

Screen Actors Guild may discipline, expel Donald Trump

NEW YORK, Jan 20, (AP) — After leaving the White House, President Donald Trump may lose his SAG card, too.

The Screen Actors Guild said Tuesday that the SAG-AFTRA board voted "overwhelmingly" that there is probable cause that Trump violated its guidelines for membership. The charges, the guild said, are for Trump's role in the Capitol riot on January 6, "and in sustaining a reckless campaign of misinformation aimed at discrediting and ultimately threatening the safety of journalists, many of whom are SAG-AFTRA members."

If found guilty by a disciplinary committee, Trump faces expulsion. Trump has been a SAG member since 1989. His credits include "The Apprentice," "Saturday Night Live" and many cameos in films and TV series including "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York," "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and "Sex in the City."

The SAG board acted in response to a request from Gabrielle Carteris, the guild's president.

"Donald Trump attacked the values that this union holds most sacred — democracy, truth, respect for our fellow Americans of all races and faiths, and the sanctity of the free press," said Carteris in a statement. "There's a straight line from his wanton disregard for the truth to the attacks on journalists perpetrated by his followers."

A White House spokesman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Losing SAG membership doesn't disqualify anyone from performing. But most major productions abide by union contracts and hire only

union actors. Online petitions have recently circulated to have Trump removed from some films. One is trying to rally support to have President-elect Joe Biden digitally substituted for Trump in "Home Alone 2."

The US Secret Service opened an investigation into comedian **John Mulaney** over jokes believed to be made about President **Donald Trump** on "Saturday Night Live" last year, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

Mulaney, 38, revealed last month that the Secret Service had investigated the comedian and "SNL" alum for "inappropriate jokes about President Trump" after he made a joke about Roman dictator **Julius Caesar**, who was stabbed to death by a group of senators on the Ides of March.

The file obtained by the AP through Freedom of Information Act request showed the bureau contacted NBC but did not interview the comedian for its inquiry, which found no wrongdoing.

"Another thing that happened under Julius Caesar, he was such a powerful maniac that all the senators grabbed knives, and they stabbed him to death. That would be an interesting thing if we brought that back now," Mulaney said to laughter from the audience.

The joke was said during Mulaney's opening monologue during the "Saturday Night Live" broadcast on Feb. 29, 2020.

The Secret Service noted other remarks during the monologue, including: "I asked my lawyer if I could make that joke, he said, let me

call another lawyer, and that lawyer said yes. I don't dwell on politics, but I dislike the Founding Fathers immensely. ... I hate when people are like, God has never created such a great group of men than the Founding Fathers. Yeah, the '92 Bulls. ... That's a perfect metaphor for the United States. When I was a boy, the United States was like **Michael Jordan** in 1992. Now the United States it like Michael Jordan now."

Two days after Mulaney's "SNL" monologue, law enforcement officials contacted **Thomas McCarthy**, the global chief security officer and senior vice president at NBC Universal, to express the agency's desire to discuss the joke with the comedian's attorneys.

The Secret Service file included a report from Breitbart entitled, "SNL: y Mulaney Jokes that Senators Should Stab Trump Like Julius Caesar." The investigation into Mulaney was opened in March and closed in December, five days after the comedian revealed the investigation during an interview with Jimmy Kimmel.

The Secret Service file notes that Mulaney made no direct threats towards Trump.

"The person vetting me was very understanding that the joke had nothing to do with Donald Trump because it was an elliptical reference to him," Mulaney said to Kimmel. "I didn't say anything about him. In terms of risk assessment, no one who's ever looked at me thought I registered above a one."

He added: "I said I have been making jokes about him since 2007, so I have been making fun of him for 13 years," Mulaney said. "They said if it's a joke, then I am cleared by the Secret Service."

People

Variety



In this Nov. 13, 2019, file photo, Garth Brooks performs 'Dive Bar' at the 53rd annual CMA Awards at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. Brooks joined the lineup of entertainers at the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. Brooks, who joined Lady Gaga and Jennifer Lopez among others, performed during the inaugural celebration of President Barack Obama in 2009. He turned down a chance to play for President Donald Trump in 2017, citing a scheduling conflict. (AP)

Inauguration

Top-tier performers take part in 'Celebrating America'

Celebs join Biden inaugural

By Jocelyn Noveck

Like so much this past year, the inaugural celebration was like no other: pared down, distanced, much of it virtual. But for actor Christopher Jackson — the original George Washington in Broadway's "Hamilton" — performing in a virtual "ball" was a way of participating in an essential rite of American democracy.

"I'm glad to play a part in it," says Jackson, who was to perform at the quadrennial ball for the Creative Coalition, a fundraiser for arts education and one of the more prominent unofficial events surrounding Joe Biden's inauguration. "It's a great honor, and I'm very grateful that we have allowed our system to continue to work in the way it was intended."

Jackson -- not to mention former co-star and "Hamilton" creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda -- joined a slew of celebrities descending on Washington, virtually or in person, for entertainment surrounding the inauguration of Biden and Kamala Harris. Although the festivities have been radically scaled down due to the raging coronavirus pandemic and security threats, a steady stream of A-list names have signed on, headlined by Lady Gaga singing the national anthem on the West Front of the Capitol, with Jennifer Lopez and Garth Brooks were also to perform.

Other top-tier performers were to be part of "Celebrating America," a 90-minute, multi-network evening broadcast hosted by Tom Hanks that officially takes the place of the usual multiple inaugural balls. Miranda was to contribute a classical recitation, joining musicians like Bruce Springsteen, Katy Perry, John Legend, Demi Lovato, Foo Fighters, Justin Timberlake and Bon Jovi. Hosts Kerry Washington and Eva Longoria were to be joined by basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, chef Jose Andres, labor leader Dolores Huerta and Kim Ng, the first female general manager in MLB history.

The inaugural committee has made sure to blend this high-powered list with ordinary Americans and inspiring stories. Segments will include tributes to a UPS driver, a kindergarten teacher and Sandra Lindsay, the first in New York to receive the COVID-19 vaccine

outside a clinical trial. The show was to be carried by ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC, MSNBC and PBS as well as the committee's social media channels and streaming partners.

Beyond that event, there's also a virtual "Parade Across America" on inauguration afternoon, hosted by actor Tony Goldwyn with appearances by Jon Stewart, Earth Wind & Fire and the New Radicals — reuniting after more than two decades — among many others.

There's was also star power on display Tuesday evening at the virtual "Latino Inaugural 2021," hosted by Longoria and scheduled to include Broadway and screen star (and EGOT winner) Rita Moreno, Edward James Olmos, and Miranda again, saluting Puerto Rico with his father, Luis Miranda. The show honored members of Latino communities keeping the country running during the pandemic as front-line workers.

Community

Also scheduled Tuesday was "We Are One," celebrating the Black community and African Diaspora with performances by Tobe Nwigwe, DJ D-Nice, The O'Jays, Rapsody, Step Afrika!, the String Queens and others. And the "AAPI Inaugural Ball: Breaking Barriers" celebrated the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities with planned participants including actors Kal Penn, John Cho, Kumail Nanjiani and Chloe Bennet. In a normal year, there would be a wealth of sideline events, parties and concerts around Washington. One of the higher-profile events is the Creative Coalition's ball, going all virtual this year. Along with Jackson, KT Tunstall will perform. Host Judy Gold will kick off with a comedy set, also featuring comedians Randy Rainbow, Michael Ian Black and Wendi McLendon-Covey. More than two dozen members of Congress are set to join celebrity guests like Ted Danson, Lea DeLaria, Jason Alexander, Yvette Nicole Brown, Ellen Burstyn, Alyssa Milano and others.

Jackson, who spoke in an interview late last week while planning his performance, said he would not be appearing as George Washington -- but history was on the actor's mind nonetheless, given the unique circum-

stances of this inauguration.

"We put ourselves in a perilous position," he said of recent events roiling the country. "So the idea that this inauguration is happening is testament to the resolute dedication that our public servants have to making this thing work." He said he was also eager to shine a spotlight on arts education, the coalition's core mission, noting that as a kid growing up in southern Illinois, he depended on resources like an early-morning band class at school, where he'd begin each day playing the trumpet.

"There was a time when I went through a lot of bad emotional passages as a kid," Jackson said. "Had it not been for the outlet the arts created for me, I don't know where I would be today." He noted that support for the arts is ever more urgent given how the pandemic has decimated the arts industry.

Actor Tim Daly, the coalition's president, said that despite optimism for the new administration's approach to arts funding, it's still an uphill battle in the United States.

"I feel there's going to have to be a really long and powerful effort by the Creative Coalition and other organizations to finally try and make federal, local and state governments understand the importance of the arts," he said, adding that the arts, besides being a driver of the economy, "is part of our spirit. It's how we teach empathy and kindness."

Daly said he has mixed feelings as he approaches this very unique inauguration.

"This is going to be the strangest (celebration) ever," he said. "It's virtual, and the celebration will in some ways be very muted. But in some ways, very meaningful. In a way this year is more important than any other, because our democracy has been under threat."

The coalition's ball will include breakout rooms where guests can mingle, and even simultaneous hand-delivered meals in multiple cities. But there's still no way to replace an in-person experience, Daly acknowledged.

"There's nothing that takes the place of human interaction," the actor said. "I'd be lying or dishonest if I said this was better. But we're doing the best we can — and it's better than nothing." (AP)

LONDON: A collection of teeter-totters that briefly allowed children on both sides of the US-Mexico border wall to play together has won a prize from London's Design Museum.

The three hot-pink seesaws were installed through the slats of the wall, with one seat in the **El Paso, Texas** suburb of **Sunland Park**, **New Mexico**, and the other in **Ciudad Juarez**, Mexico. The artwork was put up on July 28, 2019, and removed from the politically charged border barrier after less than an hour.

The Design Museum named the project Tuesday as the overall winner of the Beazley Designs of the Year competition for 2020, which considered 74 projects by designers from around the world. Teeter-Totter Wall was designed by **California** architects **Ronald Rael** and **Virginia San Fratello** with help from **Colectivo Chopeke**, an artists' collective in **Juarez**.

"It encouraged new ways of human connection and struck a chord that continues to resonate far beyond El Paso in the USA and Juarez in Mexico," museum director **Tim Marlow** said in announcing the prize. "It remains an inventive and poignant reminder of how human beings can transcend the forces that seek to divide us."

The teeter-totters were installed amid the heated debate over US President **Donald Trump**'s plan to build a wall along the almost 2,000-mile US-Mexico border from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. (AP)

CINCINNATI: A northern **Kentucky** couple celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary by getting their first coronavirus vaccine shot.

Noel "Gene" Record, 93, and Virginia Record, 91, were among the first patients in Cincinnati to be vaccinated Tuesday under **Ohio**'s Phase 1B, **WLWT-TV** reported. Initial vaccinations went to health care workers.

The couple traveled from northern Kentucky to University of Cincinnati Health's drive-thru vaccination site and they will return in three weeks to get the second vaccine dose.

"We want to get back to normal as soon as possible," Gene Record

said. "I'm a square dance caller, and we have not been able to get together since March. We're looking forward to people getting vaccinated and getting back to normal, where we can once again square dance and have fun again." UC Health is among more than 750 locations across Ohio to provide COVID-19 vaccinations. (AP)



San Fratello



Trump

TRENTON, NJ: The New Jersey Supreme court has overturned a man's bank robbery conviction because of a prosecutor's reference to a classic horror movie.

During closing arguments in the case against **Damon Williams**, the prosecutor showed jurors a photo from the movie "The Shining" depicting a character played by **Jack Nicholson** telling his terrified

wife and son, "Here's Johnny!" moments after breaking through a door with an axe.

The reference was meant to illustrate that actions can speak louder than words, and to support the prosecutor's contention that Williams should be convicted of a more serious offense even though no threatening words were spoken to the bank teller in **Camden**

County in 2014. The jury convicted Williams of second-degree robbery, which requires the use of force or the threat of force, rather than the less serious crime of third-degree theft. Prosecutors argued that Williams' conduct before and after passing a note to the teller supported the more serious charge. Williams is currently serving a 14-year term. (AP)

Features

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