



Main Phone: 404.523.1477 • Box Office: 404.584.7450 • Fax: 404.584.8815
PO Box 5376 • Atlanta, GA 31107 • horizontheatre.com • marketing@horizontheatre.com

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**For further information contact:
Kelundra Smith at 404.523.1477 x111
Horizon Box Office: 404.584.7450**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Santaland Diaries*
15 Years of Holiday Hilarity
November 22 – December 31, 2013**

ATLANTA – Back for its 15th Anniversary Production, Horizon Theatre Company turns “ho ho ho” into “ha ha ha” as it reprises its popular production of *The Santaland Diaries* by award-winning satirist David Sedaris. The perfect laughter-spiked antidote to the holiday blues, *Creative Loafing* calls this non-traditional, adult-only, Christmas comedy “a fiendishly exhilarating, politically incorrect send-up of the holidays.”

Sardonic, satirical, and sarcastic, our merry misanthrope, played for the 15th year by Harold M. Leaver, recounts the tale of his stint as a Macy’s Department Store elf named Crumpet. Adapted from David Sedaris’ best-selling book *Holidays on Ice*, this holiday tale is a modern classic, made famous when it aired on National Public Radio. Joining Leaver this year as Crumpet’s sidekicks are Enoch King, returning for his eighth stint in *Santaland* after appearing in Horizon’s productions *The Waffle Palace* and *every tongue confess* earlier this season, and for her second year, LaLa Cochran, most recently seen in the original cast of *The Waffle Palace* at Horizon, *Walter Cronkite is Dead* at Aurora Theatre, and *Good People* at the Alliance Theatre.

The Santaland Diaries runs November 22 – December 31, 2013. Performances are Tuesday through Friday at 8 PM, Saturday at 8:30 PM, and Sunday at 6 PM. There will be a performance on Christmas Eve. Tickets are \$25-\$40. Upgrade to the VIP experience for \$15, which includes reserved seating and a complimentary holiday beverage. Tickets and information are available at horizontheatre.com or 404.584.7450.

STORY

Welcome to this wicked wonderland and exposé of all things elfin. Out of work and middle-aged, a writer in need of holiday cash decides to employ his gift for insightful observation in the trade of elfdom at Macy’s Department Store. Besieged by bratty kids with overzealous parents and donning a humiliating costume, he finds that his cynical self and his elfin alter ego, “Crumpet,” are not exactly compatible. His remedy for the saccharine overdose he endures in his never-endingly exuberant job is to tell all – giving us a backstage pass to the secret lives of Santas and elves. Though definitely not your traditional stocking stuffer, this caustic Christmas carol is a laughter-spiked antidote to the holiday blues. *The Santaland Diaries* serves up holiday cheer and sneer – and a rebel without a Claus.

PLAYWRIGHT

David Sedaris may well be the closest thing the literary world has these days to a rock star. He made his comic debut recounting his strange-but-true experiences of his job as a Macy’s elf clad in green tights, reading his *Santaland Diaries* on NPR’s Morning Edition. His sardonic wit and incisive social critique have

since made him one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. Sedaris is the author of the bestsellers *Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*, as well as collections of personal essays, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *Naked*, and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*. His essays appear regularly in *Esquire* and *The New Yorker*.

Sedaris' original radio pieces can often be heard on *This American Life*, distributed nationally by Public Radio International. He was named by *Time* magazine as "Humorist of the Year" in 2001. His book *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* was published in June 2004, and an anthology of stories, *Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories* was published in April 2005. In 2005, Sedaris 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").

"Playwright, author, radio star, and retired elf David Sedaris may be the most brilliantly witty New Yorker since Dorothy Parker." – *New York Magazine*

CAST

Crumpet	Harold M. Leaver
Sidekick	Enoch King*
Sidekick	LaLa Cochran

*Member of Actors' Equity Association

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Jeff Adler
Scenic Designers	Moriah and Isabel Curley-Clay
Lighting Designer	Mary Parker
Sound Designer	Thom Jenkins
Stage Manager	Kristen Hunsicker
Costume Designer	Abby Parker

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Performances of *The Santaland Diaries* run November 22 – December 31, 2013. Show times are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 8 PM; Saturday at 8:30 PM; and Sunday at 6 PM.

There are no performances on November 26 and 28 or December 3 and 25. There are additional performances on Monday, December 23 at 8 PM and Monday, December 30 at 8 PM.

TICKETING INFORMATION

General admission tickets for *The Santaland Diaries* are \$25-\$40. Upgrade to the VIP experience for \$15 which includes reserved seating and a complimentary holiday beverage. Platinum VIP tickets are available for \$100 and include front row seating, complimentary holiday beverages, and sumptuous treats. Tickets may be ordered by phone at 404.584.7450 or online at horizontheatre.com. Ticket prices are subject to change. Eight percent sales tax will be added to all ticket orders. Internet convenience fee added to all online orders. No refunds, exchanges, or late seating. Holiday gift certificates are also available.

GROUP RATES

The Santaland Diaries is the perfect way to spice up your holiday gathering. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more. Horizon has a lounge space available for rental for pre-show gatherings. Contact Group Sales at 404.523.1477 x111 for more information.

PARENTAL ADVISORY

The Santaland Diaries contains mature language and situations. It is not intended for children.

PRESS PHOTOS

Press photos are available for download at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/horizontheatre/sets/72157635499674097/>

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ABOUT HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY

Horizon Theatre Company, 1083 Austin Avenue, connects people, inspires hope and promotes positive change the stories of our times. We produce professional area and world premieres of smart, funny, and provocative contemporary plays. For more information about tickets, group sales, or to receive a season brochure, call 404.584.7450 or visit horizontheatre.com.

Horizon Theatre Company is grateful for the sponsorship by the Turner Voices initiative of Turner Broadcasting, who provides generous support to the 2013 season. Additional major funding is provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the Fulton County Arts Council. Horizon Theatre is also supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs and the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.