Resource Guide

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying The Day Before Christmas. Please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.
The Day Before Christmas
A Holiday Musical Spectacular

Written by Ken Jones, Christine Jones, and Jamey Strawn

2022 Theatre Arts Faculty Showcase
Featuring Professors Kevin Patrick and Brad Nies

Directed by Jennifer Patrick
Music Direction by Jill Stewart
Technical Direction by Kevin Patrick
Publicity by Brad Nies
Costumes, Makeup and Hair Design by Jennifer Patrick

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Synopsis

There is a magical flurry of activity at the North Pole as Santa prepares for the biggest night of the year. It takes a lot of planning and hard work to deliver toys to children around the world, but Santa’s team is willing and ready. Or at least they think they are before a tricky Jack Frost decides to stop the Christmas festivities with a little wintry chaos and calamity.

Public Performances

December 1 & 2  
7:00 PM

December 3 & 4  
2:00 PM

Preview Performances

December 1 & 2  
10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Endowed Scholarship Auditions

December 3  
4:00 PM

Dr. W. W. O’Donnell Performing Arts Center
Blinn College-Brenham
After receiving the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting/Directing from the University of Florida, Ken Jones went on to complete a Master of Fine Arts degree in Playwriting from the University of Virginia before graduating in Playwriting from Harvard University. He began his playwriting career with Off-Broadway productions, and he has been recognized by the Best Plays of the 1980’s series, as well as the Post-Corbett Award for Best Literary Artist. Jones’ company, Table for Five Productions, created and produced the award-winning film, Divine Will, and co-wrote the screenplay for the feature film, Relentless. Beyond the Moon, his screenplay, just received the Grand Prize at the Faith In Film International Film Festival and Screenwriting Competition. Beyond the Moon has also received Outstanding Screenplay from the Hollywood International Moving Pictures Film Festival and Best Screenplay from the Olympus Film Festival-Los Angeles. Ken Jones is a member of the Dramatist Guild of America, as well as the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.
Christine Jones, Lyrics

Before worked professionally as an actor and lyricist, Christine Jones earned her BFA in Acting from Florida State University. After, she earned a Master of Fine Arts in Drama from the University of Virginia. She has had feature film roles in HEALING RIVER, CAROL, PROMISES TO KEEP, DIVINE DECISION: DOUBLE DOWN, NOTZILLA, and WHO IS AMOS OTIS? Jones has performed across the country in many musicals and plays, and, while working at Lightpoint Entertainment at Walt Disney Studios, she voiced characters for animated television series and interactive video games. Her collaborations as a lyricist can be heard in such works as, CHURCH GIRLS, BURGERTOWN, SNOW WHITE AND THE DANCING DWARFS, LINCOLN: A PIONEER TALE, and SLEEPING BEAUTY: RISE AND SHINE. As part of Table for Five Productions, she has created and produced the award-winning film, DIVINE WILL, Jones has won 3 Communicator Awards, 3 Telly Awards, 2 Accolades Global Awards, 4 Global Independent Film Awards, The Olympus Film Festival Best Film Award, and the Acclaim Award for Best Original Play. She is an active member of SAG/AFTRA and the National Academy of Television Arts.
Jamey Strawn has composed music for several theatrical works. When he is not composing, Strawn serves as director, musical director, and actor for many shows. He has performed regionally with the Broadway Touring Productions of JERSEY BOYS, WICKED, Disney’s THE LITTLE MERMAID, BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROL KING MUSICAL, EVITA, FLASHDANCE, MONTY PYTHON’S SPAMALOT, A CHORUS LINE, THE SOUND OF MUSIC, and WEST SIDE STORY in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Louisville, Lexington, Columbus, and Indianapolis. Recent directing credits include THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE, INTO THE WOODS, LEGALLY BLONDE, and SHE KILLS MONSTERS at Northern Kentucky University. He has served as Musical Director for many productions as ROCK OF AGES, LES MISERABLES, Sweeney Todd: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, PIPPIN, A CHORUS LINE, and BYE BYE BIRDIE. Strawn is a Professor of Musical Theatre at NKU, and he serves as the coordinator of the BFA musical theatre program in NKU’s School of the Arts.
The Story of Santa Claus

The story of Santa Claus goes back many years to the time when a monk named St. Nicholas roamed the earth. Born around 280 A.D. in what is now known as the country of Turkey, St. Nicholas was admired for his kindness. As such, he became the subject of many legends. It is said that he traveled the countryside helping the poor and the sick. Through the years, Nicholas’ popularity spread, and he became known as the protector of children and sailors. The character of Santa Claus made his first appearance in America when a New York newspaper reported that groups of Dutch families had gathered to honor St. Nick in 1773. In 1822, Clement Clarke Moore wrote a long Christmas poem entitled, “’Twas The Night Before Christmas,” and, today, Santa Claus and his wife, Mrs. Claus, call the North Pole home, where they live with their elves and reindeer. Throughout the year, Santa keeps a “naughty list” and a “nice list” to determine who gets gifts on Christmas morning.
The Story of Jack Frost

The oldest stories of Jack Frost originate from Anglo-Saxon and Norse winter customs. His earliest reference in literature can be found in the 1734 book, “Round About Our Coal Fire, or Christmas Entertainments.” Traditionally, he is known to leave frosty patterns on windows during winter mornings, as well as nipping the extremities in cold weather. In late 19th century literature, Jack Frost is depicted as a sprite-like character, sometimes appearing as a sinister mischief-maker, or as a hero. In later popular culture, he can be seen carrying a paintbrush and bucket so that he may color autumn foliage yellow, red, brown and orange. In Russia, he is known as Grandfather Frost, and in Germany he is known as Frau Holle, a German goddess who survived in popular belief well into the 19th century. Today, Jack Frost can be found mentioned in movies, television, and video games.
Color Time!

Santa

Mrs. Claus
Color Time!

Elf

Rudolf
at  _  _  _  _  andy_  _   _  _  _  _  _
eindeer  _  _  _  _  _  _  _  _  _  _

Name  Game Time
Game Time!

Color the Ornaments

Name: ______________________

I see a red ornament.

I see a green ornament.

I see a blue ornament.

I see a purple ornament.

I see a yellow ornament.
Sources

Internet Source, www.nku.edu, “Ken Jones, MFA.”
Cedar Rapids, IA: Heuer Publishing, Inc.