



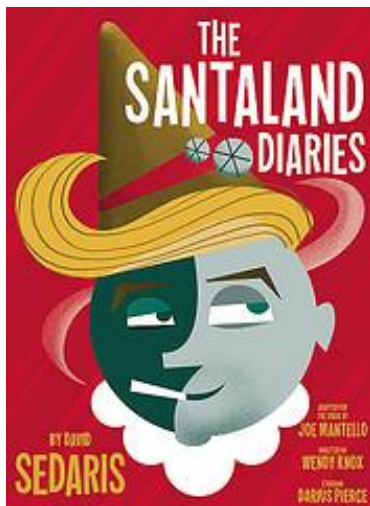
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Darius Pierce Returns as Crumpet the Elf in Portland Center Stage's Annual Holiday Hit *The Santaland Diaries*



November 11, 2013 – PORTLAND, ORE., David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries* is back for its fifth season in Portland Center Stage's Ellyn Bye Studio with **Portland-favorite Darius Pierce returning as Crumpet the Elf.** Pierce was a hit when he made his debut in the role last year, performing to sold-out houses. Of his take on the role, *The Oregonian* noted that "the absurdity of Crumpet's predicament hits even closer to home, and the eventual arrival of traditional holiday sentiment feels more meaningful yet." *Portland Theatre Scene* said "Darius Pierce is by far the best we've seen in this role, and he absolutely owns the part."

The Santaland Diaries begins previews Sunday, November 24, **opens Friday, November 29**, and runs through December 29, 2013. **Preview tickets start at \$40. Regular tickets start at \$45.** Discounts available for students and those under 25. Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more. Rush tickets are \$20. Recommended for ages 16+; mature content, language and sexuality.

Based on the true chronicles of writer and commentator **David Sedaris'** experience working as a Christmas elf 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* has become a holiday favorite.

This production marks Darius Pierce's sixth holiday season with PCS after last year's *Santaland Diaries*, two years in *A Christmas Story*, and two in *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*, Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*, *Frost/Nixon*, *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*, *Misalliance*, and the JAW Festival. Pierce is a co-founder of the Anonymous Theatre Company, which produces the annual theatrical event Anonymous Theatre with Theatre Vertigo. He can also occasionally be seen on screen, where his credits include *Leverage*, *Portlandia*, *Grimm*, *Mock Trials*, *Train Master II* and *Cell Count*.



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. Sedaris is a regular contributor to *Esquire* magazine and his essays have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Allure* and *Travel and Leisure*. Sedaris' original radio pieces can often be heard on public radio's *This American Life*, distributed nationally by WBEZ in Chicago, as well as BBC radio in London.

This production debuted at Portland Center Stage in 2009. The original creative team – Stage Director **Wendy Knox**, Scenic and Costume Designer **Jessica Ford**, Lighting Designer **Don Crossley** and Sound Designer **Sarah Pickett** – returns to Portland Center Stage to bring Macy's Santaland to life. Production Stage Manager **Mark Tynan** completes the creative team.

The Santaland Diaries will be performed in the Elyn Bye Studio. Show times are 7:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, with **10 p.m. performances on select days**, 2 p.m. matinees on Sundays and select Saturdays and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. See the show calendar at

www.pcs.org/santaland-2013 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. Group tickets can purchased at 503.445.3794.

Portland Center Stage's 2013-2014 season is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim & Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts & Culture Council and Work for Art; and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK fm. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage.

Ticket and Performance Information | *The Santaland Diaries*

When: **November 24 – December 29, 2013**

Preview Performances: November 24, 26, 27, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Night: Friday, November 29, 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday; **10 p.m. performances on select days;**
2 p.m. matinees on Sundays and select Saturdays; matinee at noon on Thursday 12/5.

Complete schedule: <http://www.pcs.org/santaland-2013/>

Where: Ellen Bye Studio in [The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#)

Preview tickets start at \$40. Regular tickets start at \$45. Discounts for students and those under 25.

Online: www.pcs.org

By Phone: 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue
12 p.m. – curtain on performance days
12–6 p.m. on non-performance days

Rush Tickets: \$20

Groups: Discount for groups of 10 or more.
Group tickets can purchased at 503.445.3794.

Please Note: *Recommended for ages 16+; mature content, language and sexuality.*

[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 the 590-seat Main Stage and the 190-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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