



For Immediate Release

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Watch South L.A. Youth Sing Zoom Fa La La
Move Over Jingle Bells, There's a New Carol in Town!

South Los Angeles, CA (Dec. 2020) — Can't gather with your friends and family this holiday season? Can't kiss your loved ones this Christmas? Well Christmas *isn't* cancelled, according to the actors & singers of **Youth Drama Theater (YDT)**.

Their new holiday **song** and accompanying **music video**, "A Covid Kinda Christmas," help us celebrate this Christmas season the only *safe* way the times permit: on Zoom! The catchy tune reminds us that while this holiday season isn't what any of us had hoped for, we can still carol and celebrate — well *virtually*, of course.

The song and music video substitute the production of "Annie" that the YDT youth had planned to debut in March. Due to increasing concern over the coronavirus, YDT Executive Director Nikkema Taylor postponed the production just days before Los Angeles issued its Safer at Home Emergency Order. "The kids were so disappointed," Taylor recounts. "They had memorized their lines and choreography."

After discussions with YDT board members and volunteers, the youth pivoted to create a virtual production that represented the lessons they had learned in 2020. It's a message they hope to spread through song to everyone this holiday season.

"Change is always gonna come," reflects thirteen-year-old actor Mikal Dickerson, who missed out on what would've been his first stage production.

"Whether it's a good change or a bad change ... It's about whether you have a growth mindset or not," adds Jaden Smith, another YDT performer.

Taylor says that the feel-good holiday song is a reminder that Christmas is still happening this year. "We just gotta flip things around!"

The young people of Youth Drama Theater hope that viewers have as much fun dancing and singing along with the video as they did while creating it. "I want people to feel a sense of peace — that they can forget about what's happening in the world for just three minutes," says Smith.

"You get to see a bunch of kids dancing around and singing," she adds. "What can be more joyful than that?"

"A Covid Kinda Christmas" is available for purchase on **Apple Music**, **Amazon**, and **Spotify**, with all profits going to Youth Drama Theater. The music video can be viewed free [here](#); donations can be made at youthdramatheater.org.

Youth Drama Theater is a performing arts club that services youth in South Los Angeles. YDT provides a safe place for young people to explore creativity on and off stage through acting, singing, dancing, storytelling, and tech art (production crew). Through creativity, confidence, and personal growth, YDT aims to influence the lifetime economic footprint of youth by strengthening their natural talents and providing a path to higher education and careers in the creative world.

The cast of the music video include Harrison White as Santa Claus; background singers Connie Jackson, Yvette Cason, & Parnell D. Marcano; YDT founding board members; and of course, YDT youth: Miracle Cruse (12), Mikal Dickerson (13), Sakshi Ghimire (12), Joel Muepo (14), Raymoneek Wright (15), Illeana Youngsang (14), Kayla Carlyle (10), Dakota Elzien (10), Donovan Elzien (12), Sashwat Ghimire (10), Jae'dyn Loper (11), Nalaiya Lowery (10), and Jaden Smith (17).

Credits for the song and video (which differ), are below:

"A Covid Kinda Christmas" - Radio Version
Written & Produced by Sylvia MacCalla

Music Production: Sean Thomas
Lead Vocals: David Burnham
Background Vocals: Sylvia MacCalla

"A Covid Kinda Christmas" - The Music Video

Director & Producer: Nikkema Taylor
Choreographer: Cassie Crump of Cassie's Kidz & Thanz
Consultant: Jerome Sable
Editor & Motion Graphics: Maya Bingham

"A Covid Kinda Christmas" - Music Video Version

Written & Produced by Sylvia MacCalla
Music Production: Sean Thomas
Lead Vocals: Harrison White
Background Vocals: Sylvia MacCalla

YDT Board of Directors Holiday Committee

Aydra Walden, Connie Jackson, Yvette Cason,
Parnell D. Marcano, Harrison White,
Donald Manes, and Nikkema Taylor

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