

The Phargol-Horn

Volume 30

This edition of the Phargol Horn features an article written by Shadra, Director of Dragon Entertainments Inc., in response to many enquiries we have received regarding careers in Krystonian showbusiness...

My sincerest thanks to those many friends of Krystonia who have written to me suggesting new variety acts for inclusion in our famous entertainment extravaganzas. Many of you kindly offered to perform yourselves free of charge. You have my heartfelt appreciation but we already have a surplus of quality acts on our books still awaiting their first engagement, so I hope the Alaskan Dogs' Choir and the saxophone player from Arkansas will not be too disappointed when I decline their generous offer. I must also advise them – and anyone else who sent mail to Cairn Tor – not to respond to unsolicited mailshots from any dragon calling himself Stoope the Stoopendous offering guaranteed stardom for the price of a bag of cookies paid in advance. But for those of you determined to enter the precarious world of showbiz, I hope you will find the following tips and advice of some use...

Firstly, be brutally honest with yourself about the true extent of your talent. It's one thing making your close friends and family laugh by wiggling your ears in time to music or making your Granny weep tears of pride at your school poetry recital but it's another matter completely to find yourself alone on a stage in front of a paying audience. Ask yourself, would you pay to see you? If the answer is no you would be well advised to stick to entertaining your family and seek an alternative (and safer) profession in some other walk of life. Admittedly, there are one or two acts who have managed to achieve a certain level of popularity precisely because of their complete lack of any talent, but they are very few and far between and, in almost every case, have had the backing of very clever promotional agents. The likes of Merrybean and his Amazing Waltzing Eyebrows and Jasper Disaster Soft Fruit Impersonator are the exception, not the rule.

Secondly, it is often a good idea to look for an angle that captures the public mood at a certain time. This rarely results in superstardom but, given the right set of circumstances, can propel the entertainer from complete obscurity to steady, well paid work overnight. I recall a certain snord, for example, who made a very good living indeed by playing himself in a travelling production which enacted famous Krystonian battle scenes. True, he nightly endured a hostile reception when he appeared on stage and had to suffer the ignominy of several simulated beatings, acts of cowardice and four death scenes in every performance but, at the zenith of the show's popularity, earned himself so much free food that his trotters periodically refused to support his growing girth. Several performances had to be cancelled at short notice and many others lost some of their impact when the supposedly terrifying snord has to be pushed around the stage in a bath chair by two attendant trolles. Despite

these problems, every production since which has billed itself as featuring 'Real Snord' has signed him. It is even rumoured that he is now so overweight that he now employs a small team of leaner, meaner snord body-doubles to perform in his stead and takes a generous percentage for doing nothing more than lending his reputation to the part.

Next, you should never underestimate the value of practice and developing new elements to your routines. Jumbly the Juggler would not be in such great demand if his act had not progressed from juggling mud balls. Burning batons, sets of false teeth and even smaller creatures (you may have heard of his trick with baby bobolls) all feature in his programme, and are juggled not just from paw to paw, but in various combinations of paw, tail and snout in a variety of positions from standing to lying flat. True, Jumbly was hatched from his egg with more talent than should fairly be given to any one dragon but I have seen enough cuts and bruises and scorch marks on his hide to know that the applause which inevitably greets his every trick has been earned through many seasons of hard work and dedication. I can also remember watching an old journeyman, with no pretensions of stardom, win himself two fine Maj-Dron brooches by balancing six perfectly round pebbles one atop the other. When I asked him what trickery he had employed he looked more than a little offended and told me that what I had witnessed in a few seconds had taken him since childhood to perfect.

Being realistic about your talent also requires counterbalancing by a good sized helping of self belief. It still amazes me how many performers who have spent seasons trying to convince booking agents of their versatility collapse at the first real audition because they are asked if they can do something just a little different than they are used to. You might be a singer but, if asked if you can dance as well, why not give it a shot? You might even surprise yourself. I recall one act who attended an audition for a temporary Vicious Beast Tamer only to be told that the teeth marks in the resident Tamer had healed more quickly than expected and, therefore, the position was no longer vacant. However, they did have need for a Beast Jockey to ride a half-wide sandbounder in the show's closing pageant. Well, the outcome was not quite as had been expected. After careening around the show ring facing front then back, hanging onto the sandbounder's tail, clasped desperately around its snout and, finally, slipping off the saddle completely and finishing the ride clinging to the beast's underbelly, the performer was signed up immediately as a Stunt Rider.

This is a hard and difficult business and those precious few who eventually achieve superstardom have earned the right to be adored. I hope you achieve your dreams, enjoy the appreciation of a packed house every night and, just occasionally, spare a thought for those of us who work behind the scenes to make your lives easier.

Be one of the brightest stars?

Shadra
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FALL INTRODUCTIONS

Inside your newsletter is a flyer showing the fall Krystonia introductions. This was a fun group to create. There are seven new designs, which may represent a smaller introduction than in the past, but we made up for their small number with very interesting characters. Let me give a run down of what was involved in their creation.

3950 and 3951 Proposal and Acceptance: When a very special proposal is offered to a blushing young female dragon, she makes her acceptance. We have always had requests for something that could be used for weddings, anniversaries, and special occasions. This will make a great cake topper. We anticipate these two will be added to many of your collections. The two are meant to be a pair but can be bought separately.

3952 Nourak: Poor N'Grall never seemed to have anyone to hang around with. Well, he does now. Meet Nourak. Always up to no good and as sneaky as you can get. Welcome Nourak to N'Grall's hood or cave or something.

4001 On Watch (Second in the Timeless Treasures Series): On Watch portrays one of the bookcases in the Obelisk. Keeping a keen watch is an appointed keeper of the books. You see there has been a problem with books and scrolls coming up missing lately. He is on alert to find the culprit. It seems a small giggle can be detected and a mischievous face is appearing over the top. Guess who?

1116 Encounter: The Encounter is intriguing in design and story. As N'Grall brings his powerful wings around he pulls Rueggan's hot air balloon toward him. Rueggan tries to adjust to get away but is having great difficulties. High in the clouds they battle to win the upper hand with great meaning to all of Krystonia. (Both 1116 and 4001 involved multiple molds and great craftsmanship.)

788-759 Shush and Backpacker: Not be left out once again, we have two wonderful ornaments. Shush and Backpacker. They are dated 1998 on the bottom and will be retired at the end of the year (don't miss Backpacker's friend on his back).

A SPECIAL STORY

At a recent Krystonia event in Connecticut, I met an avid collector named Gisella. She had sent me a wonderful story that she wrote about Nimbo. We enjoyed it so much we thought we would share it with you.

When Nimbo died, his crystal was lost forever, or so everyone thought. However, this was not the case. The crystal actually disappeared into another realm. Nimbo's crystal started glowing a dark vermilion in color and began to pulse with what seemed a life force all its own.

It seemed that Nimbo had directed his last bit of life energy into his personal crystal and vanished it into another realm before taking his last breath. Nimbo knew that his crystal was one of the Ancient Crystals and had a lot of mysterious power stored in it. If N'Grall stole the crystal he could use it to turn the odds against his family and friends. Nimbo couldn't let that happen.

Nimbo knew that he had to find a way to tell his blood brother Groosh about the whereabouts of the crystal so that maybe the wars could be ended. One night, when Groosh was having his recurring nightmare about Nimbo's death, he couldn't stop thinking that maybe if he had done something different, Nimbo would still be alive. Suddenly the nightmare vanished to be replaced by Nimbo's figure, standing by the bed. Groosh was taken aback but quickly recovered then Nimbo spoke his name out loud.

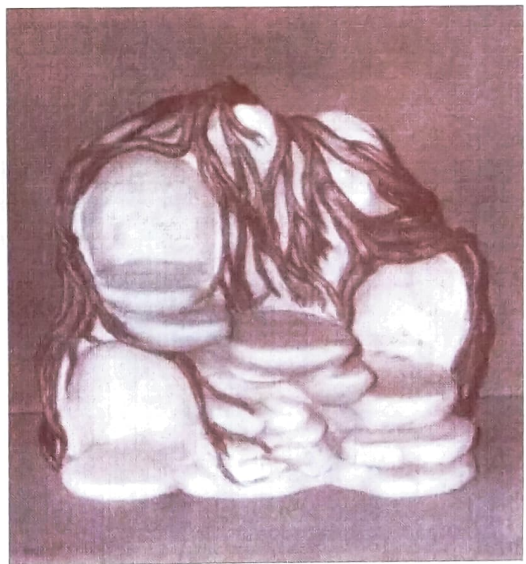
Nimbo went on to tell Groosh about the crystal and how its powers would be able to help Krystonia recover and flourish again. Before saying their good-bye's, (which both of them knew would be their last chance), Groosh closed in on Nimbo and gave him a hug. The crystal pendant began to change color.

Thanks, Gisella

A Very Special Christmas Bonus:

In the past we have looked for a way to reward our Collectors Club members. How about doing it one more time? You are all aware of the Delta that was produced as an accessory figurine. It has a retail value of approximately \$70.00 U.S. and considerably higher in Canada. How would you like to be able to purchase one for only \$30.00 U. S. or \$45.00 Canadian? Here's how you can do it. Between October 1st and December 31st, 1998 keep your receipts on all Krystonia purchases.

Once you have \$100.00 in purchases send the Krystonia Collectors Club a copy of your receipts and a check for the above amount and we will send you your Delta. It will even be autographed on the back. You may purchase one piece per hundred dollar purchase (ex. \$200.00 spend allows you to purchase two Deltas for \$60.00). The club also will pay all shipping and handling fees. We hope you can take advantage of this wonderful offer.



The Delta



1998 Retirees – Poffles & Triumph pictured with the retired Gateway

The Complete Retirement List for 1998

Two months are left in the year and already 1998 has seen the greatest number of retirements ever. Some were planned, some were not. At the beginning of the year there was stock available in many different figurines. But as the year progressed, we realized that the stock was quickly shrinking and many styles would not be able to survive the year. We had two planned retirement announcements in January and June. However, most retirements were simply a result of demand surpassing supply at different points throughout the year. To help you in your quest for these styles, here is a checklist of the figurines that sold out this year. This list includes some of our favorites and our most popular figurines. Good luck and we hope you can find the pieces you need to add to your collection before they are gone.

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|------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 600 | Lands of Krystonia | 3701 | Mahoudha Baby |
| 608 | Koozl | 3903 | All Mine |
| 612 | Vena | 3910 | Learning is Gweat |
| 615 | Spyke | 3911 | Oh Sweet Dreams |
| 616 | Wodema | 3913 | Welcome to Krystonia |
| 709 | Cookpot | 3914 | Checkin it Out |
| 1022 | Moplos | 3915 | Schnoogles |
| 1031 | Mos | 3916 | Ikshar |
| 1083 | Small Grunch's Toothace | 3920 | Ah Hah |
| 1094 | Small N'Borg of Throne | 3928 | Ottho |
| 1111 | Okinwaithe | 3933 | Waldurgan |
| 1115 | Storyteller | 3934 | Tallac |
| 1303 | Wodema | 3935 | Flawgrintawd |
| 1401 | Poffles | 3936 | Ploot |
| 1501 | Triumph | 3939 | Pultz |
| 1801 | Shigger | 3940 | Jasu |
| 2102 | Small N' Chaak | 3941 | Shanu |
| 2301 | Grazzi | 3942 | Lubyn |
| 2901 | Koozl | 3943 | Woby |
| 3602 | Small Groosh | 4000 | Recorder |

IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION

I would guess that many of you have your Krystonia pieces inventoried in your computer. It probably took you a lot of time and it has become an important resource for you. Think about what a problem it would be if your hard disk crashed and you lost all of your data. Now, imagine you are the Krystonia Collector's Club. You guessed it. Our worst nightmare came true! Our hard drive did crash and, due to some unusual circumstances, we lost everything. Fortunately, we had a paper copy of our database.

As you can imagine, this situation made it impossible to mail all the renewal notices properly. If you have not received your renewal notice as yet, you may renew your membership simply by sending your \$30 Club Membership Fee to the address noted below.

We must ask you to please bear with us as we rebuild the entire Club database, name by name. You will soon notice that you will have a new Club Membership number. Since we had to rebuild the database, it was necessary to rebuild the member number system, as well. Also, if you have moved in the last year, we need your help. If you receive any Krystonia mail through a forwarded address, please notify us of your current address.

We have had some collectors who said they did not receive their Collector's Club redemption form so they could purchase Almost There, last year's redemption figurine. To correct this problem, please contact the Club at Krystonia Collector's Club, 125 West Ellsworth, Ann Arbor, MI 48108.



The Bahl pictured with the Cauldron set in place

Update on the mini's:

As you know we are not going to make any more of the original miniature series. We will, however make a new group of smaller size figurines in the future. The following styles still have some stock: 601 Graffyn, 602 Grunch, 603 Moplos, 604 Mos, 605 Poffles, 606 Triumph, 610 Shadra, 613 Stoooper, 614 Sheph, 617 Owhey and 618 Muffler. All other styles you should check with your local dealers.