

= Ludachristmas =

" Ludachristmas " is the ninth episode of the second season of the television series 30 Rock and was first broadcast on December 13 , 2007 , on the NBC network in the United States . The episode was written by Tami Sagher and directed by Don Scardino . Guest stars in this episode include Kevin Brown , Kay Cannon , Grizz Chapman , Anita Gillette , Selena Gonzalez , Buck Henry , John Lutz , John F Mooney , Maulik Pancholy , Andy Richter and Elaine Stritch .

In this episode , Liz Lemon 's ( Tina Fey ) family ( Anita Gillette , Buck Henry , and Andy Richter ) visit her for the holidays and Jack Donaghy 's ( Alec Baldwin ) mother , Colleen Donaghy ( Elaine Stritch ) , also visits him for the holidays . The cast and writers of TGS with Tracy Jordan , a fictional sketch comedy series , prepare to attend their annual Ludachristmas party . Tracy Jordan ( Tracy Morgan ) is ordered by a court to wear an alcohol monitoring device .

= = Plot = =

Jack is delighted when he thinks his mother , Colleen , is unable to visit him for the holidays due to her flight from Florida being grounded by Hurricane Zapato . Unexpectedly , Colleen arrives because she was able to travel by bus to Atlanta and get a flight from there . Also arriving at 30 Rockefeller Plaza is Liz 's family , including her brother Mitch who has " Trauma Induced Nivea Aphasia " which means that his memory is stuck on December 7 , 1985 , and he believes that he is still 17 years old , when he is actually 40 . Jack 's mother immediately dislikes the Lemons due to their constant optimism and happiness . Colleen sets out to show Jack that they 're just as screwed up as their relationship is . Jack , Colleen and the Lemons spend the day together and eventually end up going to dinner with each other . At the dinner , Colleen comments that it appears that Liz is the " favorite " child leading Mitch to reveal that his parents , Dick and Margaret , took him to see The Goonies in 1985 when they should have been watching Liz at her football game . Liz then gets into in argument with her parents , culminating in her accidentally revealing to Mitch that he is in fact 40 years old . The Lemons then spiral into a drunken fight , achieving Colleen 's plan .

Meanwhile , the cast and writers of TGS are preparing their annual Ludachristmas party in the writer 's room . Tracy is annoyed because he is unable to attend due to a recent order from a courtroom judge which requires him to wear an alcohol monitoring ankle bracelet . Kenneth Parcell ( Jack McBrayer ) is also annoyed because he believes that none of the staff know what the true meaning of Christmas is . He cancels Ludachristmas and makes the staff sit through a talk , led by himself and Reverend Gary ( John F Mooney ) , about the meaning of Christmas . This inspires the cast and writers to run outside of 30 Rock and tear down the big Christmas tree which is outside the building . Kenneth eventually stops their efforts and Tracy reveals that he has been drinking alcohol when he should not have been .

The episode ends with the TGS cast and crew celebrating Christmas with each other and while at the dinner with the Lemons who are still arguing Jack says to Colleen " Merry Christmas Mother " revealing that he 's happy to see the Lemons aren 't so perfect after all .

= = Production = =

The storyline in this episode , which features Tracy having to wear an ankle bracelet to monitor alcohol levels in his sweat due to a driving under the influence arrest , is based on events which actually happened to actor Tracy Morgan , who portrays Tracy Jordan . Morgan has twice been arrested for drunk driving : once in December 2005 and once in November 2006 . He was sentenced to 36 months probation , fined US \$ 390 , and mandated to attend an alcohol education program at the 2005 arrest . As a result of the 2006 arrest , Morgan was fined US \$ 1000 and had his drivers license suspended for six months . Morgan was also ordered to wear a Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring ( SCRAM ) , " an ankle bracelet worn to test for alcohol vapors that come out of the skin " .

NBC billed this episode on its press releases as " Episode 209 " . The episode had been unofficially

titled " Ludachristmas " , until it was confirmed by the second season DVD . Similarly , the following episode also remains unnamed and is officially known as " Episode 210 " .

Kay Cannon , a writer for 30 Rock , appears in this episode as a Human Table at the Ludachristmas party . Cannon previously appeared as an unnamed wife character in " Fireworks " , an episode of the first season . Cannon co @-@ wrote " The Head and the Hair " , an episode of the first season , and " Somebody to Love " , an episode of the second season . Both episodes were co @-@ written with the series creator , Tina Fey .

= = Reception = =

The episode brought in an average 5 @. @ 6 million American viewers upon its original broadcast in the United States , achieving a 2 @. @ 8 / 7 in the key 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ old demographic . The 2 @. @ 8 refers to 2 @. @ 8 % of all people of ages 18 ? 49 years old , and the 7 refers to 7 % of all people of ages 18 ? 49 years old watching television at the time of the broadcast . It ranked second place in the 18 ? 49 demographic and tied with CBS 's CSI : Crime Scene Investigation episode " Lying Down With Dogs " for first place among men aged 18 ? 49 .

Matt Webb Mitovich of TV Guide wrote that " it 's hard to make a ' true meaning of Christmas ' story seem fresh . That 's why this week 's Kenneth / No LudaChristmas bit was a bit lame , in my opinion " , although he did say " the A story [ featuring Jack and Liz 's respective families ] fared a bit better " . Bob Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad thought that this episode was " a modern , irreverent look at [ Christmas ] " . Jeff Labrecque of Entertainment Weekly thought that Buck Henry and Andy Richter were both " destined to play " their roles . He also wrote that " [ Elaine ] Stritch wasn 't as brilliant as she 's been in previous appearances , but she 's always welcome , simply because her character riles Jack . " Robert Canning of IGN wrote that this episode " had all the trimmings for a holiday classic , though it fell just shy of that pantheon . " He added that " this may not have been the 30 Rock holiday classic people were hoping for , but it was a solid , funny episode nonetheless . " Canning rated this episode 8 out of 10 .

Elaine Stritch was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for this episode .