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Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts & Film Independent

Present a Live Read of

MY DINNER WITH ANDRE

Starring

Nick Kroll and John Mulaney

Hosted by Elvis Mitchell

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 7:30 pm

(Beverly Hills, CA February 26, 2019) Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and Film Independent present a special, one-night only live read of the 1981 comedy ***My Dinner with Andre***, starring Emmy Award-winning writer and comedian **John Mulaney** ("Saturday Night Live," *Kid Gorgeous*) and noted film and Broadway actor **Nick Kroll** (*Loving*, *Big Mouth*, *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*), on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 7:30 pm. **Elvis Mitchell**, Film Independent Curator will host.

My Dinner with Andre, directed by Louis Malle, premiered in 1981. Written by and starring Andre Gregory (Andre) and Wallace Shawn (Wally), it depicts the actors playing fictionalized versions of themselves and sharing a wide-ranging conversation in a restaurant over the film's 110 minutes. According to critic Roger Ebert's *Chicago Sun-Times* review, "[Shawn and Gregory] are simply carriers for a thrilling drama -- a film with more action than *Raiders of the Lost Ark*." The critic later named it best film of the year. A touchstone of popular culture, *My Dinner with Andre* has been hailed as "the quintessential 'talk' film" (*Rotten Tomatoes*) and has been parodied or referenced in in such wide-ranging television shows as "The Simpsons," "Frasier," "Touched by an Angel" and "Family Guy" as well as Gary Larson's "Far Side" comic strip.

"The Wallis is pleased to collaborate with Film Independent to bring to the stage a live read of this wonderfully urbane and charming cult classic," says The Wallis' Artistic Director Paul Crewes. "The dialectic structure of *My Dinner with Andre* lends itself beautifully to this format, particularly in the hands of the talented and hilarious John Mulaney and Nick Kroll."

"I'm confident this live read of *My Dinner with Andre* will keep the spirit of the original alive while bringing a new zest to it," said Film Independent Curator Elvis Mitchell.

Single tickets are \$50. Visit TheWallis.org, call 310.746.4000, or stop by in person at

the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services Office located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Nick Kroll is an actor, writer and producer. He most recently co-created and voiced numerous roles on the Netflix animated series “Big Mouth,” which has been heralded by the *Hollywood Reporter* as “sweet, progressive and breathtakingly filthy,” and was nominated for an Annie Award for “Best General Audience Animated Television/Broadcast Production.” He recently wrapped productions on MGM’s *Operation Finale* opposite Oscar Isaac and Ben Kingsley and can also be seen in Lionsgate’s *Uncle Drew*. In January 2017, he wrapped his Broadway debut with the critical and financial hit *Oh, Hello* on Broadway. Recent film credits include Jeff Nichols’ critically acclaimed film *Loving*, Seth Rogen’s *Sausage Party* and Illumination’s *Sing*. Nick had his own Comedy Central sketch show “Kroll Show” and starred as Ruxin the hit FX show “The League.”

John Mulaney is an Emmy Award-winning writer and comedian. He has spent the past year touring the United States with his most recent show, *Kid Gorgeous*, which was also released as a Netflix Special in May 2018 and won the Emmy for Outstanding Writing in a Variety Special. Previously, John starred in the Broadway hit, *Oh, Hello* alongside Nick Kroll. He can most recently be heard in *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* which won the Golden Globe for best Animated Feature Film.


In 2015 Mulaney released his third stand up special, a Netflix Original titled *The Comeback Kid*, which the AV Club called “his best hour of his career.” He began his career in New York’s East Village and has since toured around the world.

In 2008, he began writing at “Saturday Night Live” where he appeared as a “Weekend Update” correspondent and co-created characters such as “Stefon” with Bill Hader. He currently writes for IFC’s Documentary Now and for Netflix’s “Big Mouth” on which he voices the character of Andrew. Mulaney’s first comedy album, *The Top Part*, was released in 2009. He released his second Comedy Central special and album *New In Town* in 2012, and upon review Ken Tucker of *Entertainment Weekly* hailed Mulaney as “one of the best stand-up comics alive.

Elvis Mitchell is an American film critic and host of KCRW’s nationally syndicated pop culture and entertainment show, “The Treatment,” since its inception in 1996. Mitchell was born in Highland Park, Michigan and graduated in 1980 from Wayne State University, where he majored in English. He has served as a film critic for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where he received the 1999 AASFE award for criticism, the LA Weekly, the Detroit Free Press, and the New York Times. He served for a number of years as a pop culture commentator for Weekend Edition on NPR. In 2008, *Elvis Mitchell: Under the Influence* began airing on Turner Classic Movies. On the program Mitchell interviews actors and directors about their favorite classic films.

In 2002, he gave the prestigious Alain Locke lectures on African American culture at Harvard University, and subsequently, has been a visiting lecturer at Harvard in Visual and Environmental Studies, and in African American Studies. A WGA Award nominee for his work on The AFI Lifetime Achievement Award: Sidney Poitier, Mitchell has also served as editor-at-large at Spin magazine and is currently special correspondent for Interview magazine.

Mitchell is the producer and co-creator of *The Black List: Volume One*, a documentary film



In 2011, Elvis became the Curator for the Film Independent program. Film Independent Presents is a year-round weekly film series that offers unique cinematic experiences for the Los Angeles creative community and the general public. In fall 2012, Elvis Mitchell accepted the position of Film Scholar at the Department of Film at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Elvis Mitchell is featured in the 2009 documentary film *For the Love of Movies: The Story of American Film Criticism* discussing how he was championed as a young writer by Pauline Kael, and the impact on him as an adolescent of the Herschell Gordon Lewis film, *Two Thousand Maniacs!*

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented more than 250 dance, theatre, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs to an ever-expanding audience. Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. Featuring eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe. The mission of The Wallis is to create, present and celebrate unique performing arts events and educational programs that reflect the rich cultural diversity of our community. Nominated for 48 Ovation Awards, seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of six architectural awards since opening in 2013. The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA, of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

About Film Independent:

Film Independent is the nonprofit arts organization that champions creative independence in visual storytelling and supports a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation and uniqueness of vision. Film Independent helps filmmakers make their movies, builds an audience for their projects, and works to diversify the film industry. Film Independent's Board of Directors, filmmakers, staff and constituents is comprised of an inclusive community of individuals across ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race and sexual orientation. Anyone passionate about film can become a Member, whether you are a filmmaker, industry professional or a film lover.

In addition to producing the Spirit Awards, Film Independent produces Film Independent Presents, a year-round screening series for its members that offers unique cinematic experiences for the Los Angeles creative community and the general public. Through annual screenings and events, Film Independent provides access to a network of like-minded artists who are driving creativity in the film industry. Film Independent's Artist Development program offers free Labs for selected writers, directors, producers and documentary filmmakers and presents year-round networking opportunities. Project Involve is Film Independent's signature program dedicated to fostering the careers of talented filmmakers from communities traditionally underrepresented in the film industry.



EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

WHAT:

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A Live Read of *My Dinner with Andre* starring
Nick Kroll and John Mulaney
Hosted by Elvis Mitchell

WHEN:

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm

WHERE:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

\$50 (prices subject to change)

TheWallis.org/Andre

310.746.4000

Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

RUNNING TIME:

Running time is approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes, with no intermission.

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