



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATLANTIC STAGE TO OPEN SANTALAND DIARIES DECEMBER 3, 2009 AT 7:30 PM

Santa, why are you spitting on me? -Crumpet the Elf, "The SantaLand Diaries"

(Myrtle Beach, SC, November 3, 2009) - Atlantic Stage, the newly formed and only professional theatre company in the Myrtle Beach area announces its second production of their 2009 - 2010 season, *SANTALAND DIARIES* by David Sedaris ,adapted by Joe Mantello, at their 79th Avenue Theatre,

David Sedaris's *SANTALAND DIARIES* chronicles the authors stint as a disgruntled Christmas elf at Macy's in New York. The perfect antidote to all the holiday schmaltz.

This hilarious cult classic features comic encounters during the height of the holiday crunch. NPR humorist and best-selling author of *Me Talk Pretty One Day* and *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* , David Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers.

ALL SHOWTIMES ARE 7:30 PM EXCEPT MATINEE AT 3:00 PM

Wednesday Dec. 2 Preview, Dec. 10, 11 12 @ 7:30 PM; Dec.. 13@ 3:00P
Thursday Dec. 3 Opening Night Dec. 17, 18, 19 @ 7:30 PM; Dec.. 20 @ 3:00 PM Closing Performance
Friday Dec. 4 & Saturday Dec. 5
Ticket prices are \$25-\$15 at the door and \$5 student Rush 5 minutes before Curtain.
Looking for a different Office Party?

"This production is a great alternative holiday offering that breaks from tradition," said Director John Woodson, Artistic Director of Atlantic Stage. "Sedaris' wry and offbeat sense of humor will delight the audience and keep them captivated from beginning to end."

Left with twenty dollars and a step away from walking dogs, we find our unemployed writer with no other alternative than to put away his integrity and take on the role of Crumpet, an elf in Macy's Santaland. After a rigorous elfin training session, Crumpet

begins his employment in the store's Christmas spectacular, subjecting himself to the ridicule of the holiday drones and the oppressive nature of the demanding Santas. For Crumpet these situations not only reveal the underbelly of the Christmas season, but serve as an outlet for his true nature as a sardonic wit with a knack for clever observations. This mischievous elf could go from explaining how Santa steals TVs from naughty children to telling people if they looked through the Magic Window they would see Cher. Throughout the rest of the holiday crunch, situations arise throwing a multitude of bad Santas, bitter elves, cranky kids, and rowdy parents into Crumpet's path, only to be bowled over by his colorful quips and hilarious mental commentary. *Recommended for mature audiences.*

This one man tour de force will feature co- founder and Managing Director of Atlantic Stage, Thom Penn. Thom has appeared in AS inaugural production of ART , directed PARALLEL LIVES and was seen last May in HISTORY OF AMERICA(abridged). Thom is a graduate of Southern Methodist University, holds an MFA in theatre and is a teaching Associate at Coastal Carolina University

The design team for SANTALAND includes costume designer **Melissa Anne Blizzard** who last designed costumes for *PROOF*; lighting designer Vicky Carter a freelance designer, Stephen Toney, company member and head of production at Coastal Carolina University will create the set ; and Atlantic Stage's resident sound designer, **Seth Cox**. The stage manager for *PROOF* is founding Company member, **Marjorie Mitchell** .

About the Creative Team

David Sedaris (Writer) has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today. David Sedaris is the author of the bestselling books *Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*, as well as other personal essay collections, entitled *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, and *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, each of which became immediate best-sellers; he edited the anthology of stories, *Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules*. Seven million copies of his books are in print, translated into 25 languages. His essays also appear regularly in *Esquire* and *The New Yorker*. Sedaris and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated on several plays under the name "The Talent Family" which have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center, and The Drama Department in New York City. They include *Stump the Host*, *Stitches*, *One Woman Shoe* (which received an Obie Award), *Incident at Cobbler's Knob* and *The Book of Liz* (published by Dramatist's Play Service.) His most recent collection of essays, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, was published in June 2008. David Sedaris' original radio pieces can often be heard on *This American Life*, distributed nationally by Public Radio International. In 2001, David Sedaris became the third recipient of the Thurber Prize for American Humor, and was named *Time* magazine's Humorist of the Year. He was nominated for two Grammy Awards, for Best Spoken Word Album (*Dress Your Family in Corduroy & Denim*) and Best Comedy Album (*David Sedaris: Live at Carnegie Hall*).

Joe Mantello (Adapter) most recently directed *Wicked* at the Gershwin Theatre in New York City. Mantello's other directing credits include *November*, *The*

Receptionist, The Ritz, Three Days of Rain, The Odd Couple, Glengarry Glen Ross, Laugh Whore, Assassins (Tony Award), Take Me Out (Tony Award), Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune, A Man of No Importance, Design for Living, The Vagina Monologues, bash, Another American: Asking and Telling, Love! Valour! Compassion!, Proposals, The Mineola Twins, Corpus Christi, Mizlansky/Zilinsky, Blue Window, God's Heart, The SantaLand Diaries, Snakebit, Three Hotels, and Imagining Brad. Film: *Love! Valour! Compassion!* As an actor: *Angels in America* (Tony nomination) and *The Baltimore Waltz*, among others. Mantello is the recipient of Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Helen Hayes, Clarence Derwent, Obie and Joe A. Callaway Awards. He is a member of Naked Angels and an Associate Artist at the Roundabout Theatre Company.

Single Tickets go on sale November 5, 2009 and range from \$15-\$25 at the door and are available at www.atlanticstage.com or by calling the Atlantic Stage box office at 1-877-287-8587. Discounts are available for students, seniors(55+) and the military. Student rush tickets are available for all performances 5 minutes prior to curtain at the Box Office for \$5.00 (subject to availability). For group discounts, season tickets and Flex passes call 1-877-287-8587.

Atlantic Stage will offer a *Pay What You Can* performance on Thursday November 12 at 7:30 p.m. A limited number of tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. on the day of the performance and are limited to two tickets per order with a suggested donation of \$5, cash or check only.

For ticket information for SANTALAND call the ATLANTIC STAGE box office at 1-877-287-8587 or go online at www.atlanticstage.com under tickets.

The complete season line up includes:

Santaland Diaries by David Sedaris, adapted by Joe Mantello: December 2-20, 2009

“A delightfully thorny account of working as a Yuletide elf at Macy's. Priceless observations, both outrageous and subtle. Destined to hold a place in the annals of American humor writing.” -NY Times

Almost, Maine by John Cariani: March 10-20, 2010

On a cold clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways.

Eleemosynary by Lee Blessing: April 28-May 16, 2010

Sensitive and probing, this masterful play examines the subtle and often perilous relationship between three remarkable women: a young girl, her mother, and her grandmother.

All performance times are 7:30 p.m. Matinees performance times are 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 15/22; Dec. 13/20; March 21/28 and May 9/16. Tickets range from \$5.00 student rush to \$25.00 for adults at the door and can be purchased online at www.atlanticstage.com/tickets or by calling 1-877-ATS-TKTS (1-877-287-8587).

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About Atlantic Stage

In partnership with Coastal Carolina University, Atlantic Stage is the first and only professional theatre company in the Myrtle Beach area. Atlantic Stage was formed in August 2008 and is comprised of professional directors and designers, as well as professional actors and stage managers who are members of the Actors Equity Association. Atlantic Stage is committed to bringing the Myrtle Beach area the best in Broadway, Off-Broadway and new plays from regional theatre across the United States. Atlantic Stage is a not-for-profit theatre and is funded through ticket sales, private donations, and in kind donations from Coastal Carolina University and the Department of Theatre, the Horry County Arts and Cultural Council and individuals. For more information, visit www.atlanticstage.com.

The web site (www.atlanticstage.com) was designed by graphic design artist Daryl Fazio of www.DarylFazio.com and purposed to be both an easy to navigate informational tool as well as a hands-on space where visitors can book tickets, become a subscriber or learn about latest events.