



Photo of Nia Savoy-Dock and the cast of *Sister Act* by Scott Suchman.

# **Going To See *Sister Act***

## **Ford's Theatre: Sensory-Friendly Performance**

### **Pre-Visit Story**



# Ford's Theatre



Photo of Ford's Theatre © Maxwell MacKenzie.

I am going to Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., to see a musical called *Sister Act*.

# *Sister Act*



Photo of Kecia Deroly, Nia Savoy-Dock and Simone Brown by Scott Suchman.

*Sister Act* is a musical comedy. It follows the story of Deloris Van Cartier, a nightclub singer who witnesses a crime, and hides among nuns in a convent for protection.

The story takes place in the 1970s in the city of Philadelphia, PA.

This musical tells a story with actors talking, dancing and singing on the stage.



# Stage



Photo by Scott Suchman.

The things on stage (called the set) for *Sister Act* will change many times throughout the show.

I will see a nightclub, a police station, the streets of Philadelphia, an apartment and a Catholic church.

Parts of the set are brightly colored and sparkly.

# Music



Photo by Gary Erskine.

There is a band sitting in front of the stage who play music throughout the performance. The area is called an orchestra pit, and it is much lower than the stage.

The music can be both loud and soft at times. The actors onstage will sing and dance along with the music.



# Sound and Lights



Photo of Nia Savoy-Dock and the cast of *Sister Act* by Scott Suchman.

The kind of music Deloris loves to perform is big and bold. At times the show can sound loud.

Parts of the show have lots of bright lights and glitter on the stage.

I can bring headphones, earplugs or visors to the theatre and wear them anytime during the show.

# Violence



Photo of Derrick D. Truby Jr., Caitlin Brooke and the cast of *Sister Act* by Scott Suchman.

One of the main characters is a violent criminal. In the story, he kills a man, hurts another man, and threatens Deloris.

The actors are pretending and have practiced these moments many times. No one actually gets hurt.

Several characters use guns onstage. These guns are not real and will not fire any live shots. I will hear loud “bangs” through the speakers in the theatre. These are sound effects and not real gunshots.



# Disco



Photo of Derrick D. Truby Jr., Jimmy Mavrikes, Dylan Arredondo and Trenton McKenzie Beavers by Scott Suchman.

The 1970s disco, nightclub culture is loud and flashy. Many songs and dances are sexy or provocative.

Nightclubs were decorated with glittery curtains and mirror-balls to light up the room with bright, sparkling colors.

Disco fashion style is also bright and bold.



# Convent



Photo of the cast of *Sister Act* by Scott Suchman.

In the Catholic faith, women can become nuns and live together in a convent. The nuns in *Sister Act* wear a uniform called a habit and live a modest life focused on their faith.

The choir in *Sister Act* is used to singing traditional hymns.

# Culture-Clash



Photo of Nia Savoy-Dock and Sherri L. Edelen by Scott Suchman.

In the story of *Sister Act*, two very different cultures come together. *Sister Act* is a comedy, and all the moments where these two cultures clash are presented with jokes and humor.

The 1970s disco, nightclub culture is loud and flashy. The convent-church culture is quiet and modest.



## **GOING TO SEE *SISTER ACT* – CREDITS**

All stage photos are from the 2025 Ford's Theatre production of *Sister Act*.

The pre-visit materials were developed by:

Ford's Theatre Access Committee

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