

Cynical Christmas to you: David Sedaris' 'Santaland Diaries' returns to Clarence Brown

Amy McRary

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Sardonic, sharp-tongued Crumpet the Elf is back for the holiday season as "The Santaland Diaries" comedy returns to the University of Tennessee's Carousel Theatre.

Actor David Brian Alley reprises his role as Crumpet in the one-man play Nov. 14-Dec. 9 at the Carousel, part of UT's Clarence Brown Theatre complex.

Among the play's special events is an "ugly sweater contest" at the Nov. 23 performance. Patrons wearing "ugly" Christmas sweaters vie for the chance to have a photo made with Alley as Crumpet sitting in the play's Santa Claus chair.

Directed by CBT Company Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean, "Santaland" is for "mature elves" ages 18 and older only. Matinees are at 2:30 p.m.; evening shows are at 8. Tickets are at clarencebrowntheatre.com.

Tickets for adults are \$18 for the Nov. 14 or Nov. 15 previews; \$45 for Nov. 16 opening night; \$25 for Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; and \$35 for Friday, Saturday or Sunday performances. The show runs for about an hour and is performed without intermission.

"Santaland Diaries" is one of two CBT holiday shows. The Clarence Brown mainstage performs its annual show of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" Nov. 28-Dec. 22.



David Brian Alley as Crumpet the Elf;
by Elizabeth Aaron