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Klingons learn the meaning of Christmas

By QMI AGENCY

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The classic tale "A Christmas Carol" gets a sci-fi makeover in "A Klingon Christmas Carol," now in its fourth year. (HO)

It's the classic tale of a miserly Klingon warrior who has lost his Feast-of-the-Long-Night spirit, until a trio of holiday ghosts help him regain his honour so he can help poor, sick Tiny Tim.

Sounds kind of familiar.

A Klingon Christmas Carol is hitting the stage south of the border for its fourth year, adapting the classic Charles Dickens tale into the Star Trek universe, revolving around every nerd's favourite warrior race.

Written by Christopher O. Kidder and Sasha Walloch, the show's teaser reads: "Scrooge has no honour, nor any courage. Can three ghosts help him to become the true warrior he ought to be in time to save Tiny Tim from a horrible fate? Performed in the Original Klingon with English Supertitles, and narrative analysis from The Vulcan Institute of Cultural Anthropology."

The entire play is performed in thlgan Hol, the Klingon language developed in 1984 by linguist Marc Okrand for Star Trek III: The Search for Spock.

Okrand checked out the show in Chicago this weekend, and was spotted giggling at the Klingon puns the authors managed to work into the dialogue.

It might seem a bit out there, but Lawrence Schoen, founder of the Klingon Language Institute, disagrees.

"Outsiders think it's weird," he told the Wall Street Journal. "But it's no different than walking into a sports bar where everyone knows the score of the third game of the 1982 World Series."

The story takes place in Klingon planet of Kronos during the Klingon Feast of the Long Night (Klingons don't do Christmas), which is less about decking the halls, and more drinking, mating and fighting.

But the Scrooge-like SQuja' has lost the courage necessary to save Tiny Tim, so he's visited by three ghosts who help him restore his honour. This culminates in the protagonist drinking the Ale of Klingon Courage with the ghost from the present.

The show's been going for four years to immense success. Last year, it sold out in St. Paul, Minnesota. This year, fans also caught it in Chicago.

But don't get your hopes up this year, Trekkies. The show ended Sunday. If you want the show to go on next year, you can donate at www.razoo.com/story/A-Klingon-Christmas-Carol.

And Kahless bless us, every one!

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