

SISTER'S CHRISTMAS CATECHISM

By Maripat Donovan

Directed by Marc Silvia

NC Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

Booth Playhouse

December 1-20, 2009

This one woman show is hysterically funny. Sister Mary must have become an alternate personality of Mary Zentmyer. This seasonal show is also sub-titled "The Mystery of the Magi's Gold" and has Sister Mary using forensic ideas culled from various television shows to solve this 2,000 year old mystery.

Opening the show will be a guest singer or group to assist Sister with refreshing the audience's (student's) memories of several Christmas Carols. On the night I went it was the Blumenthal's Douglas Young, henceforth called "Douglas George" by Sister. Yes, everyone must use their full given name when addressing Sister as she teaches Catechism class during the Christmas season. See definitions of catechism found on the web below.

Definitions of {catechism}:

An elementary book summarizing the principles of a Christian religion; written as questions and answers (wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn).

A catechism (from kata = "down" + echein = "to sound", literally "to sound down" (into the ears), i.e. to indoctrinate) is a summary or exposition of doctrine, traditionally used in Christian religious teaching from New Testament times to the present (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catechism).

A form of instruction usually based on questions and answers.
(www.redeemerpender.ca/aboutus-believe-dictionary).

And question and answer is exactly how how Sister teaches her "class"; by asking questions of her students and awarding correct answers with wit and prizes. Yours truly received a "Happy Birthday Jesus" bracelet and a deck of Nativity cards. You don't have to be Catholic to understand this hilarious show, I think everyone knows the basics of the Christmas story. Sister solves the age old mystery of what happened to the gold the magi presented to Jesus by using her students to create a living Nativity. All the costuming for each character in the Nativity is created by using items from the class' clothing drive with hysterical results.

This show is so refreshing and a great way to get in the spirit of the season. Come laugh and enjoy, but remember there are a few rules you must abide by when you are part of Sister's class:

- Do not chew gum.
- Turn off your cell phone.
- Make sure you raise your hand before you speak.
- Always begin or end your answers with "Sister."
- And finally, ladies, watch the cleavage.

Submitted by **Karen Lambruschi**, who is still chuckling over some of the one liners.

Karen Lambruschi has been involved in theatre in South Carolina for over a dozen years as a stage manager, teacher, director and (under duress) an actress. She is currently on the board of Rock Hill Community Theatre and works in North Carolina in the entertainment industry.