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OZ Arts Nashville to Celebrate the Holidays with Two Unique Virtual Shows Made Specifically for the 2020 Season

Performances by “Genius Award” Winner Taylor Mac and Multimedia Ensemble Manual Cinema Top Off an Unprecedented Year of Dynamic Programming

Nashville, TN – November 19, 2020 – [OZ Arts Nashville](#) today announced two lively and imaginative holiday shows, both premiering in the virtual space: Taylor Mac's *Holiday Sauce... Pandemic!* on December 12 at 9pm and Manual Cinema's unique, multimedia take on *A Christmas Carol* on December 19 at 3pm and 7pm. Both performances will be livestreamed from the artists' home cities with exclusive links made available via the OZ Arts ticketing platform.

After hosting Taylor Mac's Pulitzer-nominated theatrical event, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, in 2016, judy (Mac's preferred pronoun) returns to OZ Arts with *Holiday Sauce... Pandemic!* – a blend of music, film, burlesque, and random acts of fabulousness to reframe the songs you love and the holidays you hate. Having recently been the first American to win the 2020 Ibsen Award (colloquially referred to as “the Nobel Prize for theater”), MacArthur “Genius” Fellow Taylor Mac and his longtime collaborators, designer Machine Dazzle, music director Matt Ray and producers Pomegranate Arts, join together to create a virtual experience celebrating the holidays in all of their dysfunction. This dazzling, and at times shocking, take-down of the sentimentality of the holidays celebrates and rails against Christmas as calamity. *Holiday Sauce... Pandemic!* will be a 45-minute queer extravaganza intended specifically for adult audiences.

The second holiday performance features Manual Cinema's inventive, family-friendly interpretation of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Following last year's audience favorite presentation of *Frankenstein* at OZ Arts, Manual Cinema tackles the famous ghost story in their signature fashion, using hundreds of paper puppets, miniatures, silhouettes and a live original score to tell an imaginative re-invention of this cherished holiday classic, particularly relevant to those celebrating the holidays in lockdown. This world premiere event will be performed live by Manual Cinema from their Chicago studio in a socially

distanced environment and livestreamed to home audiences. Audiences of all ages are encouraged to gather for this family-friendly holiday tale.

“As we wrap up an unprecedented year, these final two performances remind us of the joy we can find in our community at this celebratory time, even if we are still apart,” said Mark Murphy, OZ’s Executive and Artistic Director. “Both performances offer unique and inviting perspectives on the holidays, with both Taylor Mac and Manual Cinema showcasing their distinct voices in wildly different formats that are sure to bring audiences around the country much-needed cheer.”

Tickets for both shows start at \$15 and are available now at <https://www.ozartsnashville.org/2020-21-season/>. Ticket holders will receive a watch link and password via email prior to the event.

This season is made possible with generous support from donors and grants, including funding from the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts and the Tennessee Arts Commission. To purchase tickets or learn more about this season’s performances, please visit <https://www.ozartsnashville.org/>.

About OZ Arts Nashville

Founded in 2013, OZ Arts Nashville has quickly established itself as one of the Southeast's most influential and respected producers and presenters focused on the creation and presentation of significant performing and visual art works by diverse cultural visionaries who are making vital contributions to the evolution of contemporary culture. Through performances, exhibitions, and community events, OZ Arts focuses on producing and presenting the work of local and visiting artists who reflect our diverse society, utilize new artistic forms and technology in creative ways, and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with audiences, students and cultural and civic leaders. OZ Arts' unique creative warehouse has developed a reputation as a major national and regional laboratory for experimentation and a home for contemporary dance and performance. More than 50,000 audience members have been introduced to adventurous artists from around the world since the organization opened, and hundreds of local and regional artists have used OZ's 10,000 square-foot warehouse theater to develop new works. For more information, please visit ozartsnashville.org.

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.

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 judy is most proud to be associated with, an Ethyl Eichelberger Award. An alumnus of New Dramatists, judy 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. For more information, please visit taylormac.org/.

About Manual Cinema

Manual Cinema is an Emmy Award winning performance collective, design studio, and film/ video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive visual stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality. For more information, please visit manualcinema.com/.