

Ankeny Community Theatre
Presents

MESHUGGAH-NUNSI!

The Ecumenical Nonsense



April 22 – May 7, 2005

Book, Music and Lyrics by
Dan Goggin

Ankeny Community Theatre
1932 SW 3rd St
Ankeny, Iowa

Friends of Ankeny Community Theatre

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ACT Membership

Angel's Circle (\$500+)

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Monica Green

Producer's Circle (\$251 - \$500)

Jerry & Cary Douglas

Jerry & Jo Reid

Monte & Vicki Ength

Paul & Kaylene Ruby

Jeanne Ginger

Emmett & Barb Valline

Debi Garner

Director's Circle (\$101 - \$250)

Gerald & Marie Ballard

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Mike and Jenny Neighbour

Karen Burkett

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Rory & Rebecca Hansen

Margeane Hunter

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Sharon Hall & Kirk Reede

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Bill & Sharon Albaugh Jim & Sharon Anderson Doug & Lynn Arterburn

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Wayne & Dottie Blewer Bob & Leona Carlson Marian & Debi Gann

Ron Gilbert Lori & Mary Johnson Ordean & Elizabeth Johnson

Ken & Donna Kelling Bob & Leighann LaRocca Earl & Janet Leonard

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Raver

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Don & Carolyn Zuick Frank & Susan Rhoades

Artist's Circle (\$40)

Dorris Anderson Julie Asmussen

Kay Bower

Troy DeStigter Loanne Dodge

Susan Furland

Bev Heldt Cherene Jordan

Jim Leeper

Grace Leverenz Angie Luttenegger

Marilyn May

Ruth Politich Juanita Rogers

Kevin Sprague

Polly Taylor Janet Wilson

Directors Notes:



well.

I'd never seen any of the Nunsense musicals before signing up to direct this show. It had particular appeal because so much of *Mesnuggah-Nuns* is derived from *Fiddler on the Roof*, one of my favorite musicals. (Playing the part of Tevye. The Papa, has been something I've wanted to do since I started acting as a kid, but I've not yet had the opportunity.)

As I began preparing to direct this show, I thought the result would be pleasant, but pretty shallow: a few corny jokes, some clever songs taken off from others, etc. It's a revue. I thought, with no real plot and so nothing to challenge you (the audience), to move you, or to make you think. And then we had auditions and I found myself blessed with a wonderfully talented, charming cast. And as they inhabited the five roles in the play, I saw distinct and engaging characters begin to emerge from all of this foolishness. I saw relationships grow among the characters that reflected a journey that each character is on; the Sisters' pre-existing relationships from the convent back in Hoboken, Howard's relationship with his wife, and most importantly, the relationship these Catholic "Show Business" Nuns establish with this professional Jewish actor.

So while the methods are somewhat blatant and familiar (silly costumes, double takes, bad-abum rimshots on the drums, and even pies in the face), I think that you will take from this performance something a little more profound. Perhaps you might stop to think about the things we all have in common despite our external trappings. Or maybe you'll be reminded of our ability to reform ourselves and the amazing power of forgiveness.

But mostly, I hope you will be reminded of the joy of laughter, and of the magical, universal power laughter has to heal us, to help us put aside our troubles, and to bring us together. In my family, we would often go to great lengths to make ourselves and others laugh. I cd by my father, I remember the time all six of us went to the grocery store to buy a dozen eggs. There we stood, in a single file line, each of us holding two eggs apiece. And I remember sitting down to the breakfast table and having trouble cutting into the stack of pancakes my mother had set before me - you see, it was April 1st, and mom had hidden a plastic coffee can lid between the pancakes. Or the way, if you were unfortunate enough to call when we were seated around the dinner table on a holiday, you would be passed around to successive individuals who would each take on a character and try to foil your attempt at having any meaningful phone conversation: "Complaint department. You want to talk to who? Do you have a complaint? One moment, let me connect you. Lingerie, we don't slip up!" Etc.

As Howard says at the end of our show: "'Cause when you're laughing, you're not Catholic; you're not Jewish, you're not hurting, you're not hating... you're just laughing!" As you leave the theatre, I hope you are laughing, like we laughed in preparing this show for you.

Ron Gilbert
Director

MESHUGGAH-NUNSI!

The Ecumenical Nunsense

By Dan Goggin

Director and Choreographer

Ron Gilbert

Assistant Director

Cary Douglas

Musical Director

Frances Paterik

Cast

Sister Mary Regina (Rev. Mother) **Frances Paterik**
Sister Mary Hubert..... **Debi Garner**
Sister Robert Anne..... **Kathryn Bisbey**
Sister Mary Paul (*aka Sr. Amnesia*)..... **Jenny Neighbour**
Howard Liszt..... **Greg Millar**

MESHUGGAH-NUNSI! – The Ecumenical Nunsense” is
produced by special arrangement with Tams-Witmark
Music Library, Inc.

Sing-Along Lyrics for *Fiddlerspiel*

The fiddler on the roof
Plays his simple song
To remind us life is fragile
And is doesn't last long

The fiddler on the roof
In his simple way is saying
Cherish every moment
Of every single day

Musical Numbers and Scenes

Act I

- Extral Extral – Anchors Aweigh* The Four Nuns & Howard
- Contribution (A Song of Guilt)* The Four Nuns & Howard
- Sister Amnesia's Magic Moments* Sr. Amnesia
- Say It In Yiddish* Howard & Rev. Mother
- Teyve and Rev* Sr. Robert Anne & Hubert
- My Ship* Sr. Amnesia with Sr. Robert Anne & Hubert
- The Potchky Polka* Howard, Sr. Robert Anne, Amnesia & Hubert
- Howard's Monologue* Howard
- My Fat is My Fortune* Rev. Mother
..... with Howard & Sr. Robert Anne, Amnesia & Hubert
- Das Boat* The Four Nuns & Howard

Act II

- Reprise: Extral Extral* The Four Nuns & Howard
- A Love Like This* Sister Robert Anne & Howard
- Reprise: Say it in Yiddish* The Four Nuns & Howard
- If I Were a Catholic* Howard with The Four Nuns
- Three Shayna Maidels* Sisters Hubert, Robert Anne & Amnesia
- Duty Free Shopping* Reverend Mother & Howard
- Matzo Man* The Four Nuns & Howard
- Fiddlerspiel* The Four Nuns, Howard & Audience
- Come Up and See Me Sometime* Sister Mary Annette
..... (Amnesia) & Howard
- I'll Find a Song to Sing* Sister Robert Anne
- Rock the Boat* Reverend Mother with Three Nuns & Howard
- Finale – Reprise: Anchors Aweigh* The Four Nuns & Howard

Background

The sisters have been given an all-expense-paid trip on the "Faiths of All Nations" cruise by the family who had been the recipient of the Sisters' generosity in the previous Nunsense musical, *Nuncrackers*.

After a week at sea, the ship has run into a long, violent storm. Many of the passengers have become seasick, including the entertainers, the cast of *Fiddler on the Roof*. All except the actor playing Tevye, that is. The ship's captain, knowing of the Sisters' show biz savvy, requests that the Sisters and Howard put on a revue. The result: MESHUGGAH-NUNS! The Ecumenical Nunsense.

And you, our audience, are part of the show! You are fellow passengers on the cruise. Welcome aboard! We hope the rough seas have not left you feeling too poorly, and that you enjoy this show that your fellow passengers have put together for your enjoyment.

Glossary

Yiddish

Bar Mitzvah – Coming of age ceremony	Shalom – Peace be with you
Bei Mir Bist Du Shane – To me you are beautiful	Seder – Passover meal
Bialy – Flat, crusty roll	Yeshiva – Jewish school
Bortchu – Bless you	Yisgadal V'yiskadash – May God be great

Catholic

Bris – Ceremony of circumcision	Adoramus te – We adore Thee
Chutzpah – Nerve	Ave Maria – Hail Mary
Dreidel – A child's spinning top	Benedicta tu – Bless you
Fieklempt – Beside oneself	Blessed Virgin Mary Blue – Clear sky blue
Goyem – Non-Jewish people	Credo in unum Deum – I believe in one God
Hava Nagila – Traditional Jewish tune	Dominus Vobiscum – The Lord be with you
Kvell – To take extreme pride	Kyrie – Lord
Matzo – A flat cracker used for Passover	Sanctus Dominus Deus – Holy
Mazeltov – Congratulations	Lord, God
Meshuggah – Crazy	
Oy, rachmones – An expression of sympathy	
Plotz – To have a fit	

Production Staff

Producer	Jo Reid
Additional Choreography	Frances Paterik Jo Reid
Set and Light Design	Ron Gilbert
Costumes.....	Joyce Tripses
Props	Bev Heldt
Light and Sound Operators.....	Colleen Nelson Jim Bisbey
Stage Manager	Mike Neighbour
Stage Crew	Matt Willoughby Jessica Lee Clare Stordahl Karen Burkett Keith Pedersen
Publicity	Jenny Neighbour Angie Luttenegger Lynn Arterburn

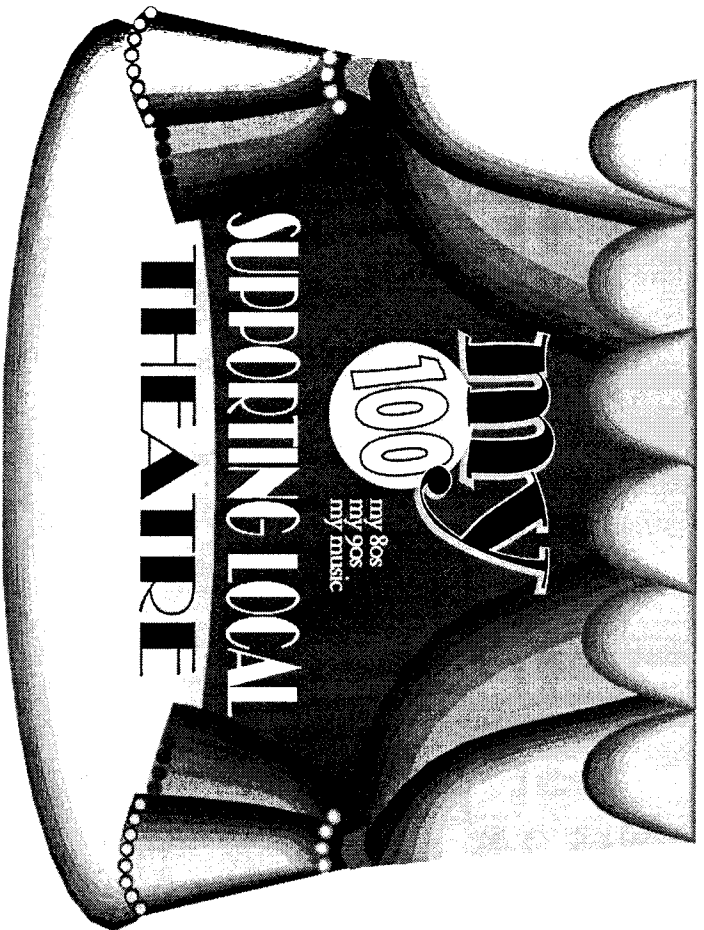
Musicians

Piano	Bonnie Corron
Keyboard.....	Joel Geddy's
Drums.....	Fred McLaughlin
Violin	Carrie Moton

No recording devices or flash photography are allowed during this production. Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers and other audible electronic devices.

Special Thanks

Kevin Shelby and Craig Kaufman, The Des Moines Playhouse; Desiree Dixon, Iowa Costumes; Dick Wilson; Dr. Thelma Volger, Ankeny Academy of Music; Joel Geddys; Jenny, Mike, Abby and Katie Neighbour; Gary, Jerry, Kyle and Kailey Douglas; Monica Green; Kaylene Ruby; Kevin Howe; Evelyn Rigby; Carol Millar; Colleen Nelson; Bev Heldt; Joyce Trippes; Erin Schieffer and Keith Sherman, St. Augustin Catholic School; Jerry and Jo Reid; Orville Ballard; Ankeny Sports and Physical Therapy; The Ankeny Register; Ames Computer Forms; Lynn and Doug Arterburn; CJ's Bagel Basket, Spirit Boulevard and Becky Scholtec.



Biographies

Ron Gilbert — Director

Born in California, Ron is a director, actor and designer who studied theater and music at UC Davis before earning a BA in economics and, later, an MBA from Iowa. Ron has been involved in Des Moines-area theater since '93, and left his business career to pursue a career in theater two years ago. Talk about *mezhaggah!* He is also currently directing *Annie, Jr.* for Hiatt Middle School in Des Moines. Ron is a member of the ACT board of directors, where he directed *The Boys Next Door* last season. Ron is scenic and lighting designer for The Drama Workshop's upcoming production of *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* in the Stoner Studio Theatre at the Des Moines Civic Center. As an actor, Ron has appeared professionally with the Iowa Touring Theatre Company for the past two seasons. He recently appeared in the premier of an original work called *Voices*, written by and telling the story of people with mental illness presented by The Rainbow Center and Stage West. Other roles include *Howard-Boy Gets Girl* (Stage West) and *Daddy Warbucks-Annie*, *Bill Sykes-Oliver*, and *Linus Larrabee-Sabrina Fair* (The Playhouse). Ron has had the pleasure of performing on stage with both his daughter Lindsay, 18 and son Spencer, 15

Kathryn Bisbey — Sr. Robert Anne

Kathryn has been with ACT since 1991. She has been involved both on and off-stage and is a former member of the ACT Board of Directors. Her performances have ranged from comedy, murder mysteries and musicals such as *Nunsense*, *Company*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. When she is not at the theatre, she is at church leading the praise band or singing with various groups. She loves to sing, act, walk, rollerblade and motorcycle with her husband, Jim.

Debi Garner — Sr. Mary Hubert

Debi is no stranger to the Ankeny Community Theatre. She has appeared in a number of productions including *The Odd Couple*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Rumors* and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. Debi has also shared her talent with The Ingersoll Dinner Theatre as well as the Des Moines Playhouse. In her spare time she is the manager for The Temple for Performing Arts in downtown Des Moines. She would like to give a special Thank-You to her husband John and her mother Marian for their support.

Greg Millar — Howard Liszt

This is Greg's first ACT production, however he is not new to the stage. He was a regular at the Ingersoll Dinner theatre prior to its closing and was in productions including *Gays and Dolls*, *Music Man*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Showboat*, *My Fair Lady* and several children's productions. Greg lives in Ankeny with his wife Carol and children Ben, Shelby and Taylor. Greg works as an early childhood special education teacher in Des Moines. Greg enjoys reading, traveling to Las Vegas and jazz music.

Jenny Neighbour — Sr. Mary Paul (a.k.a, Sr. Amnesia)

Jenny is the newest member of the cast to take stage, however her list of productions has grown quickly. She has become very involved with ACT in general since she was first seen in *Funny Girl* two years ago. She has also appeared in *The Odd Couple* and most recently in *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. Jenny is an active board member with ACT and has enjoyed her experience with the theatre. Jenny was born and raised in Ankeny and it is still her home. She shares her life with her husband Mike, and two daughters, Abbi and Katie.

Frances Paterik — Rev. Mother

Francess has been seen on the stages of the Des Moines Playhouse, The Drama Workshop, Stage West, and the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre. She is thrilled to be working with old friends and back on the ACT stage after several years. Before moving back to Des Moines, Fran enjoyed a career in opera. Fran is presently a member of the St. John's Lutheran Church choir and she teaches music in the Des Moines school system. Fran was recently nominated for a Disney Hands Up for Teachers Award. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, traveling, hiking, bird watching, and her cats. She thanks Joel for all of his patience and encouragement.

Jo Reid — Producer

Jo has been an active member of ACT since 1986. Her original forte was as director/choreographer of ACT musicals including *Lil Abner* and *Funny Girl*. Jo then shifted gears to portray the *Mystery Lady*, directing many *Who Done It's*. Jo can be found not only on stage or in the director's chair, but working lights, as backstage crew, sweeping floors or wherever something needs done, and she is also a former board member. Her husband Jerry is currently on the ACT Board of Directors as Treasurer/President-Elect.

ACT 2005-2006 Season

Sept. 30th thru Oct. 15th

Don't Drink the Water, by Woody Allen

Dec. 2nd thru 17th

It's a Wonderful Life, by James W. Rodgers

Jan. 13th thru 28th

The Dining Room, by A.R. Gurney

Feb. 24th thru March 12th

Schoolhouse Rock Live!, book by Scott Ferguson; music and lyrics
by Dennis Curley, Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough, Dave Frishberg,
Kathy Mandy, George Newall and Tom Yohe

April 21st thru May 6th

Caught in the Net, by Ray Cooney

Ankeny Summerfest/Iowa State Fair – Come see ACT II perform for their 19th year in the Leisure Garden at Summerfest with their song and dance review. Act II will also be entertaining at the Iowa State Fair and various nursing homes and care facilities within the community.

Ankeny Community Theatre Board of Directors

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