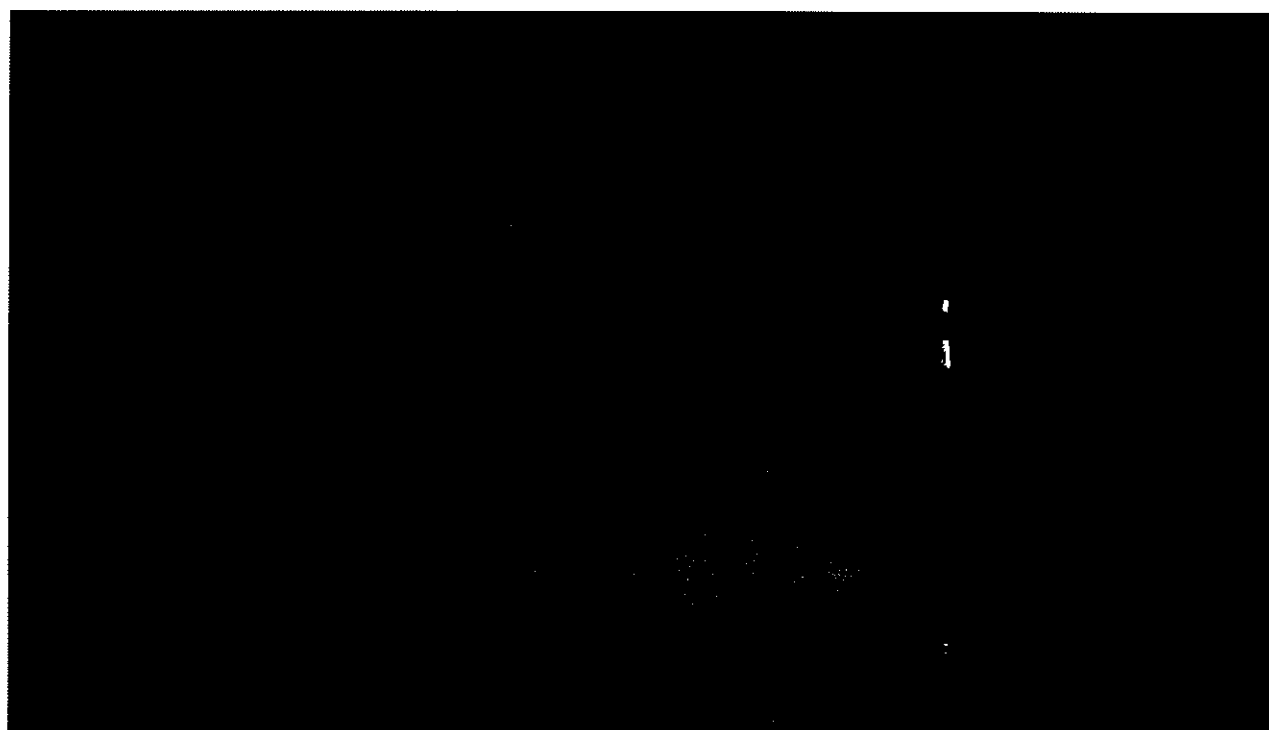

ENTERTAINMENT

'I'm back!': Tracy Morgan returns to 'SNL'

By Aaron Feis

October 18, 2015 | 2:12am



Flanked by his “30 Rock” family, death-cheating funnyman Tracy Morgan enjoyed a triumphant return to “Saturday Night Live” on Oct. 17, his first television performance since the horrific 2014 car crash that left him with a traumatic brain injury.

An energetic Morgan came out at the bell pulling no punches regarding surviving the June 2014 smash-up with an allegedly sleep-deprived Walmart tractor-trailer driver on the New Jersey Turnpike.

“Thank you so much,” he slurred to the crowd before allaying any fears with a jovial, “Nah, I’m just playing. Y’all thought for a minute that was real. But I’m back!”

The crowd roared.

The "SNL" alum recalled phoning Lorne Michaels — his "Obi-Wan Kenobi" — a couple of months ago to say, " 'Lorne, when I get back on my feet, I want to come home.' And here I am!"

"People were wondering, 'Can he speak? Does he have 100 percent mental capacity?'" Morgan said. "The truth is, I never did! I might actually be a few points higher now."

Morgan then jumped to a mocked-up 2012 episode of "30 Rock" alongside co-stars Tina Fey, Alec Baldwin, Jane Krakowski and Jack McBrayer — in which Morgan's character miraculously recovered from a near-fatal "encounter" with a jellyfish.



Saturday Night Live
@nbcSNL

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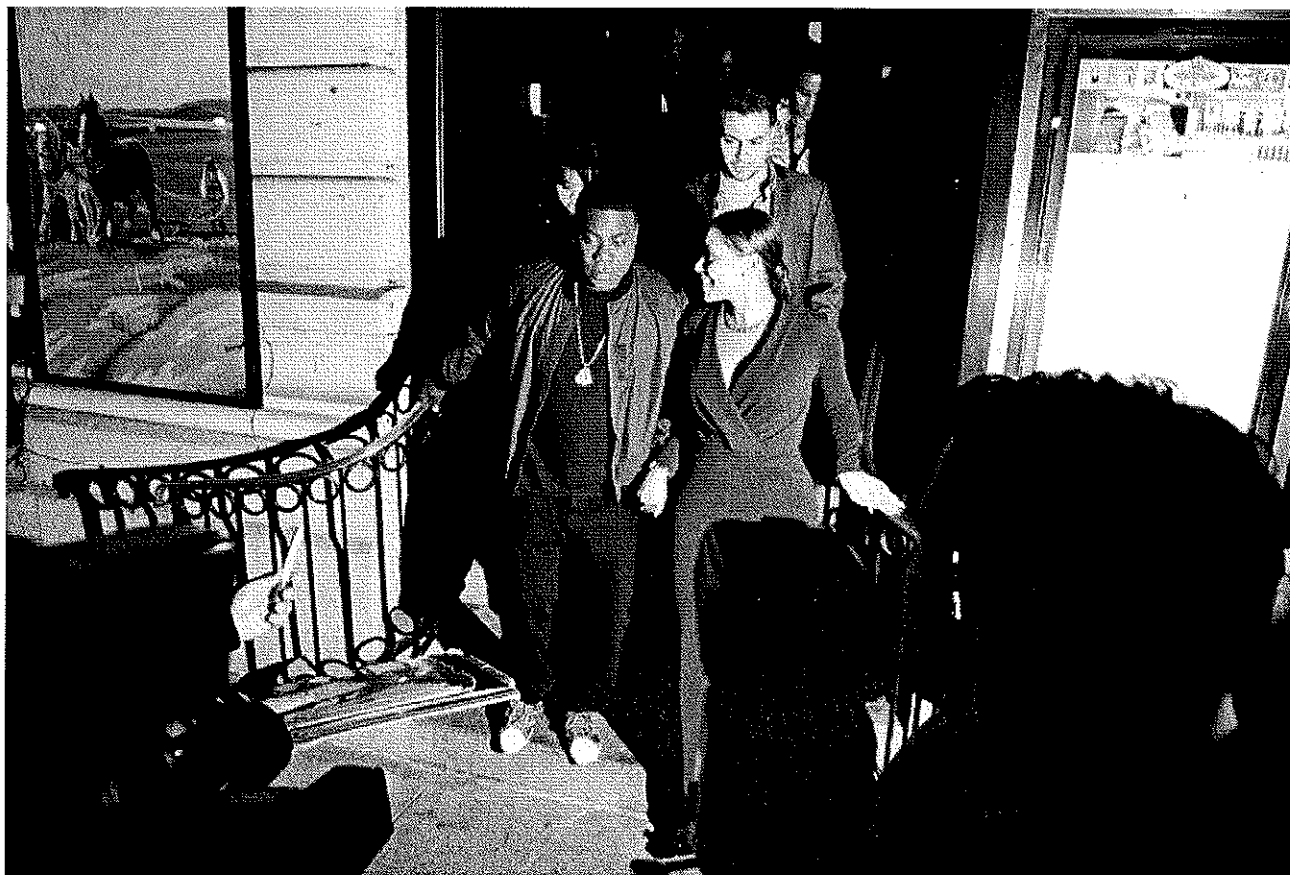
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The Emmy winner, 46, suffered several fractures and brain damage in the crash that killed his comedic mentor James McNair.

Morgan and Walmart settled for a reported \$90 million in May.

The criminal case against the driver of the 18-wheeler, Kevin Roper, is ongoing.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation alleged last August that Roper had been awake for 28 straight hours before the deadly collision.



Tracy Morgan leaves the "Saturday Night Live" afterparty at the Heartland Brewery.

Christopher Sadowski

FILED UNDER SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE , TRACY MORGAN

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