



DalekoArts presents

City Council Christmas

a DalekoArts original play

directed
by Ben Thietje

Nov 30 – Dec 30

Fri, Sat @ 7:30p

Sat, Sun @ 2:00p

OUR MISSION

DalekoArts (DELL-uh-koh), an ensemble theatre company, works with professional artists to pursue impactful, live performance in our community of New Prague, Minnesota and the surrounding region.

OUR VISION

Our purpose is to decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota by increasing engagement and opportunity in New Prague and the surrounding area. It is our dream that New Prague will be a known destination for quality performing arts and arts education.

OUR STORY

DalekoArts was founded in 2012 by theatre artists Ben Thietje and Amanda White as a way to help decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota.

New Prague was chosen as the company's home due to the community's extraordinary interest in theatre, the regional growth and development it has experienced in the last decade, its relative proximity to the Twin Cities, and its close ties to the founders.

"Daleko" — a Czech word meaning "far away" — reflects New Prague's strong bohemian roots, its spatial relationship to the cultural hub that is the Twin Cities, and the ensemble's desire to step back and examine the world from a new point of view.



DalekoArts is a member of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



DalekoArts is a proud member of the Minnesota Theater Alliance.

WELCOME TO DALEKOARTS AND THE PRAGUE THEATER

We're about as lucky as a theatre company could be -- this marks our fifth original holiday production, and you guys keep coming back! As is Daleko holiday tradition, feel free to turn your brain off for the next 75 minutes and simply embrace the dumb. There's no hidden message, no deep meaning, nothing much to chew on. It's the holidays. We're here to hand out a few giggles, maybe a warm fuzzy, and turn you right back over to family and friends.

In the past, we've reprinted the original holiday note from our 2014 production of Main Street Holiday. It still very much applies, so here it is, once again:

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

At DalekoArts, 'tis the season for feeling nothing but joy and gratitude! We've been amazed by the love, work, and artistry offered by our friends and community in the past few seasons. We're lucky to have good pals who also happen to be some of the Twin Cities' finest artists, and New Prague and its neighbors have looked out for us every step of the way.

This season, we offer City Council Christmas as DalekoArts' goofy, idiotic, fun, and totally ridiculous love letter to our audiences, and to the good people of New Prague and the surrounding area. We're huge fans of the classic holiday film *It's A Wonderful Life*, and it just isn't Christmas until we curl up with a bowl of popcorn and watch it until the weepy, beautiful end. Jimmy Stewart's character, George Bailey, has a guardian angel, the lovable and bumbling Clarence. In the last moments of the movie, George discovers that Clarence has left him a final thought in a copy of Mark Twain's book *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. We think Clarence's inscription in the book says everything we want to say about the last several seasons at DalekoArts, and about our future here at The Prague Theatre. He writes:

"Dear George — Remember no man is a failure who has friends. Thanks for the wings! Love, Clarence"

Thanks for the wings, friends. Joyful, peaceful holidays to you & yours.

With Love,

Ben, Amanda,
and the Team at DalekoArts

City Council Christmas

a Daleko original holiday show

written & directed by
Ben Thietje

music & choreography by
Maxwell Emmett Ward
& Armando Ronconi

story by
Ben Thietje & the Company
additional material by
E.J. Subkoviak

TIME: Now

PLACE: Dellview, Minnesota

Cast

Linda Teeter - Heather Meyer
Barb Rhodes - Lizzie Gardner *
Ed Lewinsky - Bobby Gardner *
Ronald Huff - Ben Thietje *
Kevin Doofer - Phillip Hoelscher
Ashley - Sulia Altenberg
Justyn - Maxwell Emmett Ward
Jakob - Armando Ronconi

Production Staff

Stage Manager - Janice Geis
Scenic Designer/Painter - Sydney Achler
Lighting Designer - Courtney Schmitz
Costume Designer - Amanda White *
Sound/Props Designer - Ben Thietje *
Carpenter - Robin McIntyre

* denotes DalekoArts company member

HEATHER MEYER

Linda Teeter

Heather is thrilled to be back at DalekoArts for the holiday show. She was last at DalekoArts in Another Main Street Holiday. Heather performs frequently as an improviser with The Theater of Public Policy, Brave New Workshop, ComedySportz, and Huge Improv Theater. Heather is also a writer and recently finished up writing scripts for an animated children's series debuting in 2020. She worked very hard for her MFA in Playwriting from Spalding University and her MA in Sustainable Design from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. In her small house, she has eight Christmas trees and none of them are green.

LIZZIE GARDNER

Barb Rhodes

Lizzie is so happy to be back performing with DalekoArts for the holidays! She was recently seen in the past three Mainstreet Holiday shows, and Almost Maine. You'll also find her performing and traveling nationally with her musical improv group, The Shrieking Harpies, and can be found regularly performing or teaching improv at Huge Theater in Minneapolis. Thank you to DalekoArts for everything you do, and giving her a chance to perform with her closest friends and husband!

BOBBY GARDNER

Ed Lewinsky

Bobby is a local actor/improviser/educator and DalekoArts Company member. He has appeared in She Loves Me, Adventures in Mating, Snowed Inn, The Rink, Forever Plaid, and Proof. He's performed with other local theatre companies like the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Troupe America, and Flip Theatre, and also works for the Brave New Workshop comedy theatre in Minneapolis. Bobby has a theatre degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

BEN THIETJE

Ronald Huff/

*Sound/Props Designer/
Writer/Director*

Ben has been working as a professional theatre artist and educator in the Twin Cities for the past fifteen years. He teaches and directs the-

atre at New Prague High School, and holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University, Mankato. In addition to being a Daleko founding Artistic Director, he's appeared in the company's productions of The Odd Couple, Forever Plaid, Almost, Maine, Rancho Mirage, Little Shop of Horrors, Love Letters, Urinetown, Stones in His Pockets, The Rink, and Middletown, in addition to serving as director for the DA holiday productions.

PHILLIP HOELSCHER

Kevin Doofer

City Council Christmas is Phil's debut with DalekoArts, and he couldn't be happier to join the company. Phil is a B.F.A. Acting graduate from the U of M Duluth. Some of his favorite roles include Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing, Jean in Rhinoceros, and Mischa in A Gone Fishin' Christmas. Phil would like to thank his family for their support, his teachers for their wisdom, and his partner, Alyson, for his inspiration. Thank you all for coming, and Merry Christmas!

SULIA ALTENBERG

Ashley

Sulia is excited to be back at Daleko after performing in The Philadelphia Story in season two! She has performed for over 10 years around the Twin Cities with Frank Theater, Walking Shadow, Park Square Theatre, Illusion Theater, Loudmouth Collective, Theatre Unbound and in many audience favorites at the MN Fringe. When not on stage Sulia can be found in vintage shops, watching the Dick Van Dyke Show, and paddle boarding/ice skating depending on the season. Next she'll be returning as Anne in The Diary of Anne Frank at Park Square Theatre.

MAXWELL EMMETT WARD

Justyn

Maxwell is jacked to be joining this talented team for such a unique theatrical experience! Since completing his Musical Theatre studies at UW - La Crosse last year, he's played around the Cities in roles such as Arpad in She Loves Me (Lyric Arts), Dick in High Fidelity (MMT) and Ernst in Spring Awakening (Shoot the Glass). Maxwell thanks his loved ones for their kindness, wisdom, and holiday spirit!

ARMANDO RONCONI

Jakob

Armando is stoked to return to the DalekoArts stage as Jakob (with a K)! You last saw him on this stage in The Rink (Lucky). Since moving to the Twin Cities back in 2015, he has been fortunate enough to work with some amazing theatre companies like DalekoArts, as well as Artistry (Mary Poppins), Lyric Arts (Forever Plaid - Plaid Tidings), Chameleon Theatre (39 Steps), Gadfly Theatre (She Kills Monsters), and CLIMB Theatre (Performing Company). When he's not onstage, you can find him teaching tap, tutoring mathematics, and playing D&D. He would like to thank his wonderful friends and family for their constant love and support!

JANICE GEIS

Stage Manager

Janice is honored by joining DalekoArts once again to celebrate the holidays. It's the most wonderful time of the year, and she gets to wear the coveted stage manager ugly Christmas sweater for this show! Janice spends her days managing properties, and her evenings stage managing. She can be seen running around St. Paul and Minneapolis eating cheese and talking about her love of her Christmas tree.

SYDNEY ACHLER

Scenic Designer/Painter

Syd is thrilled to be designing another Daleko show! She is a Chicago based scenic designer and painter and an ensemble member with (re)discover theatre. Upcoming productions include Dead Man's Cell Phone with The Comrades. Recent designs include She Loves Me, Middletown, A Christmas Carol, Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged), Stones in his Pockets, Our Town, DalekoArts; Clearing, Commission Theatre; Warrior Class, Row After Row, The Comrades; For One, (re)discover theatre; Punk, The New Colony; Big Love, Apple Valley HS; Hamtown Races, Planet Ant Theatre. She received her BFA from Illinois Wesleyan University. Although based in Chicago, Syd is so grateful to have a place to come home to in New Prague, MN, with Amanda, Ben, and the DalekoFam.

COURTNEY SCHMITZ

Lighting Designer

Courtney earned her MFA in lighting

design from the University of Iowa in 2009. Since relocating to Minneapolis in 2012, she has designed locally with Yellow Tree Theatre, Collective Unconscious Performance, Workhaus Collective, nimbus theatre, SPARK theatre + dance, 20% Theatre Company, and Bucket Brigade Theatre, among others. Previous designs with DalekoArts include Wait Until Dark, Stones In His Pockets, The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged), She Loves Me, and Godspell. www.cargocollective.com/schmitzlighting

AMANDA WHITE

Costume Designer

Amanda is always excited about the holiday show, no matter how she's involved. DalekoArts shows she's directed include Godspell, Our Town, Little Shop of Horrors, Barefoot in the Park, and DA's very first show, The Odd Couple. You may have seen her on the DalekoArts stage in Middletown, The Rink, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), Adventures in Mating, Our Town, the Main Street Holiday series, The Philadelphia Story, Rancho Mirage, and Proof. In addition to being a founding Artistic Director at DalekoArts, Amanda is a member of the Theatre performance faculty at Normandale Community College. She is a graduate of Columbia University's Program in Arts Administration, MSU Mankato's MFA in Theatre Performance, Truman State University's Theatre Arts program, and the School at Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

ROBIN MCINTYRE

Carpenter

Robin graduated with a BFA and an MFA in Theatre Design and Stage Technology from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since 1991 Robin has designed for a variety of local theatres including Lakeshore Players, Mounds View Community Theatre, Park Square Theatre, The History Theatre, Actor's Theatre, The Flying Foot Forum, North Star Opera, The Phipps Center for the Arts, local colleges, and many local high schools. For 10 seasons Robin created hundreds of sets for both main stage musicals and Black Box theatre productions at Bloomington Civic Theatre and Art Center. He is currently freelance designing in the Twin Cities and working with The University of Northwestern in St. Paul.

DalekoArts

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