



News Release
Virginia Repertory Theatre

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Virginia Repertory Theatre Announces the Company of
Sister Act

Starring Felicia Curry as Deloris Van Cartier
Direction and Choreography by Robin Arthur
Musical Direction by Anthony Smith

Richmond, VA -- Virginia Repertory Theatre announces the opening of *Sister Act* on Friday, November 16, 2018 at the November Theatre/Arenstein Stage, 114 West Broad Street. The show will run through Sunday, January 6, 2019. Previews will be on Wednesday, November 14 and Thursday, November 15, 2018. With music by **Alan Menken**, book by **Bill and Cheri Steinkellner**, lyrics by **Glenn Slater** and additional book material by **Douglas Carter Beane**, this uplifting musical comedy is based on the hit 1992 movie starring Whoopi Goldberg.

Follow the fallen showgirl, Deloris Van Cartier, as she unexpectedly finds sisterhood and redemption when forced to take refuge in a convent. Nominated for 5 Tony Awards and 5 Drama Desk Awards, this gospel musical extravaganza will have audiences leaping to their feet!

Virginia Rep is thrilled to welcome **Felicia Curry** back to the November Theatre. Audiences will remember Curry as Lorrell in 2016's summer smash hit *Dreamgirls*, and Celie in *The Color Purple* in 2014. Recent Washington DC credits include *Thoughts of a Colored Man* (Arena Stage), *The Scottsboro Boys* (Signature Theatre), *Jefferson's Garden* (Ford's Theatre) and *Nina Simone: Four Women* (Arena Stage).

Newcomer to the Virginia Rep stage, **Sincée J. Daniels** joins the cast as Curtis. Daniels is reprising his role, after recently understudying Curtis at the Westchester Broadway Theatre.

Recent regional credits include *My Big Gay Italian Funeral* (St. Luke's Theatre) and *Flashback the Musical* (Seven Angels Theatre). **Gwynne Wood** also makes her Virginia Rep debut as Sister Mary Robert. A Virginia native, Wood recently graduated from the Boston Conservatory with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Recent regional theatre credits include *Lucky Stiff* (Bristol Valley Theater Company) and *Little Women* (Seacoast Repertory Theatre). Veterans to the Virginia Rep stage, **Durron Tyre** (*Dreamgirls*, *South Pacific*) and **Andrea Rivette** (*Mary Poppins*, *Fun Home*) round out the principal company as Eddie and Mother Superior.

Local favorite **Robin Arthur** will direct and choreograph the production. Arthur directed both Virginia Rep's 2006 and 2017 remount of *Beauty and the Beast*. Arthur's Virginia Rep performing credits include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Clean House*, *Into the Woods*, and *Mame*. **Anthony Smith** returns to Virginia Rep as Music Director after musical directing this summer's smash hit, *West Side Story*. Smith also associate musical directed last season's holiday spectacular, *Mary Poppins*, and served as Musical Director for Cadence Theatre Company's *Fun Home* in partnership with Virginia Rep.

Ron Keller will serve as scenic designer. Keller recently retired as Interim Chair of TheatreVCU, where he taught award-winning design students for almost 35 years. Notable Virginia Rep credits include *Shakespeare in Love*, *The End of War*, and *Dreamgirls*. Virginia Rep Assistant Costume Director, **Sarah Grady**, will design costumes. Her work was last seen in the summer hit musical, *West Side Story*, and she designs regularly for Cadence Theatre Company. Master Electrician **BJ Wilkinson** will serve as lighting designer. Recent credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *West Side Story*.

The full creative team and cast list is below.

Direction & Design

Director/Choreographer	Robin Arthur
Music Director	Anthony Smith
Associate Director	Lisa Hermanson
Production Stage Manager	Jocelyn A. Thompson*
AEA Asst. Stage Manager	Luke Robinson*
Asst. Stage Manager	Brody Thrash
Set Designer	Ron Keller+
Light Designer	BJ Wilkinson
Costume Designer	Sarah Grady
Sound Designer	Derek Dumais

Cast List

Deloris Van Cartier	Felicia Curry*
Curtis	Sincée J. Daniels*
Eddie	Durron Tyre

Mother Superior	Andrea Rivette*
Sister Mary Robert	Gwynne Wood
Sister Mary Patrick	Kelsey Cordrey
Sister Mary Lazarus	Susan Sanford*
Sister Mary Martin of Tours	Alisa Ledyard
Sister Mary Theresa	Jenny Hundley
Sister Mary Stephens	Corinne MacLean
Sister Celeste	Makenzie Mercer Pusey
Sister Irene	Mallory Keene
Monsignor O'Hara	Michael Hawke*
TJ	Anthony Cosby
Joey	Paul Major
Pablo	Mark Parello Jr.
Ernie	Landon Dufrene
Michelle	Zakiyyah Jackson
Tina	Michaela Nicole
Ensemble	Terrence Bennett, Havy Nguyen

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.

+ Member of USA, United Scenic Artists', local 829

Ticket Information

Box Office: 804-282-2620

www.virginiarep.org

Full Price Tickets: \$36 - \$63

Discounted Group Rates and Rush tickets available.

U-Tix for college and high school students \$15. Available by phone or in person, day of show only. Valid Student ID required.

Performance Schedule

Evening performances at 7:00 p.m. on select Wednesdays and every Thursday

Evening performances at 8:00 p.m. every Friday and Saturday

Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. on select Wednesdays and Saturdays and every Sunday

Accessibility Programs

Audio Described Performances

In collaboration with Virginia Voice, Virginia Rep is pleased to offer Audio Described performances, in which actions, expressions and gestures are described during gaps between dialogue throughout the performance for patrons with low vision or blindness. In addition to live audio description during performances, patrons are also invited to participate in a tactile tour before the performance.

Induction Loop

The Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre is equipped with a state-of-the-art induction loop hearing system that is compatible with all telecoil-equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants. A handheld receiver and headphone system is also available free of charge for anyone who is hearing impaired.

Community Tickets Grant

Virginia Rep is thrilled to offer a **free** Community Tickets Grant for nonprofit organizations. We encourage all organizations who have a demonstrated need for complimentary tickets to fill out a short application on our website: bit.ly/CommunityTix

Parking

Valet parking is available for \$8 at all performances and free self-parking is available for patrons within blocks of the theatre. Valet is complimentary for patrons who dine at Max's on Broad or Tarrant's Cafe before the show. Valet is no longer located in front of the theatre, and has been moved less than one block away to Jefferson Street.

Press Kits will be available at <http://va-rep.org/press.html>

Pass code accessible Hi Res photos available to media.

username = press password = HiRes121

About Virginia Repertory Theatre

Virginia Repertory Theatre is a regional professional theatre in Richmond, Virginia. With a budget of \$5 million, four distinct venues, an educational touring arm, and an annual audience over 530,000, Virginia Rep is one of the largest performing arts organizations in Central Virginia. Virginia Rep stages four seasons annually: the Signature Season at the Sara Belle and Neil November Theatre, Theatre Gym Season in partnership with Cadence Theatre Company, Virginia Rep's Children's Season at Willow Lawn, and the Hanover Tavern Season.

Season Sponsors:

Altria

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Richmond Times-Dispatch