

HILDA AND GUMMI  
By  
Clay Robeson

28 Plays Later 2019

Day 6

February 6, 2019

## ACT I

## SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP - AN ABSTRACT REPRESENTATION OF A LIVING ROOM. IN THE CENTER SIT TWO OLD ARM CHAIRS WITH AN END TABLE WITH TWO TEA CUPS AND A REMOTE CONTROL BETWEEN THEM. THEY FACE A TELEVISION WHICH IS DOWNSTAGE FACING AWAY FROM THE AUDIENCE.

FROM OFF, HILDA AND GUMMI ENTER. THEY ARE AN OLDER COUPLE, AND IT TAKES THEM A WHILE TO GET TO THEIR CHAIRS. THEY SIT. BOTH TAKE A SIP FROM THEIR TEA CUPS IN UNISON AND SET THEM DOWN. GUMMI LIFTS THE REMOTE AND TURNS THE TELEVISION ON.

THE TV UNIT SHOULD LIGHT THE TWO, AND THE WALL BEHIND THEM SHOULD COME ALIVE WITH A PROJECTION OF WHAT THEY ARE WATCHING.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75WFTHp0w8Y>

## VIDEO DIALOGUE

GUMMI:	Oh look, Hilda. It's Björk.	Hello.
HILDA:	Hello!	It is Christmas time and I am sitting here by my TV.
HILDA:	Awww...	I've been watching it very much lately because I'm on holiday. And I've been seeing all these programs about all sorts of things. About Icelandics being very happy about Christmas, very gay, and also very serious and spiritual.
GUMMI:	<u>Very</u> spiritual!	And also seeing Icelandic comic people making jokes. Which they are very good at.
HILDA:	Well I don't know about that.	But now I'm curious. I've

GUMMI: She was always a curious girl.

switched the TV off and now I want to see how it operates. How it can make, put me into all those weird situations. So... It's about time.

HILDA: What is she doing?

GUMMI: Taking the television apart.

HILDA: But why?

GUMMI: Why not?

HILDA: I think it's stuck-- oh nope!  
There it goes!

GUMMI: Now, don't break it!

HILDA: Hush! She won't!

This is what it looks like.

HILDA: Ohhhh...

Look at this. This looks like a city. Like a little model of a city.

GUMMI: What?

The houses, which are here, and streets.

GUMMI: Noooo...

This is maybe an elevator to go up there. And here are all the wires.

GUMMI: Well at least she got that right.

These wires, they really take care of all the electrons when they come through there. They take care that they are powerful enough to get all the way through to here. I read that in a Danish book. This morning.

GUMMI: This morning? I'm an electrician! I told her that!

HILDA: SHHHHHH!

HILDA: Yes...

HILDA LOOKS CONCERNED.

HILDA: Projector, dear.

GUMMI LOOKS CONFUSED.

HILDA: Very true...

GUMMI: Like it matters these days.

HILDA: That \*IS\* scary.

This beautiful television has put me, like I said before, in all sorts of situations.

I remember being very scared because an Icelandic poet told me that not like in cinemas, where the thing that throws the picture from it

just sends light on the screen, but this is different. This is millions and millions of little screens who send light, some sort of electric light, I'm not really sure. But because there are so many of them, and in fact you are watching very many things when you are watching TV. Your head is very busy all the time

to calculate and put it all together into one picture. And then because you're so busy doing that, you don't watch very carefully what the program you are watching is really about.

So you become hypnotized. So all that's on TV, it just goes directly into your brain and you stop judging it's right or not. You just swallow and swallow.

This is what an Icelandic poet told me once. And I became so scared to television that I always got headaches when I watched it. Then, later on, when I got my Danish book on television, I stopped being afraid because I read the truth, and that's the scientifical truth which is

GUMMI: Well that's true.

much better. You shouldn't let  
poets lie to you.

HILDA: Very true.

GUMMI: Very true.

HILDA: Let's go to bed, Gummi...

GUMMI: Yes, dear.

GUMMI TURNS OFF THE TV, AND THE TWO EXIT AS  
THE LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK.