

**Review: Sister Act**

**By Suzanne Cleave**

## ***Sister Act* at Theatre Royal Plymouth**

If it's a feelgood production you are after, *Sister Act The Musical* won't disappoint.

This show was first scheduled to run in 2020, then Covid hit, and theatres were forced to close their doors. But as always, the show must go on, and the wait is definitely worth it!

A musical version of the popular film of the same name, *Sister Act* doesn't stray from the original storyline which follows the story of Deloris Van Cartier (Sandra Marvin), a 1970s nightclub singer, who dreams of seeing her name in lights. But her life takes a different turn when she witnesses her mobster boyfriend Curtis Jackson kill a mole, and is forced into hiding in a convent!

She reluctantly swaps her glittery dress and knee-high boots for a habit, and to keep her out of trouble, she is assigned to the off-key choir to turn things around, and help save the struggling convent, which is threatened by closure.

Deloris not only stays undercover but finds herself developing friendships with her new 'housemates.'

However, as the nuns' choir grows in popularity, Deloris runs the risk of being spotted by Curtis, and when that happens, all hell breaks loose!

Sandra Marvin as Deloris is a vocal powerhouse, and numbers like *Take Me to Heaven* and *Fabulous, Baby!* Show just how strong her talent is. Her relationship with the no-nonsense Mother Superior, played fantastically by understudy Lori Haley Fox, is tense at times, but as both characters soften, their bond grows stronger.

The entire cast was superb, but for me, other stand out performances included Lizzie Bea who played the timid but assured Sister Mary Robert, and Jeremy Secomb as gangster Curtis.

But it was cop Eddie Souther, or 'Steady Eddie', played by Graham Macduff, who stole the show. The loveable police officer, a school friend of Deloris, who still harboured a crush. His energetic performance of *I Could Be That Guy* was magnificent and deserved the rapturous applause it received.

The musical score was catchy and soulful, and the costumes were great.... where else could you find a group of nuns dressed in multi-coloured glittery habits?!

*Sister Act The Musical* is a feelgood and uplifting production – just perfect to get you in the mood for the festive period.