

The gift that keeps on giving: Artpark presents 'A (Virtual) Christmas with The Griswolds' (and Chevy Chase & Beverly D'Angelo)

Streaming live at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28

Light up your holidays and join Christmas' favorite couple, Ellen and Clark Griswold, for a virtual salute to the holiday classic "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." Chevy Chase (Clark) and Beverly D'Angelo (Ellen) will lead audiences through this live Artpark event as they share fan-favorite clips from the movie, reveal their favorite memories from the making of the "Vacation" franchise, and answer fan questions in a live audience Q&A at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28.

Tickets are \$25 per device and are on sale now at www.artpark.net. A portion of ticket sales benefit the "Artpark Live" campaign to help nonprofit Artpark & Company continue its mission to create, nurture and present the arts.

An original member of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," Chase was a trailblazer who turned

"SNL" success into Hollywood mega-stardom. The movies "Caddyshack," "National Lampoon's Vacation," "Fletch" and "Three Amigos" all contributed to making Chase a worldwide household name.

Perhaps best known for her portrayal of Ellen Griswold in the "National Lampoon" franchise, actress-singer D'Angelo has had an accomplished career spanning four-plus decades. Her acting resume includes roles in over 60 films and appearances in some of pop-cultures most celebrated television series, including "The Simpsons," "Law & Order: SVU" and "Entourage."

A press release said, "Fans can expect the unexpected as these legends share a no-holds-barred trip down memory lane and unveil the behind-the-scenes secrets of the making of a blockbuster film franchise.

"Add a new twist to your holi-



A (Virtual) Christmas Vacation with the Griswolds:

An Evening with **Chevy Chase & Beverly D'Angelo**

A LIVE virtual celebration of the classic holiday film

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S **CHRISTMAS VACATION**

Image courtesy of Artpark & Company

day tradition – gather the family and cozy up on the couch as we stream the Griswolds directly to your living room for this live virtual event that is fun for all ages.

Chestnuts and eggnog recommended!"

The Earl W. Brydges Artpark is operated by nonprofit organization Artpark & Company Inc. in

collaboration with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. For more information, visit www.artpark.net.

Artpark presents livestreamed Taylor Mac holiday event

On Dec. 12, Artpark & Company will join other prestigious theaters and cultural institutions around the world in presenting the Pomegranate Arts production "Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!" The special, live-streamed event reimagines for this time of

social distancing Mac's celebrated "Holiday Sauce" show, which The Los Angeles Times praised for its "freewheeling love and generosity," and called "a present from the island of misfit toys ... and a Christmas miracle."

The program comes on the

heels of – and celebrates the release of – Mac's "Holiday Sauce" album, another opportunity for home-bound audiences to experience Mac's singular artistry and approach to the holidays.

"Holiday Sauce... Pandemic!" was commissioned by The International Ibsen Festival, The Norwegian Ministry of Culture and The National Theatre of Oslo, who present it with additional support from Artpark, ASU Gammage at Arizona State University, Berliner Festspiele, UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance, Curran-San Francisco, Firstworks/Brown Arts Initiative, The Guthrie Theater, The Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, Live Arts Miami, OZ Arts Nashville, Park Avenue Armory, Seattle Theatre Group and On The Boards, Stanford Live at Stanford University, Teatros del Canal Madrid, TO Live, UtahPresents, and Wexner

Center of the Arts at the Ohio State University.

Artpark stated, "For Taylor Mac, there is more to the holidays than rampant capitalism and gift giving, and imagination is its own spirituality. This holiday season will be bittersweet for so many. 'Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!' reminds us of the collective power of our chosen families, a message that is particularly resonant this year, when so many have lost so much. Conceived as a virtual vaudeville, 'Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!' blends music, film, burlesque and random acts of fabulousness."

Mac dedicates "Holiday Sauce" to Mother Flawless Sabrina, Mac's drag mother, who passed away three weeks before the live show made its world premiere at Town Hall NYC in December 2017. As a tribute to her, each institution presenting "Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!" is honoring a local elder who

has made a significant contribution to nurturing the queer community in their city. Artpark has selected Buffalo artist Ari Moore.

Artpark stated, "Ari is Buffalo's first prominently out Black trans woman who has established herself as a leader and matriarch of the local movement for decades."

Moore owned and operated the Inner City Art Studio before joining the Buffalo Police Department, where she served as an officer for 25 years. Collectively, these elders make up a group Mac is referring to as "The Queens"; their names will be mentioned in the show, featured on the "Holiday Sauce" website, and amplified on social media.

"Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!" will be presented at 7 p.m. Dec. 12. Immediately following the streaming performance, Artpark and the LGBTQ+ community – with emcees Anthony Chase and Javier Bustillos – will host a local party via Zoom, during which Moore will be honored. Members of the "Holiday Sauce" community will "stop by" the party to join the festivities.

Tickets for the streaming performance and VIP after-party are \$20, while tickets for the streaming performance only are available for \$10. Tickets can be purchased at www.artpark.net. Proceeds benefit Artpark, Pride Center of WNY, and Niagara Pride Inc.

"Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!" is intended for mature audiences.

Following the live-streams on Dec. 12, the show will be available on-demand for \$10 from Dec. 13 through Jan. 2, 2021. Visit www.artpark.net for more information.

Also on Dec. 12, in a ceremony streamed at 1 p.m., Mac will receive the International Ibsen Award, given every two years to an individual or company that has brought new artistic dimensions to the world of drama or theater. Mac is the first American to win the honor. Previous recipients include iconic artists such as Peter Brook, Ariane Mnouchkine, Heiner Goebbels and Forced Entertainment.



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