, choreographing, and musical directing shows, as well as producing and choreographing an a cappella show at Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2018 for The Scopes. She's excited to get back to being on a creative team!



#### Producer - Zoë Mack

Zoë has loved musical theatre and AmDram since she first discovered what it was (as a questionably cast 7 year old in Jesus Christ Superstar). Since then, she has consistently been involved in a variety of shows both onstage and off. Most recent production credits include cabarets 'Back to Before' (Director/Producer) and 'Let's Go to the Movies' (Producer). Recent stage credits include Hairspray, Made in Dagenham and Bring It On (all at University of Birmingham). After a 5-year hiatus, she's very excited to be getting back into AmDram!



#### Stage Manager - Becca Lillie

Becca has been performing in musical theatre since she was very young, but made the switch to technical theatre 5 years ago, and hasn't looked back! Commonly found supporting shows across London AmDram, recent credits include: as Stage Manager, 42nd Street (Geoids), Sweeney Todd (Cygnets), The Color Purple (Sedos); as Deputy Stage Manager, Into the Woods (Geoids); as Assistant Stage Manager, Head Over Heels (Centre Stage), Pippin (Quay Players); and as flys person. In addition to individual shows, Becca supports creative teams, casts and crews as Production Manager for Geoids.