

## THE WAR ON CHANUKAH

A short play by Jake Lewis

*HOLLY KRINGLE, news reporter, is holding a microphone and facing the audience as though they are the camera. Behind her, DAVID is marching back and forth with a sign that says "End the War on Chanukah!"*

HOLLY: This is Holly Kringle, reporting live from the parking lot of The Christmas Tree Store in Tinseltown, following a breaking story where this man is protesting what he calls a "war against Hanukkah." Let's see what he has to say! (*Approaching DAVID.*) Sir! Could we have a moment of your time?

DAVID: At last! I didn't think the media would pay any attention to me, what with it being *Christmas-time* and all.

HOLLY: Tell us, sir, what exactly you mean by a "war on Hanukkah"?

DAVID: Well, right there for one. You are pronouncing it the Americanized way. With an H at the beginning. Even Google Docs says the *real* spelling is incorrect! That's disrespectful! It's really got a C-H at the beginning, one K, and is pronounced (*saying it with the throat-clearing noise*) Chanukah.

HOLLY: (*tries, fails*) Chanukah.

DAVID: No, listen. (*Again with the throat-clearing noise*) Chanukah.

HOLLY: (*tries again, fails again*) Chanukah.

DAVID: Forget it. My point is, no one cares about the MEANING behind Chanukah anymore. You're taking the (*throat clearing noise*) "Ch" out of Chanukah!

HOLLY: I see. What other complaints do you have?

DAVID: Have you been in this store? Didja' happen to notice how it's decorated? Like it's the friggin' North Pole! They even got Santa in there eight hours day that you can visit! But what about for people like me who celebrate Chanukah? What do we got? Hanukkah Harry? Chocolate coins? Sammy Davis Jr. on the speakers singing "In the Window"? Not a chance!

HOLLY: Well, there is that enormous menorah that they light every night....

DAVID: (*A bit surprised.*) There is? Oh. I wouldn't know, I haven't actually been inside. (*Back to his strong positioning*) But I have been told by some trusted sources that the cashiers here say "Happy Holidays" as you check out, and not "Happy Chanukah!"

HOLLY: I think that may be because people of many different faiths shop at this store and no one wants to offend someone by wishing them a Happy Hanukkah but they don't celebrate it.

DAVID: For real? That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard! Why would anyone be offended by being given good tidings?

HOLLY: *(Very much like an investigative journalist)* Are you saying, then, that if someone wishes you "Merry Christmas!" you would not be offended, especially considering your role here today?

DAVID: Are you kidding me? I freakin' love Christmas! I get the day off from work! I eat Chinese food and go to the movies! Sometimes even to see a Christmas-themed movie! It's my favorite day of the year!

HOLLY: *(Giggly)* Mine too!

DAVID: To be honest, I've been told a lot worse by store cashiers than Merry Christmas, so I'll take it.

HOLLY: Well, then to you I say, "Happy *(this time pronouncing it with the throat-clearing noise)* Chanukah!"

DAVID: You did it!

HOLLY: For WXMS, this is Holly Kringle wishing a Happy Chanukah—

DAVID: And Merry Christmas—

HOLLY: And Joyous Kwanzaa—

DAVID: And Season's Greetings to all—

HOLLY & DAVID: And to all, a good night!

*Lights fade to black.*

The End