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M E D I A R E L E A S E

THE SANTALAND DIARIES RETURNS TO PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

Favorite Portland Actor Darius Pierce will don the fabulous candy cane stockings beginning November 27.



November 9, 2012 – PORTLAND, ORE. Elf-dom just got a fresh coat of snark! The fourth annual production of [The Santaland Diaries](#) is set to return to Portland Center Stage’s Ellyn Bye Studio with a new Crumpet the Elf in tow, **beloved Portland actor, Darius Pierce**. “I think that Sedaris’ writing is meant to be heard aloud. So, we’re going to be a couple hundred people getting together to laugh and enjoy listening to his words. I’m just thankful that I’m the one of us who gets to be saying them,” says Pierce. *The Santaland Diaries* previews on Tuesday, November 27, opens on **Friday, November 30** and runs Tuesday through Sunday through **December 30, 2012**. Tickets **start at \$31**, with

tickets for those under 30 at **\$25** (ID required) and student discounts also available. Rush tickets are \$20.

Show times are **7:30 p.m.** Tuesday through Sunday, with **2 p.m.** matinees on Saturdays and Sundays and on December 27. There are also noon matinees on Thursdays, December 6, 13 and 20. There are no performances on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. See the show calendar at www.pcs.org/santaland-2012 for the complete performance schedule. Tickets can be purchased online at www.pcs.org, by phone at 503.445.3700 or by visiting the box office located at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue.

Based on the true chronicles of writer and commentator **David Sedaris'** experience working as a Christmas elf named “Crumpet” in a Macy’s department store in New York City, this cult “anti-holiday” classic riffs on a few

of Sedaris' truly odd encounters with his fellow man during the height of the holiday crunch. *The Santaland Diaries* launched the career of David Sedaris when his performance of the piece was aired on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* a few days before Christmas in 1992. Later adapted by **Joe Mantello** into a one man show, *The Santaland Diaries* enjoyed success as part of PCS' 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Darius Pierce is thrilled be spending his fifth holiday season with PCS after two years with *A Christmas Story* and two with *A Christmas Carol*. Other productions at PCS include *Beard of Avon* (Drammy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor), *Twelfth Night*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The 39 Steps*, *Frost/Nixon*, *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*, *Misalliance*, and the JAW Festival. Elsewhere, some of his favorite productions have been *The Gaming Table* and *Comedy of Errors* (Folger Theater); *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart* (Profile Theatre); *As You Like It* (Portland Shakespeare Project); *Les Miserables* (Broadway Rose); *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Portland Playhouse); *The Long Christmas Ride Home* and *A Devil Inside* (Theatre Vertigo). Darius is a co-founder of the



Anonymous Theatre Company, which produces the annual theatrical event Anonymous Theatre with Theatre Vertigo. He can also very occasionally be seen on screen, where his credits include *Leverage*, *Mock Trials*, *Train Master II*, and *Cell Count*. He would like to thank PCS, Wendy, and Mark for entrusting Crumpet to him – a Jew who loves Christmas. In fact, it has inspired him to write a similar one-man holiday show entitled *The Maccabee Chronicles*.

One of America's pre-eminent humor writers, **David Sedaris** is the author of the bestsellers *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *Barrel* and *Holidays on Ice*, among others. He also contributes to *The New Yorker* and National Public Radio's *This American Life*. David and his sister, actress Amy Sedaris, have written several plays which have been produced at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Lincoln Center and The Drama Department in New York. In 2001, David Sedaris became the third recipient of the Thurber Prize for American Humor, and was named by "Humorist of the Year" by *Time* magazine.

Director **Wendy Knox** returns to Portland Center Stage for this year's production. Also returning for *The Santaland Diaries* are Scenic and Costume Designer **Jessica Ford**, Lighting Designer **Don Crossley** and Sound Designer **Sarah Pickett**. Stage Manager **Mark Tynan** completes the creative team.

Additional support for this production has been provided by **RDH Building Sciences, Inc., Benson Industries** and **ZGF Architects**. Portland Center Stage's 2012/2013 season is funded in part by **Umpqua Bank**, our lead corporate champion; the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art**; the **Oregon Arts Commission**; the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation**; and **Tim & Mary Boyle**. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner of Portland Center Stage.

[PORTLAND CENTER STAGE](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCS became an independent theater in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company presents a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in a conscious effort to appeal to the eclectic palate of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for curious minds from six to 106, including discussions, classes, workshops and partnerships with organizations throughout the Portland metro area.

THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY houses a 599-seat Main Stage and the 200-seat black box Ellyn Bye Studio. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub for community artistic activity continues.

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