



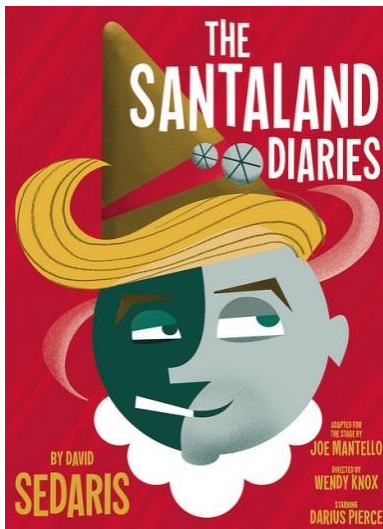
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

David Sedaris' hilarious cult classic, *The Santaland Diaries*, returns to Portland Center Stage with Darius Pierce as Crumpet the Elf

The beloved holiday hit has become one of the best-selling titles in PCS history

Previews Begin December 2 | Opening Night December 4 | Runs Through December 27



October 28, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. *The Santaland Diaries*, David Sedaris' hilarious tale of a disgruntled elf working in Macy's holiday wonderland, will open at Portland Center Stage on December 4 and run through December 27, with preview performances beginning December 2. Local stage and screen veteran Darius Pierce returns as Crumpet, a role he has played to sold-out houses in the Ellyn Bye Studio for the past three seasons. This year's production of *The Santaland Diaries*, directed by Wendy Knox, marks the 10th presentation of the Sedaris play at PCS since the company first produced the play in 2002. The beloved cult classic has become the best-selling play in PCS's history, with over 84,000 total tickets sold and counting.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700 or in person at the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland). Regular tickets start at \$45. Preview performance tickets are \$40. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and patrons who are 30 or younger are \$30. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding December 24 and 25); 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays; a special 2 p.m. matinee on Thursdays, December 24. A full schedule and more information can be found at <http://www.pcs.org/santaland-2015/>.

ABOUT THE SANTALAND DIARIES

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, *The Santaland Diaries* riffs on a few of Sedaris' truly odd encounters with his fellow man during the height of the holiday crunch. The tales helped launch the career of Sedaris, when he performed excerpts from his essay, *Santaland Diaries*, for National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* a few days before Christmas in 1992. The essay was later adapted into a one-man show by **Joe Mantello** and premiered at the Atlantic Theater Company in 1996. Since then, *The Santaland Diaries* has become a popular holiday favorite. It remains one of the most-produced holiday shows on American stages each season, outpaced only by adaptations of the Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

PRODUCTION HISTORY AT PCS

The 2015 production of *The Santaland Diaries* debuted in PCS's Ellyn Bye Studio in 2009, directed by Wendy Knox and starring Wade McCollum as Crumpet. McCollum played the role again the following year (2010), followed by Jim Lichtscheidl (2011) and Darius Pierce (2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015). An earlier production of *The Santaland Diaries*, directed by Neel Keller was first produced by Portland Center Stage in 2002 and ran for three seasons, featuring Steve Wilkerson as Crumpet (2002, 2003 and 2004).



DARIUS PIERCE

Pierce is spending his eighth holiday season with PCS after three years of *The Santaland Diaries*, and two each of *A Christmas Story* and *A Christmas Carol*. Other productions at PCS include *Cyrano*, *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. Other credits include *Stupid F**king Bird* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre); *The Gaming Table* and *Comedy of Errors* (Folger Theatre); *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart* (Profile Theatre); *As You Like It* (Portland Shakespeare Project); *My Fair Lady* and *Les Misérables* (Broadway Rose); *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*

(Portland Playhouse); *The Long Christmas Ride Home* and *A Devil Inside* (Theatre Vertigo). Pierce is a company member at Third Rail Repertory Theatre and a co-founder of the Anonymous Theatre Company. His screen credits include *Leverage*, *Portlandia*, *Grimm*, *Mock Trials*, *Train Master II* and *Cell Count*.

DAVID SEDARIS

Sedaris' sardonic humor and incisive social critique have since made him one of NPR's most popular and humorous commentators, and a best-selling author in the United States and abroad. The great skill with which Sedaris slices through euphemisms and political correctness proves that he is a master of satire. Sedaris is the author of the best-sellers *Barrel Fever* and *Naked*. His collection of Christmas stories is *Holiday on Ice*. His book of essays, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, was published in June 2000 and became an immediate best-seller. He and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name The Talent Family and written several plays, including *Stump the Host*, *Stitches*, *One Woman Show* (which received an Obie Award), *Incident at Cobbler's Knob* and *The Book of Liz*. He is a regular contributor to *Esquire* magazine and his essays have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Allure* and *Travel and Leisure*.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

This production was originally created by Director **Wendy Knox** (artistic director at Minneapolis' Frank Theatre), with Scenic and Costume Designer **Jessica Ford** (assistant professor at UMass Amherst), Lighting Designer **Don Crossley** (most recently designed lighting at PCS for *The People's Republic of Portland*) and Sound Designer **Sarah Pickett** (sound design and music composition instructor at Carnegie Mellon University). **Kelsey Daye Lutz** will be the stage manager for the 2015 production.

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: December 2* – December 27, 2015

*Opening Night is Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: December 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding December 24 and 25); 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays; special 2 p.m. matinee on Thursday, December 24.

Full schedule and more information at <http://www.pcs.org/santaland-2015/>.

Where: In the Ellyn Bye Studio at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#).

128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/santaland-2015/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets start at \$45. Preview performance tickets are \$40. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and patrons who are 30 or younger are \$30. Discounts for groups.
Prices subject to change.

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

Groups: Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

Please Note: Recommended for ages 14+; *The Santaland Diaries* 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.
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 U.S. Bank 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.

[Portland Center Stage's 2015-2016 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Supporting Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The

Wallace Foundation, Work for Art and KINK FM. The official hotel partner for PCS is the Mark Spencer Hotel. PCS is a participant in the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations. PCS also receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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