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Nun on Run Brings Musical Fun to Springer

“Sister Act,” the hit Broadway musical adapted from the hit Whoop Goldberg movie about a singer who witnesses a hit and hides in a convent among the nuns, is getting ready to hit the Springer.

The musical has lots more singing, dancing and laughs than the movie and the excitement of seeing the story unfold live. “Sister Act” opens Thursday, Sept. 22, in the Mainstage Theatre at the Springer.

“This is a musical that hits all the right spots, achieving something close to Broadway grace. It helps that the musical has great original tunes by songwriter Alan Menken and lyricist Glenn Slater that skitters from Motown, to soul and funk, to disco and even a little jokey Barry White,” said Mark Kennedy of the Associated Press when it opened on Broadway. “Menken and Slater, who also teamed up for “The Little Mermaid,” know perfectly how to switch up the mood and tempo.”

(Coincidentally, Menken and Slater’s “The Little Mermaid” is the next show on the Springer’s Mainstage, coming in December to the State Theatre of Georgia for the holidays.)

The book for “Sister Act” is by “Cheers” writers Cheri and Bill Steinkellner.

“Sister Act” tells the story of Deloris Van Cartier, a singer who witnesses her gangster boyfriend murder someone. She runs but she’s been seen by the boyfriend and his crew and she goes to the police for protection. The police decide the only safe place for her to hide is a convent.

Van Cartier initially finds the nuns’ lifestyle too rigid and restrictive, but warms to the convent as she helps the choir to sing a bit more lively. Deloris and the nuns learn together that singing to save souls can help you sing with soul and a bit of funk.

“Under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own,” said BroadwayWorld.

“Sister Act” was nominated for four Tony Awards, five Drama Desk Awards and four Laurence Olivier Awards.

Springer newcomer Jeanette Illidge stars as the nun on the run. Illidge has Atlanta credits include Alliance Theatre, Horizon Theatre, Theatrical Outfit, Actor’s Express, Atlanta Lyric Theatre and Aurora Theatre.

Playing Mother Superior is Christy Baggett, who was last seen at the Springer in “9 to 5” in 2012. She is also based in Atlanta where she’s recently appeared in “The Light in the Piazza” and “A Little Princess” at Theatrical Outfit. Other credits include “Honk!” and “A Christmas Carol” at Alliance Theatre; “Ragtime,” “Hairspray” and “The Will Rogers Follies” at Atlanta Lyric; “John & Jen” and “Ordinary Days” at Serenbe Playhouse; and “Cowgirls” at Horizon Theatre.

“Sister Act” runs at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays (Sept. 22-24, Sept. 29- Oct. 1 and Oct. 6-8) and 2:30 p.m., Sundays (Oct. 2 and Oct. 9).

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