



the Nunsense Christmas musical NUNCRACKERS

The *Nunsense* Christmas musical, NUNCRACKERS, takes place in the basement of Mount Saint Helen's Convent. It is the first TV special being taped in the cable access TV studio built by Reverend Mother with part of the prize money won earlier by Sister Mary Paul (aka Amnesia).

The cast consists of Reverend Mother Regina, Sister Mary Hubert, Sister Robert Anne, Sister Mary Paul (Amnesia), and Father Virgil Manly Trott (Sister Leo's brother). In addition, there are two young boys and two young girls (Mount Saint Helen's students).



The show is the annual Christmas program put on at Mount Saint Helen's. Opening with the rousing "Christmas Time Is Nunsense Time," we are introduced to the cast and are given a brief update of what's been happening in the past with everyone. We soon discover that we are to be treated to an original ballet based on *The Nutcracker* featuring Sister Mary Leo as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Unfortunately, before Sister Leo makes her grand entrance, she is hit in the shin by one of the children's batons. What to do? The show will have to proceed without the ballet until Reverend Mother can figure out how to salvage it. Sr. Amnesia holds a "Secret Santa" drawing to fill the time while Sr. Leo is being taken care of. Amusing items are given to audience members whose seat numbers are drawn. The students present their version of "I'm Santa's Little Teapot," after which Sister Mary Annette makes a surprise appearance.



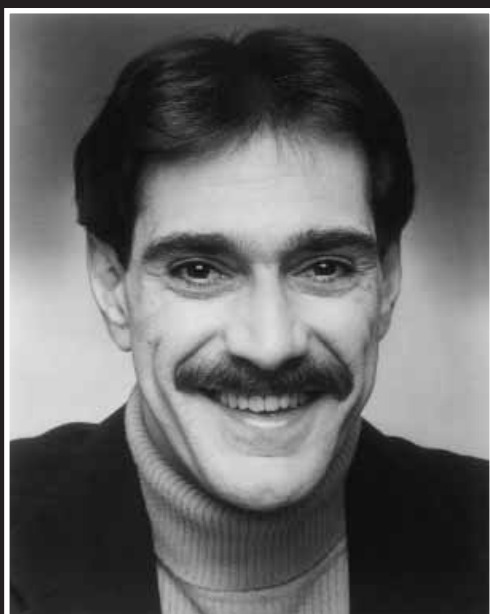
As if there isn't already enough to deal with, word comes that the gifts under the convent Christmas tree have been stolen. Reverend Mother goes to investigate, leaving Father Virgil to comfort an upset student with a touching ballad called "The Christmas Box." He then introduces Sister Amnesia who sings her latest country hit, "Santa

Ain't Comin' to Our House." Reverend Mother tells tales of her years in the circus, remembering one winter storm when they were trapped in a hotel with Sophie Tucker. Reverend Mother sings "An Old Time Carnival Christmas." Meanwhile, the cook, Sister Julia, Child of God, who was supposed to appear, doesn't show up, and so Father Virgil is forced to impersonate her by demonstrating some Christmas cooking, including instructions on making a fruitcake—the gift that lasts a lifetime. However, there seems to be an abundance of rum in the recipe, leaving Father Virgil quite soused. Reverend Mother thinks she has a solution to the ballet problem (not realizing that Father Virgil has come upon the same solution) and the ballet goes forward. It is then we realize both Father Virgil and Reverend Mother appear as Sugar Plum Fairies and the first act ends with the "dueling" Sugar Plum Fairies in a hilarious ballet spoof.

After visiting with the audience, the cast members take their places as the "camera rolls" and Act Two begins with a song about last-minute shopping woes. This is followed by the "Living Nativity Scene" featuring the students and Sister Robert Anne singing a beautiful ballad, "Jesus Was Born in Brooklyn," as she recalls the time her father returned home on Christmas Eve. Behind the scenes, the sisters are trying to find out what happened to all of the missing gifts. But on stage, the program proceeds. Sister Mary Hubert and Reverend Mother sing a song to recruit new sisters, and the "Saint Andrews Sisters" of Hoboken present "The Three Kings." This is followed by Mother Superior's introduction of the "Catholic Home Shopping Service" in which she offers some very unusual items for Christmas. When Reverend Mother is summoned upstairs to talk to the police about the stolen presents, Sister Robert Anne sings her big number, "All I Want for Christmas." There is a "sing-along" based on the titles of 25 popular Christmas carols that everyone knows. As the evening moves toward the finale, we discover that the gifts in the convent weren't stolen at all—Sister Mary Amnesia had given them to a poor family. Realizing how selfish they had been, Sister Hubert leads a hand-clapping, foot-stomping gospel song entitled, "It's Better to Give."



DAN GOGGIN has written scores for the off-Broadway musical, *Hark!*, the Broadway production of *Legend*, and two revues. Goggin received the 1986 Outer Critics' Circle Awards given to *Nunsense* for Best Musical, Best Book, and Best Music. His "nunless" musical *Balancing Act* recently won the International Thespian Society's Award for Best Musical. *Nunsense* and *Nunsense 2: The Second Coming*, both starring Rue McClanahan, have been recorded for the A&E Television Network. *Nunsense 3: The Jamboree* just completed a national tour starring Georgia Engel and has been recorded for television at the Grand Ole Opry starring Vicki Lawrence. *Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical* premiered October 16, 1998, at the Chanhassen Theatre in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



LEO P. CARUSONE was both the orchestrator and musical director for *Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical*. He also conducted *Nunsense 3: The Jamboree* starring Vicki Lawrence and was the musical director for the TNN television special of *The Jamboree* also starring Ms. Lawrence. He was the musical director for the Jamboree National Tour starring Georgia Engel, *Nunsense* in New York and Boston, and was the conductor for the national tours of *Cats*, *Annie*, starring JoAnne Worley, and *Nunsense*, starring Dody Goodman. He has conducted *Kiss Me Kate* with Judy Kaye, John Raitt in *Shenandoah*, David Birney in *My Fair Lady*, and Lucie Arnaz and Lawrence Luckinbill in *I Do! I Do!* He won the PAT award for musical direction of Bernstein's *On the Town*. His two-character musical biography, *Dorothy Parker—A Symptom Recital*, won the Festival of Emerging American Theatre. His musical revue, *Definitely Doris—The Music of Doris Day*, had successful runs in Boston, London, and Los Angeles; and his ballet, *The Advent of the Miracle* for the New Royal Ballet of York, had its world premiere in Japan.



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CHRISTMAS TIME IS NUNSENSE TIME

Words and Music by
DAN GOGGIN

Moderately ♩ = 120

N.C.

ff

mp

mp

E E+ A/E Bm7

Christ-mas time is Nun-sense time at Mt. St. Hel-en's School. Christ-mas time is fun-sense time when

B/F# E/G# G#/B# C#m G#7 C#m

joy is the rule. It's time when col-ored lights ap-pear, a time of mer-ri-ment and cheer. A

Christmas Time Is Nonsense Time - 5 - 1
0346B

SANTA AIN'T COMIN' TO OUR HOUSE

Words and Music by
DAN GOGGIN

Moderate country two-beat ♩ = 108

A E D E A *p*

When

f

A D6 E7

Will and I were lit-tle kids back home in Ar-kan-sas, ev - 'ry year at Christ-mas time,

p

A Adim7 E7 A D6 B7

Dad laid down the law. If we did - n't do our chores and prom-ise to o - bey, on De -

The musical score is written for a country two-beat style. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked as 'Moderate country two-beat' with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a vocal line starting on a whole rest and a piano introduction marked 'f'. The second system contains the first line of lyrics: 'Will and I were lit-tle kids back home in Ar-kan-sas, ev - 'ry year at Christ-mas time,'. The third system contains the second line of lyrics: 'Dad laid down the law. If we did - n't do our chores and prom-ise to o - bey, on De -'. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: A, E, D, E, A in the first system; A, D6, E7 in the second; and A, Adim7, E7, A, D6, B7 in the third. Dynamics include 'p' (piano) and 'f' (forte).

Santa Ain't Comin' to Our House - 7 - 1
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