

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Graham Leggat  
212/708-9752

## NEW YORK DURING YULETIDE CELEBRATED IN NEW VIDEOTAPE PREMIERING AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

*Merry Christmas Baby! A Holiday Ditty from New York City*  
3:00 and 6:00 p.m., December 17, 1996  
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

A musical collage celebrating Yuletide in New York premieres at The Museum of Modern Art on December 17, 1996. *Merry Christmas Baby! A Holiday Ditty from New York City*, by Gary Keys, crisscrosses the city to capture joyous and eccentric seasonal observances—from the tree at Rockefeller Center to Well's Chicken and Waffles Restaurant in Harlem, from El Museo del Barrio in Spanish Harlem to the churches of Little Italy, from Lincoln Center to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Evocative location footage is animated by several traditional carols and by new musical numbers, including the title song by Bo Diddley, Jr., backed by Ditto and The Lovers. Other musical appearances feature jazz drummer Barry Altschul, legendary tap dancer Jimmy Slyde, Gospel diva Sister Vivian Neal, vocalist Herb Rawlings (*Dreamgirls*), and saxophonists Jay Collins and Jay Rodriguez. Several of these musicians will sing carols following the 6:00 p.m. show.

Keys's films, which include *Memories of Duke* and *Not Just Good Time Sunday*, are part of the Museum's permanent collection. *Merry Christmas Baby!* is presented courtesy of Kazmark Entertainment, Los Angeles.

A press screening will be held at 11:00 a.m on Wednesday, December 4. To RSVP, please call Graham Leggat at 212/708-9752.

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