

## COVID REVELS, THE MOVIE - 2020

*Three women in long dresses are silhouetted against the sky. They confer, then pace apart, then rejoin to confer again. They speak in "Swedish"---random words from Ikea's outdoor furniture page--- the capital letters are the subtitle translations.)*

SUBTITLE

THE FOLLOWING "SWEDISH" IS MADE UP OF WORDS FROM THE IKEA CATALOG'S OUTDOOR FURNITURE PAGES.

MARY:

Benö, falhomen, tosterö hamö  
ALAS, DEAR FRIENDS, I SEE NO WAY....

BJ:

Frösön duvhomen, havsten äpplarö skarpö  
I KNOW YOU ARE CORRECT, AND YET I FEAR MY HEART WILL BREAK

MEGAN:

Kuddarna, risö brusen otterön bondholmen.  
AS WILL MINE, AND OH SO MANY NOT HERE WITH US TODAY.

MARY:

Stackholmen, husarö högsten klöven applarö innerskär!  
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, FOR THIS YEAR DOES THE VIRUS RULE!

*(A figure appears, eavesdropping on the conversation)*

MEGAN:

Why are we speaking in Swedish?

BJ:

Because we're depressed.

MARY

And in black and white.

BJ

And we have to cancel Revels this year.

MEGAN:

A year without a Christmas Revels...

MARY  
So unthinkably sad.

They weep. The eavesdropping figure suddenly appears in closeup, hands on cheeks, like Munch's "The Scream."

THE MEADOW

He races off to where the rest of the cast stands. We see him go to each person and tell the news. Each one drops to the ground in despair. Finally all are down, save the messenger. He looks around for someone to tell....sees no one, so flings himself down.

EDGE OF PROPERTY

The three women are walking faster and faster in a circle. The following lines spoken nearly simultaneously.

BJ  
No Revels this year, no Revels this year, no Revels this year.

MEGAN  
No Revels it's clear, no Revels it's clear, no Revels it's clear.

MARY  
No Revels oh dear, no Revels oh dear, no Revels oh dear.

*(The SPIRIT suddenly appears. She's a sort of woodland creature, all in green with a crown of twigs and grasses and flowers. Everything suddenly turns to color. The women now wearing different, colorful clothes.)*

SPIRIT  
No Revels? Dear ladies, that simply can't be!  
And that's why I'm here, won't you please welcome me?

MARY  
Who.....

MEGAN  
...or what....

BJ  
...are you?

SPIRIT

I'm the Spirit of Revels, past and future  
I am all that you should nurture  
I am music, I am dance  
(And sometimes I'm a smarty pants)  
Now tell me, please what is the matter?  
What causes all this nitter-natter?

MEGAN

The virus has destroyed a precious tradition.

BJ

We've had to cancel this year's show.

MARY

For the very first time in our 27 years!

SPIRIT

Ladies, ladies, I implore you  
The answer's here, right before you.  
Discard your decision, just put it aside  
Let's do Revels here, right now, outside!

BJ

But it's summer and Revels is a Christmas show..

SPIRIT

We'll film it, that's easily done, don't ya know.  
*(We see the film crew. They wave.)*  
We'll show it at the appropriate time  
Providing to all a strong anodyne.

BJ

But won't it look strange to have flowers around?

SPIRIT

Not in this year when strangeness abounds!

MEGAN

But we'd need a chorus and costumes, you see.

SPIRIT

Please ladies, I tell you, just leave it to me!

SHOT: MEADOW WITH PEOPLE STILL IN POSES OF DESPAIR.

*Spirit snaps her fingers, (waves her wand? Claps her hands?) and suddenly everyone disappears.*

SPIRIT  
Oops....my bad.

*She does her magic moves again and we see everyone in the same poses, but now in costume. They get up, marveling at the transformation.*

SPIRIT  
So gather round, gather round, gather round now  
And we'll do a Revels, we'll do it somehow.

BJ  
Places, please for Revels, the Movie!

*Everyone gets into place.*

SPIRIT  
Everyone's ready, so let us begin!  
To all you out there, I welcome you in,  
We're doing our best in this very strange year  
With hopes that what follows will bring you good cheer.  
And if after watching you'd care to donate  
Well of course we would think that was simply first-rate.  
We don't have a program for you to read  
But that's why I'm here, I'm all that you'll need.  
Telling you all what next to expect  
That is a duty that I won't neglect!

## MUSIC

SPIRIT  
But before we begin, just one more thing,  
To be a true Revels, then you must sing!  
So here is our Megan to lead you along  
And fill you to bursting with beautiful song.

## MEGAN TEACHES

SPIRIT  
And now the chorus  
Appears here before us!

**HERE WE COME A-WASSAILING** (red book pg.138-39)

Here we come a-wassailing  
Among the leaves so green,  
Here we come a wand'ring,  
So fair to be seen.

*Love and joy come to you,  
And to your wassail too  
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.*

We are not daily beggars  
That beg from door to door,  
We are your neighbors' children,  
Whom you have seen before.

*Love and joy come to you,  
And to your wassail too  
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.*

God bless the Master of this house,  
Likewise the Mistress too  
And all the little children,  
That round the table go.

*Love and joy come to you,  
And to your wassail too  
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year,  
And God send you a Happy New Year.*

SPIRIT

The following words were penned long ago  
And yet in this moment are quite apropos.

**FRA GIOVANNI**

I salute you! There is nothing I can give you which you have not;  
but there is much that, while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today.  
Take Heaven.

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant.  
Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it yet, within our reach, is joy.  
Take Joy.

And so...I greet you with the prayer that for you,  
now and forever, the day breaks, and the shadows flee away.

### SPIRIT

Revels happens at Christmas, as you know,  
So here's a holiday song from long, long ago.  
(And please do forgive the lack of snow)

### MASTERS IN THIS HALL

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today,  
brought from over sea, and ever I you pray.

*Refrain:*

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear!  
Holpen are all folk on earth, born is God's son so dear,  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud!  
God today hath poor folk raised and cast adown the proud.

Going o'er the hills, through the milk-white snow,  
Heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow.

*Refrain...*

Then to Bethlem town we went two and two  
and in a sorry place heard the oxen low.

*Refrain...*

Therein did we see a sweet and goodly may  
and a fair old man; upon the straw she lay.

*Refrain...*

This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad!

Christmas is come in, and no folk should be sad.

*Refrain...*

SPIRIT

*(She's late, comes running into the frame, huffing and puffing)*

And now our children will sing you a song,  
If you know it, please sing right along!

### THE WREN (KIDS)

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds,  
St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze, (1)  
Although he was little his honor was great,  
Jump up me lads and give us a treat.

Up with the kettle  
And down with the pan,  
And give us a penny  
To bury the wren.

Droolin, Droolin, (3) where's your nest?  
Tis in the bush that I love best  
Tis in the bush, the holly tree,  
Where all the boys do follow me.

Up with the kettle  
And down with the pan,  
And give us a penny  
To bury the wren.

We followed the wren three miles or more,  
Three miles or more, three miles or more.  
We followed the wren three miles or more,  
At six o'clock in the morning.

*Up with the kettle  
And down with the pan,  
And give us a penny  
To bury the wren.*

I have a little box under me arm  
under me arm, under me arm  
I have a little box under me arm  
a penny or tuppence'll do it no harm

*Up with the kettle  
And down with the pan,  
And give us a penny  
To bury the wren.*

SPIRIT

*(Appears in the distance dragging some branches)*

I looked and looked for a tree to cut down,  
But I fear these branches are all that I found.  
This next song demands an old apple tree  
But you'll have to pretend that that tree is me!

**APPLE TREE (WITH KIDS)**

Old apple tree, we'll wassail thee,  
And hoping thou will bear;  
The Lord does know where we shall be  
To be merry another year.

To blow well and to bear well,  
And so merry let us be;  
Let every man drink up his cup:  
Here's health to the old apple tree! :

SPIRIT

You all know the carol, Deck the Hall  
So stand up and sing it, one and all!

**DECK THE HALL** – Audience sing

Deck the hall with boughs of holly,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*  
'Tis the season to be jolly,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*  
Don we now our gay apparel,  
*Fa la la, la la la, la la la.*  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*

See the blazing Yule before us,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*  
Strike the harp and join the chorus.  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*

Follow me in merry measure,  
*Fa la la, la la la, la la la.*  
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*

Fast away the old year passes,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*  
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,  
*Fa la la, la la la, la la la.*  
Sing we joyous, all together,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*  
Heedless of the wind and weather,  
*Fa la la la la la, la la la la.*

#### SPIRIT

*(shushes the audience)*

Now come with me, don't a sound make,  
Quietly, gently, let no twig break.  
*(She stumbles, falls, screams)*

#### TE DEUM

Te Deum laudamus, Te Dominum confitemur.  
Te aeternum Patrem omnis terra veneratur.

Gaude virgo mater Christi que per aurem concepisti;  
nec in partum pertulisti pudoris dispendidum.

Quia Deum genuisti tu que nostra sic fuisti  
Salus plebi conferisti tuum patrocinium.

#### SPIRIT

*(She's eating, sees the camera, tosses the food over her shoulder)*

Oops, oh hello! A story comes now  
Which holds a good lesson, I'm here to avow.  
*(Clears throat)*

#### THE GOOD KING AND HIS SUBJECTS

There once was a king quite wise and quite good  
Who cared for his subjects as all good kings should  
He hoped they were happy and cheerful as well  
But being removed it was so hard to tell.

So he sent for his minions, his questions outlined  
They of course reassured him that his subjects were fine  
And happy as clams to have him as their king  
And that all of them daily his praises did sing.

But the king was a wise man and knew his position  
Gave all of his minions a might ambition  
To tell him what they thought he might want to hear  
But not always the truth, that much was clear.

So his wizard he asked to create a disguise  
To wander the kingdom to himself apprise  
The happiness of each one he met  
Then off on his quest he merrily went.

He travelled north, to the south, east and west  
Observing his subjects at work and at rest  
It seemed they had plenty to eat, were well fed  
In worldly goods they were clearly ahead.

Yet O'er all the land there seemed a strange pall  
For they didn't seem happy, not happy at all

Couples were fighting, children were rude  
Seems everyone had quite a bad attitude.  
Neighbors fought neighbors with voices so shrill  
That mountains were made of every mole hill.

It was awful, he thought, to be living one's life  
So filled with anger and such constant strife.  
Life is too short to be filled with this stress  
He wanted some way to mend such a mess.

So off he went to his wizard again  
In hopes that he could concoct such a plan.  
And indeed he did, for quick as a bell  
He had created a powerful spell  
And sent it out over all the land  
To every woman, child and man.

No one could look at, or even be near  
Any other without being forced to endure  
A terrible, searing, full body pain  
That each time one looked, would come back again.  
So to escape all went to their rooms  
And sat there alone, singing sad tunes.

The pubs were all closed, the markets no more  
As everyone tried to avoid the horror.  
They covered their eyes the pain for to shirk  
Tho it's not a surprise that that didn't work.

The king let this go on for a long while  
Until everyone yearned for their old lifestyle  
Of connection with others and gatherings too  
They didn't think they could ever pull through.

Then the king at long last took pity on all  
And ordered his wizard to undo the spell

And when from the spell their lives were unbound  
Oh the joy, the joy, the joy that they found  
In simple old, every day, regular life!  
And from that day on they lived without strife.  
There was singing and dancing and joy o'er the land  
Something which I'm sure you all understand.

SPIRIT

*(picks up a mug)*

You can't have a Revels without a wassail,  
A song celebrating a good mug of ale!

*(drinks)*

### **GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL**

Wassail! wassail! all over the town,  
Our bread it is white and our ale it is brown;  
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree;  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.

Here's a health to the ox, and to his right eye,  
Pray God send our master a good Christmas pie;  
A good Christmas pie that may we all see,  
With the wassailing bowl we'll drink to thee.

Here's a health to the cow, and to her long tail,  
Pray God send our master a good cask of ale  
A good cask of ale, that may we all see  
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.

Come butler, come fill us a bowl of the best

Then I pray that your soul in heaven may rest  
But if you do bring us a bowl of the small  
May the devil take butler, bowl and all.

Then here's to the maid in the lily white smock  
Who tripped to the door and slipped back the lock  
Who tripped to the door and pulled back the pin  
For to let these jolly wassailers walk in.

SPIRIT  
*(She's emptying the dregs of the mugs into hers)*  
Here's another classic for you to enjoy,  
As our singers all their gifts they employ.  
*(She drinks)*

**OAKEN LEAVES**

Oaken leaves in the merry wood so wild, when will you grow green-a?  
Merry maid, and thou be with child, lullaby mayst thou sing-a.  
Lula lullaby, lulla-lulla-lullaby, lullaby mayst thou sing-a.

*(SPIRIT is nowhere to be found)*

BJ  
Where is she?

CHORUS ONE  
Not here!

CHORUS TWO  
Nor here!

CHORUS THREE  
Here she is!!

*(The camera finds SPIRIT, sound asleep. CHORUS THREE wakes her.)*

SPIRIT  
Please just go sing a song,  
And I'll be right along.

**MAKE WE MERRY**—audience joins on refrain (taught at the top, subtitles)

*Make we merry both more and less  
For now is the time of Christēmas. 2x*

Let no man come into this hall,  
Groom, page nor yet marshall,  
But that some sport he bring withall,  
*For now is the time of Christēmas.*

*Make we merry both more and less  
For now is the time of Christēmas. 2x*

If that he say he cannot sing,  
Some other sport then let him bring,  
That it may please at this feasting,  
*For now is the time of Christēmas.*

*Make we merry both more and less  
For now is the time of Christēmas. 2x*

If he say he can naught do,  
Then for my love ask him no more,  
But to the stocks then let him go,  
*For now is the time of Christēmas.*

*Make we merry both more and less  
For now is the time of Christēmas. 2x*

## **THE MUMMER'S PLAY**

### **ROOM:**

Room, room, clear the way.  
Make some room to see our play  
We will speak and dance and fight  
Before you, here on stage, tonight.  
Not actors I should emphasize  
But just your neighbors in disguise.  
Step in Father Christmas

### **FATHER CHRISTMAS:**

Here comes I, Old Father Christmas.  
Welcome or welcome not,  
I hope Old Father Christmas  
Will never be forgot.  
Christmas comes but once a year,

But when it come it brings good cheer:  
Roast beef, plum pudding, strong ale and mince pie...  
Who likes that better than I?

**ROOM:**

In this hall there shall be shown,  
The most dreadful battle that ever was known  
A dragon you shall see  
A wild worm for to flee  
Come in, come in, thou dragon stout,  
And take thy compass 'round about.

**DRAGON:**

*("Speckleback" roars in, stomping around the stage and frightening everyone.)*  
Stand on head, stand on feet,  
I want meat, for to eat!  
I am the Dragon, here is my tail  
I am the Dragon, here are my nails  
Meat, meat, meat, for to eat!  
Stand on head, stand on feet!

**ST. GEORGE:**      *(Comes forth heroically)*

Here come I, St. George, from Britain did I spring.  
I'll fight the Dragon bold, my wonders to begin.  
I'll clip his wings, he shall not fly,  
I'll cut him down, or else I die.

**DRAGON:**

Who's he that seeks the Dragon's blood  
And calls so angry and so loud?  
With my long teeth and scurvy jaws,  
I'll tear the flesh from off his nose!

**ST. GEORGE:**

Stand off, stand off, thou Dragon bold,  
Or by my sword thou'lt die.  
I'll pierce thy body full of holes,  
And make thy buttons fly!

*(They circle about one another, clawing and thrusting.)*

**DRAGON:**

My body's made of iron,  
My head is made of steel,

My claws are made of beaten brass:  
No man can make me feel.

**ST. GEORGE:**

No one could ever frighten me,  
For many have I slain.  
I long to fight, tis my delight  
To battle o'er again.

*(They fight, and the Dragon is killed.)*

**FATHER CHRISTMAS:**

Step forth, St. George, thou champion!

*(We see Corona V in the distance)*

**ROOM:**

But what is this, who comes this way?  
This is unplanned, not part of the play.

**CORONA V.**

Here come I, Corona V!

*(All react, scream, move away)*

Feared by all, as you can see.  
Fake dragons are one thing, but I'm quite another,  
Don't go for your sword, it's not worth the bother.

*(She and St. George circle and parry. She huffs and puffs at him. He staggers and falls. She laughs.)*

**ST. GEORGE**

Oh wicked virus, I curse the day  
That ever you did come our way.  
*(He dies)*

**FATHER CHRISTMAS:**

Horrible! Terrible! What have you done?  
You have killed my dearly beloved son!  
Is there a doctor to be found  
To cure this deep and deadly wound?

**CORONA V. *(Laughing)***

Yes, call for the doctors, one, two, three.  
All doctors are helpless faced with me.

**FATHER CHRISTMAS:**

A doctor, a doctor!  
Is there a doctor to be found  
Can quickly raise my noble son  
Lies bleeding on the ground?

**ACTORS:** *(shouting ad lib to the audience)*  
Doctor! A doctor! Please, a doctor! Doctor!

**ROOM:** *(pointing to the approaching doctor)*  
See, sir, a doctor here!

**DOCTOR:** *(Arriving with a huge hypodermic)*  
Here come I, Doctor Anthony Fauci  
*(Approaches Corona V)*  
Now this might be a tiny bit ouchy!

**CORONA V:**  
Get away from me, you nasty medic  
Before I catch you in my pandemic

**DOCTOR:**  
I'm really not worried, for what's in this syringe  
Will consign you at once to the healthcare fringe!  
It's the end of you of which I'm desirous  
So prepare to die, you disgusting virus!

*(They chase about the stage, until the cast and the spectators all gang up to corner her)*  
*The Doctor applies the syringe, she deflates.)*

**CORONA V.**  
Curses on you, and on your vaccine,  
You've ended the reign of a mighty queen.  
And now I die, I die, I die  
To my reign of terror I bid goodbye.

*(All cheer. St. George revives)*

**ST. GEORGE:**  
Good morning, gentlemen, a-sleeping I have been.  
And I've had such a sleep as the like was never seen.  
But now I am awake, alive unto this day.  
Our dancers shall have a dance and the doctor take his pay.

**DRAGON:**

We all shake hands, never fight no more:  
We all be brothers as we ever was before.

**FATHER CHRISTMAS:**

Be there loaf in your locker and sheep in your fold,  
A fire on the hearth and good luck for your lot,  
Money in your pocket and a pudding in the pot!

**ST. GEORGE:**

A pocket full of money and a cellar full of beer  
And a good fat pig in the pigsty to last you all the year

**DOCTOR:**

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year,  
And Spring come soon to fill us all with cheer!

**ROOM:**

Our Play is done; we must be gone,  
We stay no longer here.

**ST. GEORGE:**

We wish you all, both great and small,

**ALL:**

A happy, bright new year!

**ALLE PSALLITE CUM LUYA**

Alleluya!  
(3 part + handbells)  
Alle psallite cum luya,  
Alle, alle concrepando psallite cum luya  
Alleluya, alle corde voto Deo toto psallite cum luya  
Alleluya, alleluya!

**THE SHORTEST DAY**

So the shortest day came, and the year died,  
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world  
Came people singing, dancing,

To drive the dark away.  
They lighted candles in the winter trees;  
They hung their homes with evergreen,  
They burned beseeching fires all night long  
To keep the year alive.  
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake  
They shouted, reveling.  
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them  
Echoing, behind us -- listen!  
All the long echoes sing the same delight  
This shortest day  
As promise wakens in the sleeping land.  
They carol, feast, give thanks,  
And dearly love their friends, and hope for peace  
And so do we, here, now,  
This year, and every year.  
Welcome Yule!

#### SPIRIT

We'll end this odd Revels as we always do  
With a song I know is familiar to you.  
So please join us and sing right out loud  
And know that you're part of a virtual crowd.

#### **SUSSEX MUMMERS CAROL**

God bless the master of this house, with happiness beside  
Where e'er his body rides or walks, his God must be his guide  
His God must be his guide.

God bless the mistress of this house, with gold chain round her breast,  
Where e'er her body sleeps or wakes, Lord send her soul to rest,  
Lord send her soul to rest.

God bless your house, your children too, your cattle and your store,  
The Lord increase you day by day, and send you more and more,  
And send you more and more.

#### SPIRIT

I hope you've enjoyed what you've seen today,  
Why would those three women want to cancel the play?  
I'm so glad I showed up to change their direction  
Though I know that this Revels perhaps lacked perfection,  
In these covid days we all need some levity

So here's to our Revels and to its longevity!