The Truth About Santa
(an apocalyptic holiday tale)

Written by Greg Kotis
Directed by David Lew Cooper

November 30–December 29, 2018

Chuck Evans
Music Director

Nils Fritjofson
Lighting Designer

Jacqueline Marschke
Stage Manager

Leah Hummel
Costumes & Properties Designer

Bradley Hamilton
Production Manager

Steve Labedz
Sound Designer

Ryan Wiechmann
Production Artwork

Therese Ritchie
Scenic Designer

SETTING

A number of locations, including: Santa's workshop, a cozy living room, Santa's compound, a church, and ice fields somewhere near the North Pole.

TIME

The wee hours between Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning. Present day.
THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA received its world premiere by Clancy Productions, John Clancy, Executive Artistic Director; Nancy Walsh, President, in New York City in December 2008.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA (AN APOCALYPTIC HOLIDAY TALE) is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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The mission of Intrinsic Theatre Company is to tell intimate stories of cultural relevance that allow us to engage with intrinsic truths of the human experience.

JOIN THIS SPRING!

THINGS YOU NEED TO BE TO JOIN:

- FROM CHICAGO (WE GOTCHU, BURBS)
- GAY (ALL SEXUALITIES WELCOME)
- A MAN (ALL GENDERS WELCOME)
- MADONNA (ALL EXPERIENCES WELCOME)

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The Truth About Santa

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

CHARLOTTE ATLEE (Jo-Jo), originally from Evanston, is about to complete her first year back from college and in the professional world. Since getting back home last December, she has been a regular ensemble member of Theater Momentum — Chicago’s only theatre dedicated entirely to dramatic improv and did a traveling theatre for young audiences show this past summer. This is Charlotte’s first ever “musical.” Charlotte is in love with satirical analyses of myths and beliefs. She cannot imagine a better way for her to celebrate the Christmas season than doing this show.

DEBBIE BAÑOS (Mrs. Claus) is a Chicago based actor/playwright. Her writing credits include Bell’s Palsy and Other American Side Effects, and Escape Velocity. Some of her Chicago acting credits include Harbour Gate at 16th Street, Native Gardens at Victory Gardens, Titus Andronicus with Babes with Blades, Adoration of the Old Woman with Urban Theatre Company, Juan Francisco Villa’s Don Chipotle, King Lear with Eleusis Collective, and Fefu and Her Friends with Halcyon Theatre. She has an MFA in Acting from the University of Arkansas and studied at the American Shakespeare Center. @DebbieBanos

KAMIL BOROWSKI (Luke) is excited to be working with Intrinsic, this wonderful cast and crew, and to be playing a 7-year-old demi-god (boyhood dream come true). Kamil was recently seen in The Fires of Nero as Seneca/Gladiator. Collegiate credits include: Atticus Finch (To Kill a Mockingbird), David O. Selznick (Moonlight & Magnolias), and Garry Lejuine (Noises Off!). Thank you so much for coming and supporting live theatre, the arts, and a bunch of brilliant minds. Connect with Kamil at kamilborowski.com.

JUAN CASTAÑEDA (Santa) is excited to be working Intrinsic Theatre Company. A former ensemble member of Urban Theater Company, Juan has been working in Chicago as a director, assistant director, dramaturg and actor in the city for companies such as Teatro Vista, Steep Theatre, Collaboration Theatre, Halcyon Theatre, Broken Nose Theatre, Waltzing Mechanics, Mercy Street Theatre, Right Brain Theatre Project, Prometheus Theatre, Filament Theatre, and Colectivo El Pozo to name a few. Thank you for coming out to support live theatre in Chicago!

TESS GALBIATI (Freya/Intimacy Captain) is ecstatic to have been brought onto this project and to work on her post-apocalyptic skills, which seem more and more useful to have in this day and age. She was most recently seen at the Chicago Fringe Festival in Romeo, Juliet, et al. Favorite Credits include Hamlet (Quicksilver Shakespeare), Doctor Faustus (Mythfest), The Wild Party (Front/Slash). Tess holds a BA with concentrations in writing and performance from Arizona State University.

DAN KRACKHARDT (Jim-Jim/ Fight Captain) recently moved to Chicago in August after spending four years in Ithaca New York getting his BFA in Acting at Ithaca College. At Ithaca College, some of his favorite characters/shows there were Zyclo in (Anon)ymous, The Doctor in Servant of
**CAST BIOGRAPHIES cont.**

Two Masters as well as Barrel in Urinetown at the Cider Mill Playhouse. He’s recently just finished MINt at the Annoyance Theatre and is currently in the Conservatory program at Second City! He wants to thank everyone that helped in any way with this show, his family and his truly wonderful girlfriend Ashley. Hope you enjoy the show!

ERICH PELTZ (George) is stoked to be making his debut with Intrinsic Theater Company! You may have seen his face or his writing at the Conservatory on Lincoln Ave. Erich has been acting in Chicago for four years and has worked with such wonderful companies such as: EDGE Theater, 20% Theater Company, and The Agency Theater Collective. Most recently he played Thibaut in Les Innocents with (Re) Discover Theater. Erich would like to thank his three gorgeous roommates, his Family, and his not-so-secret Santa: Bryce, for their love and encouragement.

BAILEY SAVAGE (Mary) Twas a few months before Christmas, when all the way from Washington State, Bailey moved to Chicago, to change her fate. With the Shakespeare Project of Chicago, she most recently served, as the Assistant Director for Pericles, a play most absurd. As Ted in Peter and the Starcatcher, and Guildenstern in R&G Are Dead, Savage discovered a love for comedy, widespread! In both Political Science and Theatre, she has a dual-degree, from Southern Utah University. There she worked with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, in various positions; now she’s delighted to work with Intrinsic, and artists of many ambitions! Much love to my people, thank you for coming and sit tight… Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good evening.

**PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES**

DAVID LEW COOPER (Director/Intrinsic Creative Director) is an actor, director, writer, and recording artist originally from Ann Arbor, MI. Having graduated with a BFA in theatre performance from Western Michigan University in 2014, David Lew moved to Chicago and has worked in varying capacities with companies like Greenhouse Theater Center, The Comrades, Urban Theatre Co, and Chicago Kids Company. While he works on his first full-length album (Coming 2019), you can find some of his pre-released content and collabs on Soundcloud (Wasmaname) and Twitter (@DavidLewCooper). David Lew wishes everyone, from every walk of life, a happy healthy holiday season, especially the citizens of Flint, who still don’t have clean water.

CHUCK EVANS (Music Director) is a Chicago-based musician and music therapist. This is Chuck’s debut in music direction and is honored to work with this talented cast. Chuck is grateful for the experience and to work with Intrinsic Theatre. He can normally be found performing in various theatrical performance in orchestras on violin, viola, and/or bass guitar. Chuck most recently performed in the musical pit for A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder (LZP Productions) and Shrek: The Musical (Windy City Performs).
NILS FRITJOFSON (Lighting Designer) is making his Chicago design debut with The Truth About Santa. Nils works as an overhire electrician and carpenter across the city and has a BA in Design—Technical Theater from Hope College. He is very grateful for the opportunity to work on this production!

LEAH HUMMEL (Costumes and Properties Designer) is very excited to be working with Intrinsic Theatre Company. Leah is a freelance costume and props designer and a theatre educator at Niles West High School. She has most recently worked with Strawdog Theatre Company and The Neo-Futurists. Leah holds a BFA in Theatre Design & Technology from Western Michigan University. Much love to Mom, Dad and David Lew.

STEVE LABEDZ (Sound Designer) is a composer and sound designer based out of Chicago. Recent works include Innovation Nation Live with Griffin, The Fly Honey Show with The Inconvenience, and The Light Fantastic with Jackalope Theatre. In their free time, Steve enjoys working.

THERESE RITCHIE (Scenic Designer) is a recent graduate from Columbia College Chicago with a BA in Technical Theatre and received the 2018 John Murbach Columbia College Chicago Prize for Collaboration in Design. Recent credits include: Technical Director for Plainclothes with Broken Nose Theatre, Scenic Design for No Child with Definition Theatre, Props Designer for the remount of Insurrection: Holding History at Theatre on the Lake with Stage Left Theatre, Scenic Painter for The Adventures of Spirit Force Five with The Factory Theatre, Assistant Set Designer for Opportunities of Extinction with Broken Nose Theatre, and Puppet Designer for Conference of the Birds at Columbia College Chicago.

JACQUELINE MARSCHKE (Stage Manager) Happy Christmas, everybody! Jacqueline is ecstatic to be joining the Intrinsic Theatre team this season! Other Chicago credits include stage management for Innovation Nation LIVE! (Tour); and The Harvest (Griffin Theatre), Montaiciel Takes Flight; Giggle, Giggle, Quack; and Northanger Abbey (Lifeline Theatre), The Citizens Anthology (The Inconvenience); and assistant stage management for Pirandello’s Henry IV and The Life of Galileo (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company), and No Wake (Route 66 Theatre Company). Jacqueline is an alumna of Hope College (Holland, MI), where she received her B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management.

RYAN WIECHMANN (Production Artwork) is a designer, performer, and artist, having received his bachelors from SIUE in Acting & TV/Radio Production. Ryan recently designed sound for the Agency Theater Collective’s production of Tres Bandidos and has designed posters for Chicago companies, including Remy Bumppo and Intrinsic Theatre Company. Relatively fresh to Chicago, Ryan was a regional performer in St. Louis, and has a new Chicago-based theatre podcast: Off The Cuff: Radio Play.
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Christmas sucks.

For some people, this time of year can be representative of a difficult or painful time in their lives. It might serve as a reminder of what they’ve lost or never had. For some people, Christmas is a time for compulsively doling out big bucks to buy gifts for family members they’d just as soon go right back to forgetting about until the next holiday slaps them together again for small talk about the economy or Colin Kaepernick. For some people, Christmas sucks.

But for some people, Christmas is the very best part of the entire year. Folks decorate, visit with their dear friends, tell tall tales to the family children, and find in themselves a renewed sense of joy and wonder that is somehow lacking during any other spot on the calendar. They love to stuff stockings, sing carols and bake cookies to leave out for Santa Claus, whose assured visit keeps them feeling young and connected to the universal spirit of kindness.

The second one is a little more what this play is about.

I first found Truth About Santa while attending undergrad at Western Michigan University. After playing with a selection from the script in class, I knew there was something special about what Greg Kotis (also author of the Tony Award winning Urinetown) had put together here. A play where we’re forced to confront our own customs and reckon with the fact that our version of something isn’t the perfect version, simply because it’s ours. Stories and traditions transcend the moment in which we celebrate them. Santa Claus is the pinnacle of the holiday season for some people and maybe not for others. Still, there is one intrinsic truth we are all offered as the winter solstice comes ’round again: Whatever you celebrate, wherever and however you learned your stories, the power of kindness is the great equalizer. Our traditions are what we make of them.

Make yours kind.

David Lew Cooper
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The Truth About Santa
A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Friends—
First off, I want to thank you from the bottom-est bottom of my heart that you have chosen to spend part of your holiday with us. I know that there are many holiday events you could have attended tonight and you have chosen to support a new theatre company and a play new to Chicago. That has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

We all know the mythos of Santa. And when I say all, I mean all of us: every culture has its own version of Santa. We have the jolly Santa Claus. Japanese children have the overweight Buddhist monk Hoteiosho who has eyes in the back of his head—all the better to see if you’ve been naughty or nice with, my dear. Hungary’s St. Mikulás visits homes on December 5. Finnish children get a knock on their door from Joulupukki who asks them if they’ve been naughty or nice. While the story has evolved since its origin, Dyed Moroz of Russia originally kidnapped children and demanded gifts as ransom. Ancient Romans used the winter solstice to worship Saturn—the celebratory precursor to our modern-day Christmas season. My personal favorite is probably the Italian’s La Befana, a witch who instead of cookies and milk gets left a glass of fine Italian wine.

So what happens when we take the legend and place it in a Greek deity context and pretend that version is the one that has prevailed through the centuries? How would the Tim Allen movie The Santa Clause be different if the North Pole compound was overseen by a Greek deity who fights with his wife, who has a vengeance like only the gods of old can? That’s the world of Greg’s play. In his words, “The play doesn’t scorn the myth or deny Santa’s existence. It only points out the obvious—Santa is a pagan god, the only one left standing after monotheism’s two-thousand-year-old campaign to eradicate the old ways. THE TRUTH ABOUT SANTA lets him act like one.”

Even though the version of Christmas’ first family presented tonight may differ from yours, it is my hope that you don’t let it deter you from appreciating that it just may be the version for someone. It certainly is our version tonight.

Happy holidays to you and yours,
Bradley Hamilton

SPECIAL THANKS

Pride Films and Plays/Pride Arts Center
David Zak, Artistic Director

Niles West High School
Andy Sinclair, Theatre Director

Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company
Katherine Mayberry, Executive Director

Greg Kotis
Travis Norton