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

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

Opening November 26 with Previews Beginning November 23



October 30, 2014 – PORTLAND, OR., David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries* is back for its sixth season in Portland Center Stage's Ellyn Bye Studio with **Portland-favorite Darius Pierce returning as Crumpet the Elf**. Pierce has performed the show to sold-out houses the past two seasons. Of his take on the role, *Willamette Week* said, "the local stage and television veteran navigates the poles of impish self-deprecation and scathing misanthropy with an eye toward sheer momentum ...

playing a character as fractured by seasonal expectations as anyone he encounters, he wrings genuine sentiment from the sappiest time of the year."

The Santaland Diaries opens in the Ellyn Bye Studio on November 26, with previews beginning November 23 and performances running through December 26. Regular tickets start at \$45, preview tickets are \$40, and rush tickets are \$20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (excluding November 27 and December 24-25); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. Tickets can be purchased at pcs.org or 503-445-3700. A complete schedule can be found online:

<http://www.pcs.org/santaland-2014/>.

ABOUT THE SHOW

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 popular holiday favorite. It remains one of the most-produced holiday shows on American stages, outpaced only by *A Christmas Carol*.

DAVID SEDARIS

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.

DARIUS PIERCE AS CRUMPET

This production marks Darius Pierce's seventh holiday season with PCS after two year's starring in *The 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. Outside of Portland, Pierce recently appeared in *Stupid Fucking Bird* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre and *The Gaming Table* and *Comedy of Errors* at Folger Theatre. He can occasionally be seen on screen, where his credits include *Leverage*, *Portlandia*, *Grimm*, *Mock Trials*, *Train Master II* and *Cell Count*.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

This production of *The Santaland Diaries* debuted at Portland Center Stage in 2009, created by Director **Wendy Knox**, Scenic and Costume Designer **Jessica Ford**, Lighting Designer **Don Crossley** and Sound Designer **Sarah Pickett**. Their Macy's winter wonderland – complete with striped tights, fake snow, and loads of irreverent holiday cheer – will once again delight audiences in the intimate Ellyn Bye Studio.

***The Santaland Diaries* | Ticket and Performance Information**

When: November 23* – December 28, 2014

*Opening Night is Wednesday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: November 23 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sundays (excluding November 27 and December 24 and 25); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on select Thursdays.

Where: In the Ellyn Bye Studio at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#), 128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland.

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/santaland-2014/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$45-60. Preview tickets are \$40. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and those under 25 are \$25. Discounts for military and groups of 10+. *Prices subject to change.*

Online: <http://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

Groups: Discounts available for groups of 10 or more.
Group tickets can purchased at 503-445-3794.

Please Note: *The Santaland Diaries* is recommended for ages 14+; contains mature content and language, and the secret of Santa is exposed.

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. We are happy to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, as well as provide large print programs, audio description, sign interpretation and open captioning for select performances. Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[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.

Additional support for *The Santaland Diaries* is provided by production sponsor Bluehour Restaurant. Portland Center Stage's 2014-2015 season is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and 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 and Culture Council, Work for Art, and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK FM. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage. Portland Center Stage is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

Photos available for download on [Flickr](#): Darius Pierce as Crumpet. Please credit Patrick Weishampel.

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