

# **Ho, Ho, Ho!**

**Sometimes even Santa ends  
up on the naughty list.**

**by James Hutchison**

**Also available from [www.jameshutchison.ca](http://www.jameshutchison.ca)**

**What the Dickens!** *Even Scrooge got a second chance.*

When Marty Fisher gets caught kissing his stage manager Samantha and the actor playing Scrooge shows up drunk Marty has to scramble to save the opening night production of a Christmas Carol and his engagement to his fiancée Tami.

**Two Act Comedy, 6M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**A Christmas Carol – Two versions available -**

When Scrooge's nephew Fred finds some letters Scrooge had written to his sister Fan a long time ago the past is unlocked, and Scrooge learns how his fear of poverty and pursuit of wealth have cost him a chance for love and genuine happiness.

**CAST OF 10+ - Two Act Drama, 6M, 4W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**CAST OF 25+ - Two Act Drama, 15M, 10W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**Under the Mistletoe** *Not every romantic evening goes as planned.*

Two couples in their late fifties, one long time friends and the other having just met, try to navigate the tricky road of love, sex and desire while spending a romantic night in the Christmas Themed Suites at the Prairie Dog Inn.

**Two Act Romantic Comedy 1M, 1W or 2M, 2W Single Set, 120 minutes**

**Heart of Stone: A Jessica Quinn Mystery** *Trusting the wrong person can be deadly.*

When Jessica Quinn uncovers the truth about her father's killer and the truth behind a woman claiming to be the long-lost daughter of her client Mary McConnell more than one person ends up dead.

**Two Act Mystery, 7M, 3W, Multiple Sets, 120 minutes**

**Stories from Langford** *Every town has its secrets.*

Six characters from Langford tell stories from their lives: stories about, jealousy, revenge, love and forgiveness.

**Two Act Drama, 1M, 1W, Simple settings, 120 Minutes**

**Death and the Psychiatrist** *Even Death Could Use a Friend*

Feeling depressed about having a job where no one likes him Death goes into therapy with Dr. Thompson in order to help him cope with his guilt.

**One Act Comedy, 3M, or 2M, 1W, Single Set, 50 Minutes**

**Plus, other One Acts and 10 Minute Plays including The Blood of a Thousand Chickens, 500 bucks and a pack of smokes, and Elvis is Dead.**

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## **PRODUCTION ENQUIRIES**

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## **The Playwright**

James Hutchison writes comedies, dramas, and mysteries. He also interviews other playwrights, actors, and directors about the business and creative aspects of theatre, film, and television. You can read his interviews on his blog and download his plays at [www.jameshutchison.ca](http://www.jameshutchison.ca).

A version of Ho, Ho, Ho! was originally a part of The Dick Corey 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Special produced in 1987 with the following cast: PHIL DONAHUE: David Winning, KRIS KRINGLE: Stan Edmonds, VIRGINIA: Maria Slabe, WOMAN IN AUDIENCE: Sheri Fisk, MAN IN AUDIENCE: Murray Adams, SPARKLES THE ELF: Bill Kelly, AUDIENCE MEMBER: James Hutchison, AUDIENCE MEMBER: Leon Joosen, and a few others who I've now forgotten.

Ho, Ho, Ho! Sometimes even Santa ends up on the naughty list.

A Comedy in One-Act

ISBN: 978-1-9992733-9-2

## **CAST of CHARACTERS**

Dick Corey	Talk Show Host
Kris Kringle	Santa Claus
Woman #1	Member of the audience
Woman #2	Member of the audience
Virginia	Member of the audience
Norm	Member of the audience
Sparkles	Member of the audience

## **SETTING**

Dick Corey Television Studio.

## **TIME**

Mid-afternoon shortly before Christmas.

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

When Kris Kringle makes a guest appearance on the Dick Corey show he gets accused by one crazed member of the audience of making hamburger out of Rudolph and planning to take over the world.

For Graham

## Ho, Ho, Ho!

### SCENE: DICK COREY LIVE

*Setting: On stage is a big Santa chair like the ones you see in mall displays where children come to see Santa and get their picture taken. Christmas decorations surround the stage.*

*At Rise: Christmas music plays as the light come up and DICK COREY runs onto stage holding a microphone and waving to the crowd.*

DICK

Welcome back to our Christmas edition of Dick Corey Live and our final segment on our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Christmas special. I'm your Emmy Award Winning host Dick Corey and I have to say I've never been more excited to welcome a guest to the show than I am today. This is a dream come true and a real thrill for me to have the one – the only – Father Christmas right here in the studio.

#### SFX: APPLAUSE AND CHEERS

*SANTA runs onto the stage with a big sack of letters! SANTA smiles and waves to the crowd and then sits on the chair.*

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho! Hello everyone. Merry Christmas. Ho, ho, ho!

DICK

Wow this is amazing. I've always wanted to meet you sir. Welcome to the show.

SANTA

Please Phil don't call me sir. Call me Santa. Everybody calls me Santa.

DICK

Alright then Santa. And please call me Dick. Nobody calls me Phil. The Phil Donahue show hasn't been around for decades.

Ho, Ho, Ho!

SANTA

Sorry Phil you'll have to forgive me. I've seen a lot of talk shows come and go over the years and at my age you sometimes get names mixed up. I'm just happy to be here and I'm looking forward to spending time with everyone and spreading some holiday cheer! Ho, Ho, Ho.

DICK

You know Santa I think everyone would have to agree that you've lived an incredible life and you've known some fascinating people throughout history. People that have changed the world. Tell me, what was Albert Einstein like?

SANTA

Nice kid. Smart. A bit of a dreamer. He was always looking up at the stars. Got him a telescope for his 8th birthday although he had asked for a sling shot. Sometimes the right gift at the right time can guide children into the people they become.

DICK

I had no idea you considered these kinds of things. What about Nero?

SANTA

Gave him his first fiddle.

DICK

Charles Lindbergh?

SANTA

Chuck. Chucky Lindbergh. I taught him how to fly. Slow learner unfortunately but he eventually caught on. Yes Phil, I've been very lucky to have known so many fascinating people throughout history.

DICK

Okay, well let's take some questions from the audience and see what they want to ask you. Yes, you have a question for Santa.

WOMAN #1

Hi Santa. I just wanted to thank you so much for getting me so many great gifts over the years and so I was wondering since you go around giving presents to everyone else what sort of present does Santa want for Christmas?

DICK

That's a good question. I'd like to know the answer to that myself.

Ho, Ho, Ho!

SANTA

Well, Phil, I guess it's sort of corny, but I'd love to see peace on earth – especially at this time of year.

SFX: AUDIENCE APPLAUSE

SANTA

But on a more personal note, I suppose I want what every red-blooded American boy wants – a date with Marilyn Monroe.

DICK

Marilyn Monroe?

SANTA

Loved her in Some Like it Hot.

DICK

Are you joking?

SANTA

No, not at all. I thought she was brilliant in that film.

DICK

I'm sorry to tell you this Santa but Marilyn Monroe hasn't made a film in years.

SANTA

She's retired, has she? Well, that's understandable at her age.

DICK

No, I mean she's dead.

SANTA

Dead?

DICK

Since 1962.

Ho, Ho, Ho!



SANTA

Good heavens. I'm sorry to hear that. We don't always get the most current news up at the North Pole. I sometimes forget that you mortals don't live as long as we do.

DICK

Don't you have cable?

SANTA

Of course we have cable and internet and I've got Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook but this is a full-time gig Phil. I have very little time for celebrity gossip. You know I have to manufacture the toys and then deliver them and that leaves very little time to work on my manifesto and make preparations for my master plan. I'm sorry to hear Marilyn is gone and long forgotten.

DICK

Oh, she's not forgotten. We get a new book or a movie about Marilyn or Elvis or Kennedy every three to five years. There's a lot of money to be made on dead celebrities.

SANTA

Elvis is dead.

DICK

You didn't know.

SANTA

I do now. This is turning into out to be a really Blue Christmas. Maybe we can cheer things up a little bit – why don't we take another question from the audience.

DICK

Hi there. You have a question for Santa.

WOMAN #2

Hi Santa. I'm a big fan. In fact, I'm the President of the Kris Kringle Appreciation Society for (North America.) (Change to whatever city the play is being staged if wanted.)

SANTA

I wouldn't be where I am without my fans!

WOMAN #2

Um Santa, I've always wondered how do you do it? How do you deliver all those presents in one night?

Ho, Ho, Ho!

*WOMAN goes to sit but Dick stops her from sitting as he clarifies her question.*

DICK

Hang on a minute. So, you want to know how Santa manages to travel around the globe delivering presents to millions of homes...and how he manages to deliver all these gifts in one night. In other words, what is the technology or the method by which – Father Christmas – Santa Claus manages this incredible task. Is that right?

WOMAN #2

Yeah.

DICK

Well Santa, how do you do it?

SANTA

It's all very simple Phil I just bend the laws of time and space. It comes natural to me, and I guess I don't think about it much. You know, no occupation is perfect. There's a lot to do in this line of work and at this time of year I'm pretty busy. I have guest appearances to make in parades, shopping centers, and the occasional massage parlour. It's a tough and thankless gig in a lot of ways, but somebody's got to do it.

DICK

If it's such a thankless job, why do it?

SANTA

Because I'm a Saint. That's what Saints do.

DICK

What about healing the sick and feeding the poor?

SANTA

Look Phil, I'm just a guy in a red suit, flying through the sky in a sleigh – I'm not God. Let's stick to reality here. There's only so much any one Saint can do. After all I'm not a young man anymore.

DICK

That's an interesting point. You're well over 1700 years old. You smoke, you don't exercise, and you only work one month of the year – if that. What's your secret?

Ho, Ho, Ho!

SANTA

I smoke, I don't exercise, and I only work one month of the year – if that. Ho, ho, ho!

DICK

Come on Santa seriously – what's your secret?

SANTA

It's no secret Phil. I use supplements. In fact, you can go to Kringle's Krazy Killer Keto supplements and for a limited time get 50% off your first order. I personally guarantee that taking these supplements will give you the energy and stamina of someone half my age.

DICK

Someone 850 years old.

SANTA

Exactly. Age is just a number.

DICK

Yes, you have a question for Santa.

VIRGINIA

Uh, yes. I mailed my letter to Santa several weeks ago and I was wondering if Santa had received it yet.

SANTA

Your name dear?

VIRGINIA

Virginia.

*SANTA searches through his bag of mail.*

SANTA

Now, let me see. Q, R, S, T, U, V...ah here it is.

*SANTA rips open the letter and reads it out loud.*

Ho, Ho, Ho!

SANTA

Dear Santa. My name is Virginia and I have been a very good girl this year. I am a young woman at the beginning of my sexual life and although I have often fantasized about sex I believe love – especially physical love belongs in marriage.

Well, isn't that special.

My problem is this. Recently my boyfriend has been pressuring me to go all the way, but I want to save myself for my wedding night. What should I do?

Well Virginia, stop saving. Ho, ho, ho!

No, I jest.

Seriously though Virginia you should do what you feel is right and if your boyfriend truly loves you, he will understand.

SFX: AUDIENCE APPLAUSE

DICK

Yes, you have a question for Santa?

NORM

Yes, I'd like to ask this – Father Christmas a thing or two. I became a parent a few months ago.

SFX: AUDIENCE APPLAUSE

NORM

On September 25th to be exact. Nine months after Christmas.

DICK

That's terrific news. Congratulations. But what has that got to do with Santa?

NORM

I just happen to have some video of my child here on my phone that will shed a little light on this matter.

*NORM shows DICK his phone with the video.*

Ho, Ho, Ho!

DICK

Do you mind if we show this to Santa?

NORM

No please do.

*DICK walks over to Santa and Santa takes the phone and watches some of the video.*

SANTA

Ho, ho, ho. What an adorable little boy.

NORM

It's an adorable little girl.

SANTA

Is it? Well, she certainly has her father's eyes.

NORM

Yeah, that's my question. Just who exactly is the father, fat man?

SANTA

Hold on just a second – who am I Tiger Woods? I'm Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas. Do you honestly think I'd take advantage of my position for a few cheap thrills?

DICK

I'm sorry Santa but these are serious accusations especially in light of #MeToo and recent revelations about various men taking advantage of their position and power in Hollywood and in politics and other industries. There's a lot of people on the naughty list and I think people have a right to know if you're one of them. I'd really like you to answer the question.

SANTA

Come on, Phil I'm not on the naughty list. I'm the guy who sneaks into your home when you're sleeping and leaves presents under the tree. You can trust me. Cookies and milk are all I need to be happy.

DICK

Didn't you say you wanted a date with Marilyn Monroe?

Ho, Ho, Ho!

SANTA

That was a joke. Mrs. Claus is the only woman I need to keep my bed warm. We've been together for well over fifteen hundred years and even though there's a bit of snow on the roof top there's still a fire in the furnace. Beatrice Claus is the girl I swore I'd spend my life with and be faithful to and I would never jeopardize that relationship or the trust of the people and fans that I love and care about for a one-night stand.

DICK

That's a pretty emotional defense what do you have to say to that?

NORM

That doesn't prove anything. The fact is my daughter has a head of white hair, rosy-red cheeks, and a nose like a cherry. I want a DNA test to prove who the father is.

DICK

That would certainly clear it up. What does your wife have to say about all of this?

NORM

She denies everything, but my wife Emily is a huge Kris Kringle fan and I've always been a little suspicious because she insists on sleeping under the tree on Christmas Eve. She says she does it because she likes the smell of the pine and the twinkling lights and it gets her in the Christmas spirit.

SANTA

Look just because your wife Emily is unhappy and unfulfilled in your marriage you can't go blaming that on me.

NORM

Oh, no? My daughters first words were, "Ho, ho, ho."

DICK

Wow, this show has certainly taken an unexpected turn. Let's check in with our audience and see what they think.

But before we do don't forget that everyone in our audience will have a chance at the end of the show to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they want for Christmas in addition to receiving a brand new 52-inch-high-definition surround-sound SMART LED television set courtesy of QUANTUM ELECTORNICS.

Ho, Ho, Ho!

So, how many people think Santa – a beloved man – a Saint in fact – who we’ve known for centuries and trusted through the ages and is giving everyone a free TV would take advantage of his situation?

*ONLY NORM and SPARKLES the ELF applaud.*

DICK

Okay. Not surprising.\* And how many in our audience think Santa wouldn’t take advantage of his situation?

SFX: AUDIENCE APPLAUDS

DICK

Well, there you have it. I guess our audience just doesn’t agree with you.

*SPARKLES the Elf stands up.*

SPARKLES

I can’t believe this. Are you people blind? He’s buying you off with cheap electronics. He doesn’t care about you. All he cares about is power and his manifesto and the new world order he’s creating. Can’t you see through this flim-flam man?

DICK

Now hold on a second here – what’s going on? You seem pretty upset.

SPARKLES

I am upset, and I know what I’m talking about even though nobody will listen to me. I’ve been to the New York Times, The Washington Post, and the National Enquirer and they just laughed at me. Sixty Minutes won’t return my calls. Rachel Maddow, Anderson Cooper, and Ronan Farrow blocked me on Twitter. Well, I don’t need them. I don’t need anybody. Just follow me on TikTok or Facebook and check out my website where I have proof that this man isn’t who he says he is.

DICK

Okay. Well, why should we believe you and your accusations without any proof? You’re just some guy off the street.

\*If lots of people in the real audience applaud have an alternate line ready such as, “That’s surprising.”

Ho, Ho, Ho!

SPARKLES

I'm not just some guy off the street. Don't you know an elf when you see one? I worked in Santa's toy shop for years. He treats his workers worse than Amazon. This fat guy in a monkey suit is a vicious, maniacal, mad man who wants nothing less than to rule the world.

DICK

Well Santa, I know that all sounds farfetched, but these are some pretty serious charges. Do you have anything to say?

SANTA

Come on Phil what are you five years old? You still believe in Elves? Get serious. Why if I was to come in here wearing a green suit with bells on my toes, you'd think I was crazy. This guy is obviously a mental patient. He must be out of his mind. He's the one who's a mad man. Get serious.

SPARKLES

He's lying. I am an elf. My name is Sparkles. This man is no Saint! He's formed a secret organization that he plans to use to take over the minds and souls of every living person on the planet.

DICK

And does this secret organization have a name.

SPARKLES

He calls it the Christmas Party.

DICK

The Christmas Party?

SPARKLES

Clever uh. You've heard of the Republican Party and the Communist Party and the Green Party well now there's the Christmas Party.

SANTA

Oh, that's ridiculous. Look Phil, who are you going to believe? Me or some guy dressed up in an Elf costume making all sorts of crazy accusations. Next thing he'll be telling you I made hamburger out of Rudolph.

Ho, Ho, Ho!



SPARKLES

It's true. He did. Rudolph was an advocate for people with disabilities and he was trying to form a union. Well Santa put a stop to that. He made veal burgers out of poor Rudolph. I saw it with my own eyes. This fake must be exposed!

DICK

Okay sir, calm down or I'll have to ask security to remove you from the audience and you won't get your SMART TV courtesy of QUANTUM ELECTRONICS.

*DICK turns to camera and does his QUANTUM ELECTRONICS in show commercial.*

DICK (Cont'd)

QUANTUM ELECTRONICS - makers of the world's most trusted Military Weaponry and Home Entertainment Products. And right now, during their 12 days of Christmas Sale you can get a complete home entertainment package or Surface to Air Missile System at twenty five percent off the regular price. Conditions apply. Check out the QUANTUM ELECTRONICS website for details.

SPARKLES

This isn't over Kringle. I won't rest until the whole world knows the truth.

DICK

I'm sorry about that, Santa. It's hard to have any show these days without some crazy conspiracy theory popping up.

SANTA

That's perfectly fine Phil. I've dealt with these sorts of people before. Don't you worry about it. I'll just be paying Sparkles a little visit on Christmas Eve to sort things out. There's a few Russian Oligarch's I've got on the naughty list as well this year that will be getting a visit from Santa. And speaking of visits from Santa what would you like for Christmas Phil?

DICK

Me? Gosh, I hadn't thought about it. You know just spending time with you this year is really gift enough. This has been a thrill for me and a wild show I have to tell you. Thanks so much for coming by.

SANTA

It's been a thrill for me as well Phil and I think we should make this a holiday tradition. What do you say?

Ho, Ho, Ho!

DICK

I think that's a great idea.

SANTA

Done. I'll be back again next year and for now why don't we end the show the way I like to end all my guest appearances with a great Christmas Carol. How does that sound?

DICK

That sounds great. Thanks everyone for joining us today. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'll be back on January 7th with another year of great guests and amazing shows. Let's join in everyone.

SANTA & DICK & AUDIENCE

We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin  
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!

SFX: MUSIC UP AND OUT.

END PLAY

Ho, Ho, Ho!