

ONCE A CATHOLIC

By Mary O'Malley

Director **Mark Slaughter**
Assistant Director **Leigh Joyce**
Stage Manager **Jackie Templeton**
Lighting Designer **James Ray Shaw**
Costumes **Jacky Webb**
Music Director **Paul Harrison**

PRODUCTION DATES: 8 – 11 May 2019

READ-THROUGH: Sunday 6th January 2019 at 10.30am to 12.30pm in the theatre Bar

AUDITION: Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 7.30pm in the theatre Bar

'You'll have to have sex if you ever get married. Our Lady's the only one who didn't have to do it'

It's 1956 at Our Lady of Fatima Convent Grammar School for Girls and the fifth form are about to be released into society but not before the nuns have bullied and prepared them for what lies ahead...

Mary O'Malley's largely autobiographical comedy, chronicling what it meant to grow up working class and Catholic, taught by nuns in '50's London takes an hilarious and irreverent peek behind the pulpit as the girls come of age and discover sex, acne and the meaning of mortal sin. Shot through with live singing and dance this thought provoking but above all entertaining production contains strong language & adult content.

Due to the ensemble nature of this production, everybody will be involved in some choral singing and most will be involved in some dance. Ability to roughly hold a tune and know left foot from right is all that is required!

Characters

The Nuns

Ages very flexible. The nuns are all large parts with big speeches. They are scripted as Irish (could be from the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland), but I would happily embrace other accents for one or two of the nuns and especially if we have nuns from 'the Commonwealth countries'; West Indies, Jamaica etc. It's fair to say that the nuns in this play are not very nice women!

Mother Peter	A teaching nun. Even tempered but strict and devout. Main role.
Mother Basil	A teaching nun and a sadist. Main role.
Mother Wilfred	A teaching nun and a psychopath. Main role.
Mother Thomas Aquinas	Headmistress of Our Lady of Fatima Convent School. Strict but compassionate (to a certain extent...). Main role.

The Schoolgirls

London girls – playing age is 16. Very much open to a mixed, multi-racial cast. I am open to casting the girls from ages 16+ up to and including early 30's (or older if we/you can get away with it!).

Mary Mooney	Naïve, sweet, misunderstood, devout, gullible. Needs to be able to sing. Main role.
Mary McGinty	Feisty, cheeky, rebellious, has a boyfriend, smokes & wears make-up (when she can get away with it). Main role.
Mary Gallagher	From a middle class home. Straight-A student, heading for Grammar School. Based upon the playwright herself. Sexy, a rebellious streak, 'knowing'. Main role.

The following girls are also in the classroom scenes and each have lines (although I might make one painfully shy and therefore mute!), lots of on-stage time and will lead most of the singing and the dancing. We will develop individual characters & traits for these girls so we have a class of the naughty and the nice!

Mary O'Grady

Mary Hennessy

Mary Flanagan

Mary Murphy

Mary O'Driscoll

The Men

Father Mullarkey	An Irish Priest who likes his whiskey and the sound of his own voice. Big speeches. Great, very funny scenes.
Derek	A Teddy Boy. Mary McGinty's boyfriend. Horny. Co-op milkman. Not a Catholic. A number of great scenes and speeches. Age 16+
Cuthbert	Grammar School boy. Mary Gallagher's boyfriend. Pompous, arrogant, bright. Wants to be a priest although also wants to have lots of sex (with her). Two big scenes. Age 16+

Audition pieces will be available upon request or from the theatre office from 1 December.

Full scripts are available to purchase new or 2nd hand on Amazon or here:

<https://www.samuelfrench.co.uk/s/2595/once-a-catholic>

Please contact the director, Mark, if you have any questions or for audition pieces:

auditions@bobhopetheatre.co.uk