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# 'Nuncrackers' — musical nuns, laughs and tutus

By Lisa Britton

For the EO Media Group

**BAKER CITY** — The Sisters of Hoboken are back, and this time they have their very own holiday television show.

The sisters, as always, are an eclectic mix of personalities that leads to multiple clashes and misunderstandings — much to the delight of the audience.

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre presents "Nuncrackers: The Nunsense Christmas Musical" during two weekends in December at the EORT theater, 2101 Main St. Baker City. Performances are Dec. 12-15 and Dec. 19-22. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7 p.m. The Sunday shows are at 3 p.m. The Dec. 14 and 15 shows are already sold out.

"We added the two Thursday night shows to give everybody an opportunity to attend," said the director, Leanne Hinkle. "Thursday nights have a lot of tickets available. All other shows have very limited seating left."

Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for EORT members, and \$12 for students.

Purchase tickets online at [www.eastoregonregionalthetre.com](http://www.eastoregonregionalthetre.com), at Betty's Books or Random Resales, or at the door.

Sister Robert Anne (played by Cindy Ratterman) opens with a sentiment that sets the scene: "Thanks for being part of our very first TV special," she says. And then hold on to your seats because you never know what these nuns have up their habits' sleeves.



Photo by Lisa Britton

The Reverend Mother (played by Lisa Ensworth, right) is aghast at Sister Amnesia's misunderstanding (played by Mary Collard) in "Nuncrackers," performed in Baker City this month.

The show's TV set came thanks to a Publisher's Clearinghouse win by Sister Mary Paul (Mary Collard) — better known as Sister Amnesia ever since a large crucifix fell on her head.

The TV special seems under-way with minor hiccups until a big crash rings from backstage. Sister Mary Leo (played by Dana Marlia) fell and hurt her ankle, which means the Nutcracker ballet won't happen. Sister Mary Leo has dreamed of being the first nun ballerina but the Reverend Mother frowns on wearing a tutu.

But these nuns won't let a few mishaps ruin their Christmas special.

When Sister Julia is nowhere to be found for the baking segment, the nuns recruit Father Virgil (played by Addison Collard) to don an apron and demonstrate how to make fruitcake (with a few mighty sips of rum to help the process).

"Of course we have to taste the rum to make sure it hasn't gone bad," Virgil says.

And that ballet? Well, let's just say tutus — a lot of tutus — make an appearance.



Photo by Lisa Britton

Jokes abound in "Nuncrackers" — here Sister Amnesia leads the children in a song of "the holly and the Ivory" (carrying Ivory soap).

Many of the characters return from EORT's previous Nunsense shows. New are Father Virgil and some of Mt. Saint Helens' talented students. The musical features all new songs including "Twelve Days Prior to Christmas," "Santa Ain't Comin' to Our House," "We Three Kings of Orient Are Us" and "It's Better to Give Than to Receive."

Hinkle is directing "Nuncrackers," assisted by Jamie Adams. The cast includes Lisa Ensworth, Ginger Savage, Cindy Ratterman,

Mary Collard, Dana Marlia, Addison Collard, Bre Miller, Justin Wolfe, Ellie Lamb, Paige Wolfe, and Erelah Rosin.

The stage crew is Bob Hinkle, Sebastian Cole, Adams, Leanne Hinkle, and Elizabeth Calder.

T.J. Miller is in charge of sound, and Mary Black plays the piano. Costumes and props were handled by Judy Head, Jean Simpson, Actors Studio Inc., Cindy Ratterman, Kerry Savage, Katie Lamb and the cast.

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