



Artistic Director Kris Kontour (left) and Director Rick Bumgardner (right) Dan Goggin's hit musical Nunsense is headed to Stage III Community Theatre this fall. The show, making its debut next Friday, is the company's first musical in nearly twenty years.

"We've been tossing the idea of a musical around for quite some time," says artistic director Kris Kontour. And with Casper College not producing a summer musical, the timing seemed to fall into place.

What began as a line of greeting cards in 1985 soon expanded into a cabaret show and finally into a full-

length musical. The story surrounds the Little Sisters of Hoboken as they try to raise money by starting a variety show in the school auditorium. It's a light-hearted, comedic, and feel-good show that audiences will love, according to Kontour.

This year, Stage III brought in guest director Rick Bumgardner to lead the Nunsense efforts and teach a directing workshop. The director has worked with the likes of Dee Wallace, Mauricio Bustamante, and Chaka Khan throughout his career, and recently completed productions of Hedwig and the Angry Inch and the the world premiere of Baby Jane, The Musical.

Bumgardner mentions that he has always wanted to direct the musical, but the opportunity had never presented itself until Stage III's production. "It's a whole new experience to work with an outside director," Kontour mentions.

In Nunsense, there is a piece about how understudies never get the role. However, the story came to life when one actress had to leave the production just weeks before opening night and an

understudy came up to fill the part, Bumgardner explains.

Despite casting changes, the enthusiasm and dedication of the cast has been Bumgardner's favorite part of his experience at Stage III. All of the actresses have been working seven days a week and have learned to tap dance for their roles. "Watching that process, for me, has been incredibly rewarding. That's what will make the show as wonderful as it is," he says.

Nunsense will run from September 7 to September 23, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and two matinee's September 16 and 23 at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students.