



*Happy holidays from our family to yours*



An old acquaintance of mine had a collection of holiday cards on his mantel, but one card caught my eye. A young guy was dressed as an Amish farmer while churning butter with a shocked look on his face as a sexy Amish woman stand before him. And the shot was taken thru the woman's legs like so many clichéd movie posters before it.

It was weird.  
And I loved it.

So I decided to make my own annual holiday cards that year. Twelve years later, here we are with a collection that gives a gentle wink, smile, and occasional middle finger to the holiday season.

Hope you enjoyed receiving them.  
*-Mike Vaughn*



2005

**may all your holiday wishes come true**

The king of pop and all his controversies were still alive. And I didn't have to fly to Neverland Ranch since just down the street from my home in Portland, Oregon was the historical Oaks Amusement Park.

Why bother to get a photo permit when you can just have your cool neighbor, Dan Porter, drive down and click the shutter on your Sony F828 after you hustle out of the car to strike some poses.

Well, we did have to cut the photo session short once we saw the chubby security guard speeding right for us in his golf cart.

Just did a little Photoshop on the letters and added a little Jackson glove love to the soldiers. Then included a bottle of wine for my special clients that year, which included a custom label featuring Mr. Jackson on the cross as if endorsing his own line of "Jesus Juice".



2006

## **happy holidays from our family to yours**

I probably lost and gained more clients and friends from this card than any other. Naturally, it's my favorite.

But finding a friend willing to put on such an outfit proved to be much more difficult than I thought. Solution: Craig's List. The next day a woman emailed me to say that she had a Submissive she'd be willing to share, as long as I wasn't doing anything that denigrates the BDSM community.

My neighbors, Dan and Marnie, once again came to the rescue by lending me their 4-month old daughter for the shoot.

Friend and photographer Jack Satta then offered his office for the shoot location. Everything went smoothly, except for the poor Submissive model who rode his bike in the pouring Portland rain, hit a curb and banged up his arm pretty good just before arriving. He was a delight nonetheless. What a trooper.

Jack used his fancy Nikon and there wasn't much Photoshop for me to do here folks.





2007

## **wishing you a bountiful holiday season**

Even a recent move to Los Angeles wasn't going to stop my holiday card efforts.

I wanted to do something to do with Rudolph this time around. Should I have him as part of a holiday dinner? Eh. Strapped to the hood a truck? Maybe. No, wait, I got it! Let's see the moment just before he meets his demise.

Found a deer to rent from Bischoff's Taxidermy in Burbank, bought a BB rifle from Sport Chalet, drove up to Griffith Park with Megan, looked for a quiet spot (again, no permit), handed her my trusty old Sony F828, and took those photos as fast as we could.

No park rangers came by but I'm still haunted by how the deer's head was connected to the body with a large metal rod and the entire head had to be removed each time we put it in the Jetta. Very creepy.





2008

## **give a little of yourself this holiday season**

Why read the same old holiday stories to the kids when there's so much better literature out there?

I asked three friends if I could borrow their children for this shoot and they all obliged so long as decent wine would be provided. Done.

A simple shoot in my living room was now scheduled but I still had to create the perfect book. The largest book I happened to own was Taschen's *The Big Book of Breasts*, a birthday gift from my pal Dave Waite. So I made the *Kama Sutra: Holiday Edition* cover in Photoshop, had it printed at Kinkos, then taped it extra securely so no kids would be exposed to any boobage, even going so far as to cover the inside pages with Garfield cartoons.

A friend of mine, Jeremy Michael Cohen, recommended a photographer but neither of us can find her info to give her proper credit. My apologies to the nice photographer who did a great job handling me and the kids.

No children were harmed in the photo shoot, unless you count my poor voice improvisations of a Monday-hating, lasagna-eating house cat.



2009

## **always cherish holiday memories past**

Even though the Larry Craig scandal was two years earlier, I wanted to show what holiday surprises might lurk in airport bathroom stalls.

Location was tricky since cameras are not welcome in any public restroom I'm aware of. Luckily my friend, Jamie Winterstern, pulled some strings and helped me get permission to shoot in a men's room at the USC film school. Whooo hoooo! My first actual permit!

Neighbor and friend, Andrea Harding, agreed to be the photographer. Posting online, I found the one-and-only Michael Q. Schmidt who put on his Santa suit. Oh, and you might recognize Michael from any number of Tim and Eric projects.

The shoot went smoothly even with Santa longing to take off items of clothing in an effort to take the shoot to a whole other level. But hey, that's what committed actors bring to the table, right?

And yep, that's the same Minnesota Star Tribune that was published on the day Senator Larry Craig was busted. Ah, history.







2010

**celebrate the arts this holiday season**

An obvious but necessary tribute to the ballet scene from the 1984 film *Top Secret*. Still gets a laugh out of me when the ballerina makes her way across the stage via inflated genitalia.

I certainly didn't want to traumatize the ballerina in the shot, so I went looking for a 21+ woman who could play Clara from the *Nutcracker Suite*.

Jennifer Erin Bailey submitted along with nearly 200 others and was my instant top choice. She nailed nearly every shot we took. Other than the 30-minute drive out to the Sierra Madre Playhouse this might have been my speediest shoot in the series.

Jeremy Michael Cohen came thru once again this time recommending Philips Shum to do the photography. Pretty sure this talented shooter used his Canon 5D along with the existing stage lighting.



*2011*

## **celebrate the season with friends & neighbors**

Let's see what a birthday celebration for the Son of God might really look like if it were at a house party in Silver Lake.

Not only did Andrea Harding once again help out with camera duties, she also so generously allowed us to shoot at her and husband Sam's house. Especially convenient given they were also our neighbors.

I keep finding little tidbits in this shot that I forgot about, but will never forget my calm and cool friends who agreed to play along. Jesus is actually musician Brian Spence. The passed out couple are Christi Metz and Josh Grainer who also happen to be parents of the cute redhead girl in the 2008 holiday card. And please don't freak, that's supposed to be frosting on his face.



2012

## **here's to a rewarding holiday season**

Megan finally agreed to be in one of my holiday cards and we went with the *crooked elves pawning stolen goods* concept.

Zeppelin Music in Highland Park was our chosen location, a wonderfully talented voice actor and friend, Ben Carroll stepped up to be the perturbed clerk, while director and also friend Jamie Winterstern took time out to help shoot this one on his Canon 7D.

Had to Photoshop the sign in the back and a little off my beer gut. You know, so as not to distract from the drumsticks. But what you also may not notice is the sheer stress Megan and I were under from being in month 8 of trying to close the purchase of a nearby home.

Don't worry, the deal finally went through the following month, we moved in, and all is well to say the least.





2013

## **obey the mistletoe this holiday season**

There was this old print ad for *Club 18-30* by London ad agency Saatchi & Saatchi that was setup to make it look like naughty things were happening when they weren't.

This was my take on it but with the mandatory *Office Holiday Party* twist. This was also the most difficult shoot in the series.

And yet again my talented and very patient friends came thru. Seriously, this was a tough one and everyone was on-point. From left to right we have: Robin Thomas and Victor Morris in a sword fight. Then Adam Panucci, being handled by Ali Benden with Eric Altman DJ'ing in the rear. Moving down to the woman in red we have Piper Moretti with a headstrong Sam Altman, and a dominant yet disgusted Kelly Venn on the far right.

Special thanks to my friend Dave Waite who allowed me to shoot in his office even forcing his employee, Dusty, to work the camera. Dave still hasn't forgiven me for the leftover glitter that came off the decorations since he's still finding glitter bits some 3 years later. My bad. Sorry.



2014

**wishing you and yours joy and prosperity this holiday season**

Took this in a more *Awkward Family Photos* direction so I had to beg Megan to join me as my Gingerbread-Trash spouse.

Kept this one extra local by shooting in our backyard while using our wonderful neighbor Ruthann Robinson (who just happens to be a professional costume designer) to make our costumes including the gluten-filled gingerbread baby.

I was also lucky enough to meet professional filmmaker Rick Moonbeam Darge at our UCB Improv classes and persuaded him to shoot this one. He used a Canon 7D and some seriously fancy lenses apparently.

The additional family member may have been a bit foreshadowing.







2015

## **discover your own oasis this holiday season**

We all know the Three Wise Men didn't really bring frankincense, gold and myrrh, right?

I actually looked into getting a live camel for this card but the expense was a bit too much and I was already having a bit of trouble finding the ideal location for the concept.

But then the super nice people at California Herbal Remedies agreed to let us shoot with their dispensary as the storefront. Rick Moonbeam Darge was back to shoot and be a Wiseman, as was Serdar Kalsin, another fantastic actor friend of mine. We even added two badass assistants for this one: Todd Duffey and Eli Sanchez, so it started to look like an indy film shoot outside the dispensary that Friday night.

Originally, I was thinking the other two wise men would be annoyed at my misdirection, but Rick had us try the more ecstatic approach you see here.

Hours of photoshop to change the name of the store and add neon lights, but other than that, pretty much shot as is.



2016

## **keep loved ones close every holiday season**

I wanted to close out this series with a holiday dinner reunion with as many characters and references as I could manage.

But with the passing years, contact info for the Slave disappeared, the baby is now a tweenager, and I can only fit so many people around one table.

Look closely and you'll find references for every card. Look closer and you'll see that Office Space's Todd Duffey baring all as the new Slave, Michael Q. Schmidt is back as Santa, Jennifer Erin Bailey is still our annoyed ballerina, Serdar made it as high Wise Man, the hilarious Christopher Corbin is a new Jesus, Megan is back as the thieving elf, and making his debut appearance as the new baby... Alexander James Vaughn.

Yep. Megan and I had a baby boy about a month before we took this shot.

Huge thanks to my photo assistants Jeremiah Gordon and Evan Marder who handled the old and dusty Sony F828 quite well. That's right, I finished with the same camera I started this journey with.

# Credits & Thanks

2005

twitter.com/fishwithdan  
oakspark.com

2006

linkedin.com/in/jacksatta

2007

bischoffsanimals.com  
laparks.org/griffithpark

2008

jeremymcohen.com  
twitter.com/davewaite  
taschen.com

2009

mqschmidt.com  
facebook.com/andrea.harding.528  
hjwfllms.com  
cinema.usc.edu

2010

jennifererinbailey.com  
philipsshum.com  
sierramadisplayhouse.org

2011

facebook.com/christi.metz.1  
reverbnation.com/brianspence  
facebook.com/andrea.harding.528  
linkedin.com/in/samaltman  
Josh Grainer

2012

bencarrollvo.com  
hjwfllms.com  
Megan Ankrum Vaughn  
yelp.com/biz/zeppelin-music-los-angeles

2013

Robin Thomas - robinthomasvo.com  
Victor Morris - imdb.com/name/nm0606991  
Adam Panucci - linkedin.com/in/adam-panucci-1abb5733  
Ali Benden  
Eric Altman - imdb.com/name/nm2299089  
Piper Moretti - imdb.com/name/nm0493631  
Sam Altman - linkedin.com/in/samaltman  
Kelly Venn - imdb.com/name/nm3299344  
zookeeper.com

2014

etsy.com/shop/ruthierocksscissors  
Megan Ankrum Vaughn  
rickdarge.com

2015

Serdar Kalsin - imdb.com/name/nm1224135  
Rick Darge - imdb.com/name/nm1749539  
Eli Sanchez - imdb.com/name/nm1316783  
Todd Duffey - imdb.com/name/nm0240445  
caherbalremedies.com

2016

Todd Duffey - imdb.com/name/nm0240445  
Christopher Corbin - imdb.com/name/nm2347426  
Jennifer Erin Bailey - imdb.com/name/nm2996783  
Michael Q. Schmidt - imdb.com/name/nm2045573  
Megan Ankrum Vaughn  
Serdar Kalsin - twitter.com/srdklsn  
Evan Marder - imdb.com/name/nm0362126  
Jeremiah Gordon - pktstudioservices.com





*And a big toast to EVERYONE who helped in any way with this series for the last 12 years. Let's just hope some smirks and smiles were brought to the oftentimes grandiose and sometimes overly material holiday season.*