

Coal For Christmas
By Dana Hall

Dana Hall
60 Silo Ridge Road
Orland Park Il 60467
Magnoliawrites120@gmail.com

Synopsis: When Santa goes missing the reindeer go through extreme measures to try and find him.

Cast:

6 open casting

Characters:

Comet.....A reindeer that's out of this world

Ruddy.....A reindeer formerly bullied trying to fit in, a bit naive

Vixen.....A reindeer focused on appearances, but a heart of gold

Dancer.....A reindeer performer, obsessed with Beyonce

Donner.....A reindeer, stick in the mud, curmudgeon

Blitz..... A reindeer, the boss, a focused leader

Notes: All reindeer dressed in accordance with their personality. Ruddy's nose starts off red but can turn black with a piece of felt the actor sticks over their red nose during the possession. Have fun with this show and make it your own!

Location: Santa's workshop after dark. A few boxes of presents, wrapping paper and festive decoration is appreciated but not necessary.

At Rise: The reindeer are present for an emergency meeting called by Blitz.

Blitz: Thank you all for coming. The elves have retired for the evening so I thought meeting in the workshop would make the most sense. I have some information/

Donner: This better be good - I was about to soak my hooves.

Blitz: Yes, well- I asked you all here tonight because Santa/ (is)

Comet: Is totally far out/

Ruddy: And he believes in you when no one else does-

Blitz: Very inspirational but what I'm trying to say is... You see-

Vixen: (*nervously*) I did it!

Blitz: What?

Vixen: My hair-I'm trying something new. I was so nervous but the stylist said it accentuates my antlers.

Blitz: It's wonderful Vixen, but as I was saying... we're here today because-

Dancer: (*emotional/crying*) Because of a great travesty.

Blitz: Oh Dancer I know- I'm at a loss for words/

Blitz and Donner comfort each other.

Dancer: It's just Santa and I had so much to look forward to/

Blitz: Truly, I feel the same way-

Dancer: Ever since I got the email about the holiday party being canceled- I just haven't been the same.

Blitz shocked, gets up.

Blitz: Wait-you're upset because they canceled the holiday party/
Everyone is upset.

Comet: Yeah, it's so bogus.

Blitz: Does anyone know *why* they canceled it?

Donner: Taxes! The economy has been in the tank- probably budget cuts by elves in upper management they can care less about deer morale -

Ruddy: But Santa loves it. I'm sure he'll help us. Is he coming to this meeting?

Blitz: I'm afraid Santa is not coming.

Dancer: Poor guy! He must really be taking this news hard. You see- we had this whole dance number planned- it's a Single Ladies remix...

Dancer starts doing the single ladies dance as he sings.

All the single reindeer, all the single reindeer

All the single reindeer, all the single reindeer

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, o-ohh

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, o-ohh

Put your hooves up! Put your hooves up!

Blitz: As lovely, and festive as that is... They canceled the party because no one can find Santa. I hate to tell you all in this way but -he's presumed to be dead.

All react- gasps, oh no, not Santa, it can't be, no, what!

Rudy: Dead?

Comet: No! That's totes terrible to the max.

Blitz: It is 'totes terrible.' Reports from Mrs. Claus say it appears Olive, The Other Reindeer, wandered off in the storm and Santa went to find them and/

Donner: No one can survive these temperatures and a man of his size on the shifting ice...

Dancer: What about all the children? The holiday spirit? We have to find them/

Ruddy: Have you seen it out there? Not even my nose will help.

Vixen: Tell us you have a plan Blitz.

Blitz: Well, Vixen I think I have a way we can reach him/

Blitz lays out an Oujui board.

Vixen: (innocent) A board game?

Comet: O.M.G that's a Oijui board.

Ruddy: Dark magic? I don't think we should be messing with this Blitz.

Blitz: No reports, no sign of life, we have to know/

Comet: You know the elves totally refuse to make these-

Dancer: Why? It's nothing but a child's toy-

Comet: Maybe my bodacious reindeer friend, but some believe it's a powerful tool to make paranormal connections. If Santa has crossed over we should totally get a message. We just have to be careful and not to disturb the 'bad' spirits.

Vixen: I can see why the elves don't make these- nothing says Merry Christmas like a poltergeist.

Blitz: We're only asking about Santa- that's it. But we need everyone in. The more energy the greater the signal strength. Who's in?

Comet puts a hoof on the pointer and everyone else is reluctant.

Blitz: Come on- everyone put both your hooves on the pointer.

Everyone puts their hooves on the pointer.

Dancer: We should leave it to the authorities not trust a piece of plastic-

Comet: It's actually called a planchette- that's the small like heart-shaped piece/

Donner: Comet— I mean this in the jolliest of ways- shhhhhut the/

Blitz: Hey. I know it's out of the norm, but we're desperate. Christmas is counting on us.

Comet: Yes, but we should be careful- because some think ouija boards could cause like spiritual possession.

Blitz: That's right Comet so no one takes their hooves off or they may become a target/

Dancer: I'm not afraid of some parlor trick- it's copyrighted to Hasbro come on!

Rudy takes their hooves off to comfort the board.

Rudy: Don't upset it! Hey - we're just here to talk to Santa- don't listen to them, our little demonic alphabet board-

Vixen: Darling hooves on!

Rudy: Sorry- I didn't want it to have hurt feelings.
Puts hooves back on. All reindeer wait in silence.

Vixen: Are we supposed to feel something?

Donner: Maybe all the spirits are on with other people.

Blitz: Everyone clear your minds and think about Santa.

Pause.

Blitz: Ok. Dear Ojiou board, should we worry about Santa *crossing over*?

Dancer: See Nothing. It's a hoax.

They all get jerked to YES.

Ruddy: Yes? No, no- This can't be- he can't be gone.

Comet: Well- technically energy never dies it just life shifts soooooo/

Donner: Oh stop with your hippie-dippie deer stuff already. *(in a scary voice)* Ohhhhh... sacred cardboard - What messages do you behold for us -

Blitz: Maybe we shouldn't condescend to the spiritual guide?

Ouji board pulls them into spelling.

Ruddy: C.

Comet: O.

Blitz: It may be telling us where Santa is!

Comet: Or it wants to like chat me up because I'm so in tune with my like energy guides-I'm here board - C-O- *(predicting)* M/

Donner: Easy there. Oh look no 'M' - looks like it's an 'A' -

Comet: You moved it because you're like jealous and cynical.

Donner: Yea well-Maybe you could manifest your head out of your/

The pointer moves while they are arguing.

Vixen: Stop! Guys look. It just moved to the L.

Rudy: What does that spell? C-O-A-L/ Coal?

Dancer: It's what we're all getting in our stocking for this nonsense. Can we stop now?

Blitz: Yes- I think that's all it has for us. I'm sorry but it looks like Christmas is canceled.
'They take their hooves off the board. All very sad.'

Ruddy: No, it's not. *(moves center stage)* Santa once told me that coal is a gift. It's left for those that need to keep their fire burning. It's not a punishment but an offering to keep family coming together, to feel the joy and warmth within. This is a sign that we have to stay together and as long as we do we can save Christmas.

Donner starts slow clapping.

Donner: That's a nice little story you got there but without the big guy Christmas is sunk.

Vixen: Oh Donner stop. Ruddy is right- Santa may be reminding us Christmas is bigger than any one person that- it's about love.

Dancer: He's really gone.

A somber moment befalls the group then a Ho, Ho, Ho!

Dancer: Santa!

Blitz: Sorry, just my ringtone. Really bad timing I know- I should've changed it...

I gotta take this—*(Blitz is talking on the phone.)*

Uh, huh - yes it's Blitzen... I'm meeting with the others now. News? No, I haven't heard. Wait what- they found him? Where? ...Oh- that's such a relief - ok thanks I'll let them know.

Comet: They like found him?

Blitz: Yes-an elf told Mrs. Claus his hat was found outside the tavern at the far end of town- turns out after he found Olive, The Other Reindeer, they had a few too many 'root beer floats' and decided to sleep it off when the storm came in!

Rudy: I'm so relieved!

Donner: Rudy, your nose isn't glowing.

Rudy: I'm just worn out/

Donner: It has been one hell of a night.

Comet: Outside of Xmas eve, this is the first time we've really come together-

Blitz: Yea, and since we're all up and the lodge is still open, we should celebrate!

Dancer: Oh!! Let's go! You're all going to love my routine.

Donner: How far is it to the snowy tavern where no one could reach Santa?

Blitz: Very funny Don but we're in this together. We'll meet you across the way in a few? And- no one goes wandering off!

All exit but Blitz and Rudy. Rudy has a black nose. (It can be a stick on piece of paper easily switched by the actor on stage.) He is visibly agitated.

Blitz: Hey, Rudy- you ok? I know how close you and Santa are- what you said about the coal was really beautiful.

Rudy: The what?

Blitz: The meaning of it - all of us coming together like a family around the fire, supporting each other...

Rudy: Yes- that was something- uhh- ooh is it getting hot in here?

Blitz: You don't look so good, maybe you should lie down before coming over. Hey-I'm proud of you kid. You really kept us together. Rest up - see you in a few.

Blitz leaves. Rudy has an internal struggle depicted by moments where Rudy uses a different voice as if possessed.

Rudy: Who's there?... What? ...*Kill Santa* - who said that - me? What?- I love Santa, why would I want to - '*crash the sleigh*' no- no all my friends and the presents, it would ruin Christmas- get out of my head. Stop yelling at me! What's happening to me...am I being possessed!?

Oh no! I made up that story to make the others feel better but I know who you are -you're what makes naughty children naughty- you're **Coal** - the dark side of Christmas- get out of me- I won't *hurt my friends*! I won't-

Rudy starts singing Jingle Bells in a creepy tone.

Jingle bells, jingle bells.

Jingle all the way, oh what fun it is to—

CRASH THE SLEIGHHHH!

Ruddy now fully transformed into Coal laughs menacingly.

Coal picks up scissors from the wrapping paper...He holds it up as he leaves to go to the party.

-End Play-