

TROLLS STOLE THE NORTH POLE

THE MUSICAL

Book and lyrics
by
Art Shulman

Music
by
Nick Pierone

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TROLLS STOLE THE NORTH POLE was first produced on November 24, 2012 at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood, California. It ran for seven weeks, through January 6, 2013.

The play was directed by Jack Kandel. Set design was by Chris Winfield. The Costumer was Emily Doyle, Sound design was by Steve Shaw, and Choreography was by Horacee St. Cyr.

The play opened with the following cast. In order of appearance:

FRANKIE	Jaimyon Parker
GRITZ	Jerome St. Jerome
SANTA CLAUS	Steve Apperson
STRIPEY	Mark Needle
RANDOLF	Cortez Johnson
ETHEL	Joyce B. Ferrer
PEPPERMINT	Kendra Hill
CANDY CANE	Michelle Chi
MRS. CLAUS	Lareen Faye
AMELIA FAIRHEART	Taylor Pyles
PATRICIA PENGUIN	Tina Toner
TIP	Senuwell Smith

CAST OF CHARACTERS

FRANKIE:	An evil troll from the South Pole. Male or female.
GRITZ:	Frankie's male assistant. Strong, but not the brightest.
SANTA:	The personification of Mr. Claus himself.
STRIPEY:	An elf. Male or female
RANDOLF:	A loveable reindeer with a blue nose
ETHEL:	A female elf
PEPPERMINT	An elf. Male or female
CANDY CANE	An elf. Male or female
MRS. CLAUS:	A kindly woman
AMELIA FAIRHEART:	A female pilot.
PATRICIA PENGUIN:	A female penguin, dressed in white
TIP:	The South Pole's Sheriff. Male or female.

Characters can be played by cast members of any age.

SETTING

The North Pole, the South Pole, and an area in a building to make toys

TIME

The present, a few days before Christmas

RUNNING TIME

75 minutes

NOTE: The music for the songs THE KIDS WILL HAVE TOYS, and THE KIDS WON'T HAVE TOYS was composed by Lindsay Nesmith and Jason Nesmith. All other music for the songs was composed by Nick Pierone.

ACT 1
SCENE 1

SETTING: The North Pole. On stage is a tall pole with a "NORTH POLE" sign.

(OVERTURE. Then lights down. We hear a blustery wind. Lights up as FRANKIE and GRITZ enter sneakily. GRITZ carries a pole with a "SOUTH POLE" sign.)

FRANKIE

Come along, Gritz. We've got to steal that North Pole and switch it with this South Pole before anybody sees us.

GRITZ

OK boss. But I still don't understand why we're stealing the North Pole and replacing it with the South Pole.

FRANKIE

I've tried to explain it before, you doofus. Soon, pilots will be flying their planes to the North Pole to deliver puffle and tuggle for the elves to make toys. If we have the North Pole they'll deliver the puffle and tuggle to us, even if we're at the real South Pole.

GRITZ

That's very tricky! But Santa won't have any toys to deliver to kids on Christmas Eve, because the elves won't be able to make them.

FRANKIE

Then the kids and their relatives will have to buy our toys, won't they?

GRITZ

You're brilliant, boss.

FRANKIE

Thanks. You're not brilliant, Gritz. That's why I'm the boss and you're only the assistant.

(GRITZ replaces the SOUTH POLE sign with the NORTH POLE sign)

Now let's get back to the real South Pole before anybody sees us.

GRITZ

Won't kids around the world be disappointed when Santa doesn't deliver any toys this year?

FRANKIE

Who cares? We'll be rich, because people will have to buy our toys, at whatever prices we want to charge, and you know that will be high prices.

(FRANKIE sings PUFFLE & TUGGLE)

*We're stealing the North Pole
'cause being rich is my goal.
I have few other vices
But to sell toys at high prices.*

*Toys are made from puffle and tuggle,
Without which elves struggle
To make kids toys for Xmas.*

*If we have all the puffle and tuggle
We won't have to struggle
To make kids toys for Xmas.*

*When we're back at the South Pole
We'll carefully dig a hole
And plant the sign, "The North Pole"
So that pilots in the sky
Will think it's the North Pole as they fly by.
And deliver the puffle and tuggle to us.
Of course, we won't make a fuss.*

*Toys are made from puffle and tuggle,
Without which elves struggle
To make kids toys for Xmas.*

*So that's the reason why
It won't be a struggle
For us to get all the puffle and tuggle.*

*Then we'll make all the toys
To sell as gifts for the girls and boys.
I don't care if later there's a fuss.
'cause people wanting toys will have to buy from us.*

*We're stealing the North Pole
'cause being rich is my goal.
I have few other vices
But to sell toys at high prices.*

*Yeah, yeah, yeah!
Yes!*

(Lights fade)

ACT 1
SCENE 2

(SANTA strolls in. STRIPEY, ETHEL, CANDY CANE, and PEPPERMINT enter.)

STRIPEY

Santa! Santa!

SANTA

Hello, Stripey. Ethel. Candy Cane. Peppermint.

ETHEL

You look worried.

SANTA

I am worried. You elves can't make toys until we receive our shipment of magical puffle and tuggle. Something must be wrong. Did you check to see if the shipment arrived?

STRIPEY

I just did, and it hasn't come yet.

SANTA

It should have been here by now.

PEPPERMINT

It's way overdue.

SANTA

And Christmas is only three days away.

CANDY CANE

Three days?

(All on stage sing ONLY 3 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS)

*Only 3 days until Xmas
And we haven't made our toys.
With no presents under the tree,
Think of all the sadness we'll see.*

*Only 3 days until Xmas.
What are we all to do?
We've fallen so far behind,
The kids will have nothing to find.*

Only 3 days until Xmas

(An AIRPLANE sound. MRS. CLAUS enters.)

ETHEL

What's that?

MRS. CLAUS

Sounds like an airplane is about to land.

STRIPEY

I'm going to see.

(STRIPEY exits)

PEPPERMINT

I bet it's come to deliver the puffle and tuggle. Now we'll be able to make toys, Mrs. Claus!

MRS. CLAUS

I hope so, Peppermint. But I wish you'd call me by my first name. All everybody ever calls me is Mrs. Claus. Even Santa calls me Mrs. Claus, or "dear".

RANDOLF

I'll call you by your first name. What is your first name?

MRS. CLAUS

I forgot, Randolph.

CANDY CANE

You forgot?

(MRS. CLAUS sings MY FIRST NAME I FORGOT. SANTA overhears.)

*I wake up in the morning
And I know not my first name.
Santa calls me "dear",
But that's just not the same.*

*I wish I could remember
What they called me as a child.*

*If I only knew my first name
That would drive me wild.
If I only knew my name as a child.*

My first name I forgot.

ETHEL

Griselda?

MRS. CLAUS

No, it's not.

(As each name is mentioned MRS. CLAUS nods "No")

ETHEL, CANDY CANE and PEPPERMINT alternate

Susan?
Kathy?
Alice?
Annie?
Beatrice?
Becky?
Nancy?
Fanny?

MRS. CLAUS

My first name I forgot.

CANDY CANE and PEPPERMINT

Svetlana?

MRS. CLAUS

No, it's not.
I wish I could remember
What they called me as a child.
If I only knew my first name
That would drive me wild.
If I only knew my name as a child.

ETHEL

That is so sad.

(STRIPEY returns)

STRIPEY

Well, the pilot just landed her plane with a delivery.

SANTA

So our puffle and tuggle have arrived!

STRIPEY

No. The pilot is delivering something, but it's not puffle and tuggle!

MRS. CLAUS

What is she delivering?

STRIPEY

Tuxedos!

ETHEL

Tuxedos?

MRS. CLAUS

Tuxedos?

STRIPEY

Yes, tuxedos!

SANTA

Well, maybe kids would rather have tuxedos than toys, anyway. I wonder what would happen if we asked kids if they'd rather have tuxedoes for Christmas, or toys for Christmas.

(HE speaks to the audience)

How many kids would rather have a tuxedo instead of toys? And how many kids would rather have toys?

(Allow time for the kids in the audience to "vote")

Well, I guess kids prefer getting toys to tuxedos.

STRIPEY

But the tuxedos are for the penguins who live at the South Pole.

PEPPERMINT

And we live at the North Pole.

STRIPEY

Exactly. Here comes the pilot now. Maybe she'll explain.

(AMELIA FAIRHEART enters, sings AMELIA FAIRHEART AT YOUR SERVICE.)

AMELIA

*Amelia Fairheart at your service,
Captain of the sky.
I've come to deliver tuxedoes.
I just love to fly.
I'm a careful pilot.
Safety is my goal.
Now I've delivered safely
These tuxedoes to the South Pole.
As pilot of my aircraft
It's a pleasure that we meet.*

*To acknowledge you received delivery
Sign this receipt.*

SANTA

*Amelia Fairheart, captain of the sky,
You've come to the North Pole.
Someone pulled a flumeroony.*

(Two beats for the next two speeches))

RANDOLF (spoken)

Flumeroony?

ETHEL (Spoken)

Flumeroony?

SANTA

The North Pole someone stole.

AMELIA

*What's a flumeroony?
I've never heard that word
As long as I've been flying
In the sky, just like a bird*

SANTA

*Flumeroony is a dirty trick.
Whoever pulled this one
Is definitely sick.*

AMELIA:

*So are you saying I delivered the whole
Puffle and tuggle
To the crooks at the South Pole?*

SANTA

*Because we have no materials
I fear
That kids all around the world
Won't get toys this year.*

AMELIA

Oh, dear!

SANTA

We didn't order any tuxedos. This is the North Pole, not the South Pole.

CANDY CANE

So, kids all over the world may not get any toys this year?

(All on stage sing THE KIDS WON'T HAVE TOYS.)

ETHEL

*The kids won't have toys,
Toys for girls and boys.
Children will be disappointed,
And dismayed and disjointed.*

ALL ON STAGE

The kids won't have toys.

MRS. CLAUS

*The kids won't have toys
To play on Xmas Day.
They'll open their eyes
And not get a surprise.*

ALL ON STAGE

The kids won't have toys.

STRIPEY

*The kids won't have toys.
Their eyes won't open wide.
This year they'll be denied*

ALL ON STAGE

*The kids won't have toys.
The kids won't have toys,
Toys for girls and boys.
Children will be disappointed,
And dismayed and disjointed.*

MRS. CLAUS

The kids won't have toys.

SANTA

The kids won't have toys.
RANDOLF and ELVES
The kids won't have toys.

AMELIA

You're Santa Claus, aren't you!

SANTA

Yes, I've been Santa Claus for hundreds of years. (*Beat*) That settles it. Stripey, you're going to have to go to the South Pole, find the North Pole, and bring it back here.

STRIPEY

You mean the North Pole is at the South Pole?

SANTA

Exactly! And you also need to bring back all the puffle and tuggle to make toys.

STRIPEY

All that stuff, by myself?

SANTA

Not necessarily by yourself, Stripey.

(SANTA and STRIPEY sing STRIPEY'S ASSIGNMENT)

SANTA

*Here's what I want you to do.
 Immediately round up a crew.
 Take who you want – reindeer, elves,
 Even Mrs. Claus will go too.*

STRIPEY

You want me in a leadership position?

SANTA

Yes, you have my permission.

STRIPEY

Retrieving materials is my mission?

SANTA

Yes, that is my decision.

STRIPEY

I'm just an elf, not a magician.

SANTA

You'll succeed, that's my intuition.

STRIPEY

I hope you're right and not just wishin'.

SANTA

*And don't forget as our goal,
 You are to retrieve the North Pole.*

STRIPEY

*Santa, I will do
 My best and I thank you
 For your confidence*

*That upcoming events
Will show that we rescue
The materials for you.*

SANTA

*Stripey, make due haste!
There is no time to waste.
I'm relying on you.
And your crew.*

MRS. CLAUS

(Upset about Santa wanting her gone)

You want me to go also?

SANTA

Yes, you're very clever and resourceful.

MRS. CLAUS

Don't you want my company here?

SANTA

Of course, but I know you'll be a valuable addition to this mission.

MRS. CLAUS

Oh! I just realized I have some cookies baking in the oven. They should be done by now.

(MRS. CLAUS exits, about to sob)

STRIPEY

Are you going to lead us, Santa?

SANTA

Well, no. I'm needed here. Can you imagine how disappointed tourists would be if they came to the North Pole and found Santa had taken a trip to the South Pole? But sure that Mrs. Claus, my dear, is a part of your crew. There's a surprise I want to arrange for her while she's gone.

STRIPEY

I'm on my way, Santa.

SANTA

Make haste, Stripey.

STRIPEY

I'm on the case right now, Santa.

AMELIA

I'll race you there!

(AMELIA exits.)

SANTA

Stripey, get started! And take this South Pole with you!

(SANTA gives the South Pole to STRIPEY)

(Lights fade)

NOTE: In the original production the characters mounted a sleigh, which “flew”, accompanied by a lighting effect. (That is, the sleigh didn’t really fly, but the lighting effect suggested flight.)

ACT 1
SCENE 3

SETTING: The South Pole

(A blustery wind. Then, lights up on RANDOLF, MRS. CLAUS, and the ELVES who've just gotten off a sleigh. On another part of the stage FRANKIE and GRITZ "silently" converse, standing in front of the North Pole sign so it's hidden from the others. Wind dies down.)

CANDY CANE

Nice driving, Randolph.

RANDOLF

Thanks, Candy Cane. It's what I do best. Learned it all from my cousin Rudy, who's retired now.

STRIPEY

Well, here we are at the South Pole.

ETHEL

It's scary. If they find out who we are, we might be in big danger!

RANDOLF

We've got to take the North Pole back. Mrs. Claus, we're sorry about taking you away from Santa, but we need you for our mission.

MRS. CLAUS

See, everybody calls me Mrs. Claus. Not my real first name.

ALL

Which is?

MRS. CLAUS

I don't know. I wish someone knew. Can anyone tell me my real first name? Does anybody know my first name?

(Looks to audience for suggestions.)

In response to a child's suggestion...)

Yes, my real first name is _____.

Now I know my name is _____.

(Sung, NOW I KNOW MY FIRST NAME)

Now when I wake up in the morning

I'll know my first name.

It 'll drive me wild

To know the name I had as a child.

It'll drive me wild

To know my name as a child.

(Insert name)

RANDOLF

Well, (*name for Mrs. Claus*), won't the bad guys get suspicious if they see our sleigh?

PEPPERMINT

And Stripey, we have the South Pole. That's suspicious looking.

(STRIPEY removes the covering from the pole.)

STRIPEY

As you can see, I've disguised it. I painted it to look like a barber pole. We'll pretend we're opening up a barber shop, and the sleigh will be the shop.

(STRIPEY stands the pole, painted like a candy cane, near the sleigh)
Ethel, why don't you snoop around and see if you can find the North Pole.

ETHEL

Sure as snowshoes, Stripey!

STRIPEY

Get your hair cut. Get your hair cut right here.

(ETHEL looks for the North Pole, overhears the conversation of FRANKIE and GRITZ)

GRITZ

Frankie, I saw the plane land yesterday morning and deliver all the stuff to make toys -- puffle and tuggle and paint and glitter!

FRANKIE

Yes, it did. It's all in that building over there.

GRITZ

You must be really excited.

FRANKIE

No I'm not, gosh-dingle it!

GRITZ

Why not?

FRANKIE

Because we don't have anyone to make the toys. We're trolls, not elves. Only elves know how to make toys.

GRITZ

There's a difference between trolls and elves?

FRANKIE

Of course! Didn't your mother ever read you fairy tales when you were a kid?

GRITZ

No one ever read me anything. And I never had many toys. Or, friends. My whole life.

(GRITZ sings I NEVER FIT IN)

*I never had friends
When I was a kid.
Someone to play with.
They wanted to be rid
Of me.
When I was a kid.
I was a kid.*

*I never fit in.
I never fit in.
I was an outsider,
Who never fit in.*

*I was always alone,
Friendless and apart.
Other kids called me doofus.
And not very smart.*

*I never fit in.
I never fit in.
I was an outsider,
That never fit in.*

*Sleepovers and
Birthday parties,
They didn't invite me.
Sleepovers and
Birthday parties
They'd say, "He's strange".
He's very strange*

*I never fit in.
I never fit in.
I was an outsider,
Who never fit in.
I never fit in.
I never fit in.*

FRANKIE

So, you never fit in? (*Beat*) You mean you were like this when you were a kid?

GRITZ

Yes.

FRANKIE

No wonder no one wanted to play with you. Now, Gritz, I want you to guard this North Pole so that nobody takes it. You can never know when some other pilot will come along and see it, and deliver more stuff to make toys.

GRITZ

But you just said we have no one to make the toys.

FRANKIE

I'll figure something out.

(PATRICIA PENGUIN enters, dressed in all white.)

GRITZ

Hey, there's a walking snowman.

PATRICIA

Cool it! I'm Patricia Penguin, not a snowman... not a snowperson.

GRITZ

Hi, Patricia.

PATRICIA

Brrr. I'm cold. I need something to keep me warm.

GRITZ

Where's your tuxedo?

PATRICIA

It got all wet when I spilled Sloppy Joe on it. I had to send it to the dry cleaner.

GRITZ

If it was all wet, why did you send it to the dry cleaner?

PATRICIA

Exactly! He ruined it and now I can't go in the ice water because I have no tuxedo to keep me warm.

(PATRICIA sings TUXEDOES)

*I'm a penguin who likes tuxedoes,
I'm not one of those weirdoes.*

*I'm one who waddles as she goes.
In my formal wear.*

*Tuxedoes display taste and style.
They're so very chic.
That is why I'm fashionable
From my claws to my beak.*

*Tuxedoes keep me warm
In cold weather and snow storm.
I love my formal wear.*

*I will tell you very nicely,
Precisely and concisely,
Very warmly, and not icily,
I love my formal wear.*

*Tuxedoes keep me warm
In cold weather and snow storm.
I love my formal wear.*

*Let me give you some advice.
If you live where there is ice,
You should pay any price
For the warmth of a tuxedo.*

*I'm a penguin,
Not a dodo.
When temperature is below zero.
A tuxedo is my credo.
I love my formal wear.*

*Tuxedoes keep me warm
In cold weather and snow storm.
I love my formal wear.
I love my formal wear.
I love my formal wear.*

FRANKIE

That ice water is really cold, isn't it?

PATRICIA

If you're not a penguin or a fish, you can hardly survive in it. Hey, did I hear a plane fly in?
There's supposed to be a plane delivering a load of tuxedos here.

FRANKIE

That plane delivered stuff to make toys, not tuxedos. I have no idea where the plane delivering tuxedos is.

GRITZ

Well, I think that plane is probably...

FRANKIE

Gritz has no idea either, do you, Gritz?

GRITZ

No.

FRANKIE

Say, Patricia. I've acquired a whole bunch of stuff to make toys. They're in that building over there. Do you know how to make toys?

PATRICIA

Of course not. Only elves know how to make toys, not penguins. We know how to make popsicles and those gooey drinks -- slushes. But not toys.

FRANKIE

Dag-nab it! Well, I'm going to look around for someone to make toys (*to GRITZ*) that we can sell at high prices. Meanwhile, Gritz, I want you to guard this North Pole sign.

PATRICIA

Say, why does that say North Pole? This is the South Pole.

FRANKIE

Well.. uh... you know how bad at spelling folks are these days. Even the pole maker can't spell.

(FRANKIE exits. GRITZ watches the North Pole, but soon falls asleep)

PATRICIA

Oh, look! A barbershop. Hey, maybe they trim feathers. I'm going to find out.

(PATRICIA walks to the sleigh. Separately, ETHEL also returns to the sleigh)

STRIPEY

Haircut, get your haircut. Hey, there's a walking snowperson.

PATRICIA

Hi there. I'm Patricia Penguin, not a snowperson.

STRIPEY

I'm Stripey the barber. We also do manicures. This is our manicurist -- (*name given Mrs. Claus*).

MRS. CLAUS

How do you do. Trim your nails?

PATRICIA

Unfortunately penguins don't have nails. We have wings, but no nails.

CANDY CANE

If you're a penguin, where's your tuxedo?

PATRICIA

Ruined from Sloppy Joe stains.

MRS. CLAUS

Those are the worst.

PATRICIA

A new shipment of tuxedos was supposed to be delivered yesterday, but they didn't come. You don't sell tuxedos at this barbershop, do you?

RANDOLF

No, but I have an idea where they are. The tuxedoes...

MRS. CLAUS

(Interrupting)

We also shine shoes. This is... Randy, our shoe-shiner.

RANDOLF

Nice to meet you. Give your shoes a shiny buff?

PATRICIA

Penguins don't wear shoes. If we wore shoes we'd ruin them as soon as we walked into the water. You should take care of your cold; your nose is awfully blue. Say, I haven't noticed you all before. You new to the South Pole?

MRS. CLAUS

Oh no. We just had our shop on the east side of the South Pole. This is the west side, isn't it?

(As MRS. CLAUS refers to the east and west sides, the OTHERS point in all different directions, and mumble the different directions.)

PATRICIA

It sure is. Say, here comes Tip.

(TIP enters)

TIP

Tip of the morning to ya!

PATRICIA

Morning, Tip. These folks just moved here. They operate this barbershop. This is Tip.

TIP

Pleased to meet ya. I'm the Sheriff here. If you notice any shenanigans going on I want you to notify me. I live at that iceberg over there. Just remember, I'm Tip of the iceberg.

(TIP sings I'M TIP)

*I'm Tip the honest sheriff.
It really rubs me raw
When bad guys break the law.*

*I'm Tip the honest sheriff.
I am an honest man.
I arrest the bad guys
And toss them in the can.*

*If I'm offered a bribe
By a dishonest crook,
I ask the sentencing judge at trial
To throw at them the book.*

*I keep my territory
Safe and secure.
I treat everyone equally,
The rich and the poor.*

*I'm Tip the honest sheriff.
It really rubs me raw
When bad guys break the law.*

I'm Tip.

Well, tip of the morning to ya, again.

(TIP exits)

PATRICIA

You don't trim feathers, do you?

THE ELVES and MRS. CLAUS
No. We're not that kind of barbershop.

PATRICIA

Well, I better get going to look for those lost tuxedos.

MRS. CLAUS

Goodbye, snowperson.

(PATRICIA exits, saying:)

PATRICIA

I am not a snowperson. Everybody thinks I'm a snowperson, just because I don't have a tuxedo.

ETHEL

Guys, I just overheard a conversation between a troll named Frankie and a big oaf named Gritz. It seems they stole the North Pole and they intend to make toys and sell them at very high prices.

STRIPEY

You mean trolls stole the North Pole?

PEPPERMINT

I bet they're making toys right now.

ETHEL

Oh, no. They don't know how to make toys. You see, there are no elves here at the South Pole.

RANDOLF

They have no one who knows how to make toys?

MRS. CLAUS

Hey! I've got an idea -- how we can surprise Santa with a whole shipment of toys!

CANDY CANE

What's your idea, (*name given Mrs. Claus*)?

MRS. CLAUS

Well, we'll volunteer to make the toys. And once all the toys are made we'll take them back to the real North Pole.

PEPPERMINT

Do you think we can get away with it?

RANDOLF

We'd better. There are only two days left until Christmas.

STRIPEY, ETHEL, PEPPERMINT, CANDY CANE, and MRS. CLAUS

Two days?

(*All on stage sing TWO DAYS UNTIL XMAS*)

*Only 2 days until Xmas
And we haven't made our toys.
With no presents under the tree,
Think of all the sadness we'll see.*

*Only 2 days until Xmas.
What are we all to do?
We've fallen so far behind,
The kids will have nothing to find.*