

## Over Loki's Laughter

by Barry Stewart Mann

Alliance Theatre Junior Players, Spring 2009

### Cast

The play has 33 characters. It can be cast with as many as 33 actors, or as few as 16, with doubling as noted.

### Mythological Characters

Thor, Odin's son, known for his bravery  
Odin, the supreme deity of the Norse gods  
Balder, son of Odin and Frigg, known for his beauty  
Hoder, a blind god  
Freyr, a god symbolizing prosperity and good weather  
Loki, the trickster of the Norse gods  
Bragi, the poet of the Norse gods  
Tyr, the god of law and justice  
Frigg, Odin's wife  
Freya, a goddess known for love and beauty  
Idunn, the keeper of the apples of perpetual youth  
Sif, Thor's wife  
Hel, the goddess of the underworld  
Skadi, a goddess known for hunting  
3 Norns, goddesses of destiny

### Contemporary Characters

Monique Smith (possible double with one of the Norns)  
Rich Smith, a wealthy man, Monique's father (possible double with Thor)  
Angelina Martinez, Rich's wife (possible with for Freya)  
Jane Sparks, an archaeologist (possible with for Frigg)  
Ian Sparks, her son (possible double with Odin)  
Jack Sparks, her younger son (possible double with Hoder)  
Astrid, Norwegian ski instructor (possible double with Bragi)  
Nils, Norwegian concierge (possible double with Loki)  
Corey, a friend of Ian's (possible double with Tyr)  
Nathaniel, a friend of Ian's (possible double with Balder)  
Trey, a friend of Ian's (possible double with Freyr)  
Ramona, a friend of Monique's (possible double with one of the Norns)  
Gina, an Italian girl (possible double with Skadi)  
Shasa, a Nigerian girl (possible double with Sif and one of the Norns)  
Claudette, a French girl (possible double with Idunn)  
Birgit, a Norwegian girl (possible double with Hel)

## **PROLOGUE: LOKI LAUGHS**

*(A mountainside in Norway. Sound of haunting music. Slow crossfade into sound of wind and skiing - whooshes. Then, the sounds of multiple laughter. One laugh rises above the others and remains. Lights come up on LOKI, laughing, while running and hopping around. SKADI observes from the distance.)*

LOKI: Have they no sense of humor? Play, play, it's all in a day's work. Tricks are just turns of the mind. If they cared so much about that beautiful fellow, they should not have used him for target practice. Ah, but it was funny! *(He laughs.)* And now, I'm sure they are plotting their revenge. Ever since I became blood-brothers with the great Odin, the rest of the Aesir, the illustrious gods of Asgard, have been jealous of me. But I will have the last laugh. I always do. *(He laughs.)*

SKADI: Loki!

LOKI: Skadi, beautiful frost-giantess!

SKADI: Enough is enough. Let it be.

LOKI: I will. I will let it be . . . endlessly, delightfully clever. *(Laughs and leaves.)*

## **SCENE 1: ARRIVALS**

*(The Main Lobby of the Skisenter Jarlsheim. NILS, the concierge, stands behind a desk or podium. BIRGIT, SHASA, CLAUDETTE and GINA enter)*

BIRGIT: It should be another wonderful day for skiing.

CLAUDETTE: Today is our group class, no?

GINA: I hope so! I don't want to fall down so much as yesterday.

SHASA: I just hope that it gets a little warmer. It is never this cold in Nigeria.

CLAUDETTE: Of course not. In France, we have cold weather all the time.

GINA: Yes, even in Italy we have cold in the mountains.

NILS: Good morning, ladies.

GIRLS: Hi, Nils!

NILS: Is everything good? Can I get you anything?

SHASA, CLAUDETTE & GINA: No / It is fine / Thank you.

BIRGIT: I told them the Jarlsheim Skisenter Ski Resort is the best in all of Norway.

*(MONIQUE and RAMONA enter.)*

RAMONA: Hi!

GIRLS: Hi!

RAMONA: We saw you yesterday. My name is Ramona, and this is Monique.

BIRGIT: Hi! I am Birgit. I live here in Norway. We are part of an international Youth for Peace group. We had meetings in Oslo, and now we have a ski vacation.

MONIQUE: We're from the U.S. We're on vacation with my Dad and Step-Mom.

GINA: How long have you been here?

MONIQUE: A few days.

*(RICH and ANGELINA enter.)*

RICH: There you are! Are you coming out to the slopes?

MONIQUE: Not right now, Dad.

ANGELINA: Rich, your daughter doesn't like the outdoors. Remember how she complained about her summer camp?

MONIQUE: Angelina, that was different! Camp Wagamacheechee was great, except for that one kid who ruined my whole summer!

ANGELINA: Well, I don't blame you, I don't like these slopes as much as the ones in Aspen and Vail. The chair-lifts aren't as comfortable!

RICH: Yes, Angie, I know. And the accommodations aren't what we're used to.

NILS: Is there a problem Mr. Smith?

RICH: No, we just try to stay in five-star resorts wherever we go. Not this.

RAMONA *(to the girls)*: He owns a bunch of fancy hotels in America.

MONIQUE: This is my Father. And my Stepmother.

CLAUDETTE: Pleased to meet you, I'm sure.

ANGELINA: Whatever. *(Awkward silence.)*