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**FIRSTWORKS AND BROWN ARTS INITIATIVE PRESENT TAYLOR
MAC'S *HOLIDAY SAUCE...PANDEMIC!*, CREATED BY MAC AND
POMEGRANATE ARTS, ON DECEMBER 12**

*COVID-Era Virtual Reinvention of the Beloved Annual Live Seasonal Variety Show
Pays Tribute to Elders Including Providence Musician Kim Trusty*

Providence, RI - **FirstWorks** and Brown University's **Brown Arts Initiative**, alongside prestigious theaters and cultural institutions from around the world, present the **Pomegranate Arts** production **Taylor Mac's *Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!*** The special, live-streamed event reimagines Mac's celebrated *Holiday Sauce* show for this time of social distancing. The performance honors locally nominated queer elders, including Providence's **Kim Trusty**, and premieres for live viewing on FirstWorks' Virtual Stage on **December 12 at 7 p.m.**

Conceived as a virtual vaudeville, *Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!* blends music, film, burlesque, and random acts of fabulousness. As a tribute to Flawless Sabrina, Mac's drag mother, who passed away just weeks before the premiere of the on-stage *Holiday Sauce* in 2017, 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. FirstWorks has selected local musician, educator, and frequent FirstWorks collaborator **Kim Trusty** to represent Providence.

Holiday Sauce... Pandemic!, which *The Los Angeles Times* has called "a present from the island of misfit toys...and a Christmas miracle," 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 FirstWorks/Brown Arts

Initiative and a cohort of other presenters from across the globe (see below). Praised for its “freewheeling love and generosity,” (LA Times) *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.

Holiday Sauce...Pandemic! will be presented live to FirstWorks audiences on **December 12 at 7 p.m.** and will be available on-demand on a pay-what-you-can basis from December 13 through January 2, 2021. Tickets are available now at <http://firstworks.org/events/taylor-macs-holiday-sauce-pandemic/>. The first 100 ticketbuyers are invited to a Zoom afterparty with members of the cast and special guests.

Additional support for *Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!* comes from Artpark-Lewiston, NY, ASU Gammage at Arizona State University, Berliner Festspiele, UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance, Curran San Francisco, 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.

About Taylor Mac

Taylor Mac (who uses “judy,” lowercase sic, not as a name but as a gender pronoun) is a playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, performance artist, director and producer. Judy’s work has been performed at New York City’s Lincoln Center, The Public Theatre and Playwrights Horizons, London’s Hackney Empire, Los Angeles’s Royce Hall, Minneapolis’s Guthrie Theater, Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre, the Sydney Opera House, Boston’s American Repertory Theatre, Stockholm’s Sodra Theatern, the Spoleto Festival, San Francisco’s Curran Theater and MOMA, and literally hundreds of other theaters, museums, music halls, opera houses, cabarets, and festivals around the globe.

Judy is the author of seventeen full-length works of theater including *A Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus*, *Hir*, *The Lily’s Revenge*, and *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, which, in its world premiere at St. Ann’s Warehouse in Brooklyn, Wesley Morris of The New York Times called “one of the great experiences of my life.”

Mac is a Pulitzer Prize Finalist for Drama, a Tony Award Nominee (for Best Play), and the recipient of multiple awards including the Kennedy Prize, a NY Drama Critics Circle

Award, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Guggenheim, the Herb Alpert in Theater, the Peter Zeisler Memorial Award, the Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, 2 OBIEs, and the one jury is most proud to be associated with, an Ethyl Eichelberger Award. An alumnus of New Dramatists, jury is currently a New York Theater Workshop Usual Suspect, the Resident playwright at the Here Arts Center, and the 2020 Artist in Residence at WNET's ALL ARTS. In 2017, Mac was named a MacArthur Fellow.

www.taylormac.org

About Pomegranate Arts

Founded by Linda Brumbach in 1998, Pomegranate Arts is an independent production company based in New York City dedicated to the development of international performing arts projects. As a creative producing team, Pomegranate Arts works in close collaboration with contemporary artists and arts institutions to bring bold and ambitious artistic ideas to fruition. With a hands-on approach, Pomegranate creates unique structures and partnerships in all performance mediums. Whether creating a new work with established artists at the peak of their career or introducing the vision of a younger artist, Pomegranate specializes in producing provocative performance events of the highest quality. www.pomegranatearts.com

About Brown Arts Initiative

The Brown Arts Initiative (BAI) at Brown University seeks to cultivate creative expression and foster an interdisciplinary environment where faculty and students learn from one another and from artists and scholars in a wide range of fields across the campus and around the world. A consortium of six arts departments and two programs that encompass the performing, literary and visual arts, BAI works collaboratively to enhance curricular and co-curricular offerings, directly engage students with prominent artists working in all genres and media, and supports a diverse program of concerts, performances, exhibitions, screenings, lectures and symposia each year. BAI takes full advantage of the University's Open Curriculum and builds on Brown's reputation as a destination for arts exploration, contributing to cultural enterprise through the integration of theory, practice and scholarship with an emphasis on innovation and discovery that results from rigorous artmaking and experimentation.

BAI comprises and integrates History of Art and Architecture; Literary Arts; Modern Culture and Media; Music; Theatre Arts and Performance Studies; Visual Art; the David Winton Bell Gallery; and Rites and Reason Theatre/Africana Studies.

www.arts.brown.edu

About FirstWorks

FirstWorks is a non-profit based in Providence, Rhode Island whose purpose is to build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of its community by engaging diverse audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Since 2004, FirstWorks festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 600,000 participants. Last season, FirstWorks arts education programs reached over 5,500 students from public and charter schools across Rhode Island with transformative, arts-based learning experiences. FirstWorks is the founding partner of PVDFest, collaborating

with the City of Providence to produce the City's free signature arts celebration held each June. In 2019 PVDFest drew 130,000 visitors to Providence to experience music, art and spectacular performances. Embracing collaboration, FirstWorks has fostered over 90 community partnerships across business, social service, government, arts, and education sectors. Visit <http://first-works.org> to learn more.

Calendar Listings:

WHO: Taylor Mac's *Holiday Sauce...Pandemic!*

WHAT: FirstWorks and Brown Arts Initiative present Taylor Mac's virtual vaudeville extravaganza

WHEN: Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: FirstWorks Virtual Stage (livestream)

TICKETS: Pay-what-you-can (\$10 suggested) - <http://first-works.org/events/taylor-macs-holiday-sauce-pandemic/>

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