



Commedia Beauregard

# A Klingon Christmas Carol

Translated from the Dickens Classic into *tlhIngan Hol*

Commedia Beauregard Press Release: 10/20/09

\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

St. Paul, MN --- Trek-Themed Holiday Show Back for a Dozen Performances

Scrooge has wrinkles, but they aren't from age. And, they are mostly on his forehead! Commedia Beauregard is a Saint Paul-based theater company dedicated to producing translated plays normally this means taking foreign-language plays and presenting them in English. However, for twelve nights this holiday season, they will present the 2009 rendition of *A Klingon Christmas Carol* will be presented at the Mixed Blood Theatre at 1501 S 4th St, Minneapolis, MN 55454. The group adapted and translated Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" into a language that was invented for the Star Trek television series and subsequent movies.

In past years the play has been offered as a one-night only event. Due to its huge success over the past two years, they are bringing it back with multiple chances for audiences to see the show. The production opens on "Black Friday", the day after Thanksgiving, November 27th at 8 p.m. Remaining shows are scheduled for Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 6 p.m., and one special performance on Monday, December 7th. The closing performance will be on December 13, 2009.

So, why Klingon? "We wanted to put together a show that people outside the theatre world could appreciate," Kidder explained. "But we also wanted to put together a show that fit with our mission."

"*tlhIngan Hol* is a fully functional language," says Commedia Beauregard Artistic Director Christopher O. Kidder. "The play is presented almost entirely in the Klingon tongue, while English supertitles will be projected for the benefit of the English-speaking audience."

The Klingon language was invented by Marc Okrand, a philologist hired by the producers of the Star Trek television series and movies. His task was to create a completely functional language that could be used by the warrior race that has become a major part of the Star Trek fictional universe.

"Holiday traditions are an important part of who we are, and I love all the classics as much as the next girl," claims the show's director, Sasha Walloch. "But, there are 28 days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I only need to watch *It's a Wonderful Life* once each year. This play offers family entertainment for the other 27 days, with a fun new twist on two familiar traditions."

Commedia Beauregard's recent productions have included plays translated from Polish, Spanish, Russian, German, and most recently Czech. Earlier this year they debuted a new translation of "R.U.R." by Karel Capek, the Czech play that invented the term "robot" in 1921.

"When any play falls outside of our own linguistic expertise, we have to seek outside help to make it possible. Translation into Klingon was no different," Walloch explained.

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“We got a team of four translators together in 2007 to put this show together,” added Kidder. “Over this past summer we added one other person to the team and did some revising and edits.” The play was written by Kidder and Walloch. It was translated into Klingon by Laura Thurston, Bill Hedrick, Chris Lipscombe and Kidder.

According to Walloch, “Though we joke about Star Trek’s green women and now-outdated special-effects, its original message is not incongruous with the Christmas spirit. The captain’s constant reminder that their mission is one of peace and friendship, is now firmly rooted in our nation’s morals. Of course, that’s human culture. This play is about the Klingons.”

“Klingons wouldn’t care if Scrooge wasn’t charitable and nice,” added Kidder. The tale, as it is told in the translated version is that of a Klingon who has no courage, nor honor: two virtues of Klingon society. “The spirits that visit Scrooge are all trying to help him become an honorable and courageous warrior.”

For one of the actors, “A Christmas Carol” was a major part of his family for years. Michael Ooms grew up with his father, Richard Ooms, playing Scrooge at the Guthrie. Michael also appeared on the Guthrie stage as a child in those productions. Ooms originated the role of SQuja’, the Klingon Scrooge, and returns for his third tour of duty with the show.

“Michael is an amazing actor,” said Walloch, who is directing the production this year and directed the show in 2007. “We are lucky to have him as part of this cast.”

Others in the cast are Michael Bruckmueller, Kayla McCarthy, Robin Johnson, Erin Haynes, Laura Thurston, George Richard, Ben Chadwick, Alan Cloud, Neil Schneider, Kristin Foster, Lana Rosario, David Laux, Brian Watson-Jones and Andrew Northrop.

Tickets for *A Klingon Christmas Carol* are \$20. Discounts are available for Seniors, Students and Fringe-Buttons: \$15. Box Office Phone: 612-338-6131

Show Dates: November 27-28, Dec 3-5, Dec7, Dec 10-12 @ 8 p.m. -- Nov. 29, Dec 6 & 13 @ 6 p.m.

The December 7 performance is “Pay With Your Can”. Audience members bringing a non-perishable food item to the box office that night get in for \$5-off their ticket price. Bringing 3 items earns a free ticket. The effort will benefit Second Harvest.

The 2009 Production is sponsored, in part, by The Source Comics and Games, Sarah Richard (Edina Realty), Avalon Security, and Metro Magazine.

For further information:

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