

2018

CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE
at the University of Tennessee

2019



David Sedaris' "The Santaland Diaries"

Returns to the Clarence Brown Theatre's Carousel Theatre

He's back!!! After a three-year hiatus, the cult holiday classic, "The Santaland Diaries," adapted by Joe Mantello from the essay by humorist and best-selling author David Sedaris, and starring David Brian Alley as Crumpet, returns to the Clarence Brown Theatre's Carousel Theatre November 14 – December 9, 2018. A Pay What You Can Preview performance will be held Wednesday, Nov. 14. At the Friday, Nov. 23rd performance patrons wearing an Ugly Sweater will have the opportunity to be selected for a picture with Crumpet on Santa's chair. A talk back will take place Sunday, Nov. 25 following the matinee, and the Open Captioned performance is Sunday, December 2. The production, which is for mature elves only, will have start times of 2:30 pm for the matinees and 8:00 pm for the evening performances. It will be performed without an intermission and will include smoke. Sponsors are Bob and Margie Parrott and Stowers Machinery Corporation. Media sponsors are WUOT, WUTK, the Knoxville News Sentinel, The Daily Beacon and B97.5. Free and convenient parking is available in the McClung Tower Garage on Volunteer Boulevard.

Based loosely on Sedaris' real life experience, "The Santaland Diaries" tells the tale of a struggling actor in New York City who out of necessity takes seasonal work as Crumpet the Elf in Macy's Department Store's Santaland Village. The comic holiday adventure chronicles Sedaris' humiliation, frustrations and ultimately his hopefulness all told though his masterful sardonic wit.

David Sedaris made his National Public Radio debut on December 23, 1992 when he read his essay titled "Santaland Diaries" on the show "Morning Edition." Since his successful debut, Sedaris has gone on to publish multiple bestselling books including "Barrel Fever," "Me Talk Pretty One Day" and "Let's Talk Diabetes with Owls." He also has been a frequent contributor on NPR's popular radio show "This American Life," all of which has contributed to his reputation as one of America's preeminent humorists. Sedaris' story was adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello and premiered on November 7, 1996 at the Atlantic Theatre Company in New York City.

The 2015 production was directed by Jeff Stanley. **Calvin MacLean** will direct this year's remount. He is in his 13th year as Theatre Department Head and CBT Company Producing Artistic Director. Most recent CBT productions he has directed include: "A Flea in Her Ear," "The Life of Galileo," "The Secret Rapture," "A Streetcar Named Desire" (with Dale Dickey), "Amadeus" (with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra), "Kiss Me, Kate," "Sweeney Todd" (with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and Dale Dickey), "Our Country's Good," "The Threepenny Opera," "The Open Hand," "The Crucible," and "Candide" (with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra). He was the Artistic Director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for eleven seasons. Professionally active in Chicago, his productions – mostly at the Famous Door Theatre – earned several Joseph Jefferson Awards for Outstanding Production and Direction. Most notable was Joshua Sobol's "Ghetto," a production that ran for seven months and honored with four Jeff Awards including for Outstanding Direction of a Play.

Reprising his role as **Crumpet the Elf**, **David Brian Alley** is now in his 19th season as a CBT Company member. He was recently converted from his position as Artist-in-Residence to Lecturer for the Department of Theatre. David is thrilled to have the opportunity to don the elf suit once again, having performed “The Santaland Diaries” in 2015. Last season, he was seen in “Alabama Story,” “A Christmas Carol,” and “Peter and the Starcatcher.” Some of his other favorite productions for the CBT include “The 39 Steps;” “The Trip to Bountiful;” “Noises Off;” “Kiss Me, Kate;” and “Fuddy Meers.” Regional: Playmaker’s Repertory; The Mark Taper Forum; Hollywood Actors’ Theatre; The iO Theatre Chicago; and Chicago TheatreWorks. Film and TV: “Light from Light;” “Something, Anything;” “Prison Break-In;” “The Heart is Deceitful;” “Gina: An Actress, Age 29;” “The Sleep Seeker;” “Unsolved Mysteries;” and “It’s A Miracle.”

The creative team for this production includes: **Stephen Brown** (Costume and Scenic Designer); **Melissa Caldwell-Weddig** (Costume Coordinator); **Travis Gaboda** (Lighting Designer); **Mike Ponder** (Sound Designer), and **Caleb Cook** (Stage Manager).

Previews for “The Santaland Diaries” are Wednesday, November 14 and Thursday, November 15, followed by Opening Night Friday, November 16. The show runs through December 9. UT faculty/staff, senior citizens, and students receive discounts. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre box office at 865-974-5161 or order online 24/7 at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 13 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director Thomas Cervone, the CBT season runs from August through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

The CBT provides a cultural resource for both the university and the larger East Tennessee community and affirms diversity and inclusivity in all their forms.

For more information or tickets, call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at <http://clarencebrowntheatre.com/>. Stay connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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