

DAVE STEAKLEY, Producing Artistic Director
and ELISBETH CHALLENGER, Managing Director
present

The Santaland Diaries

Written by DAVID SEDARIS

Adapted for the Stage by JOE MANTELLO

Show Compiled and Directed by DAVE STEAKLEY

Musical Director and Arrangements JASON CONNOR
Original Set Design HEYD FONTENOT
Lighting Design JASON AMATO
Costume Design BLAIR HURRY
Sound Design CRAIG BROCK
Properties Design BLAKE REEVES
Hair & Makeup Design WILLA KAYE WARREN
Stage Manager CARMELA VALDEZ*

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

Opening Night: November 23, 2012 • ZACH's Whisenhunt Stage

PRODUCTION SPONSOR:



LINA'S COCOA COUTURE
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE SANTALAND DIARIES by David Sedaris, adapted by Joe Mantello, is presented by arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, Inc. in New York. Originally produced in New York by David Stone and Amy Nederlander-Case on November 7, 1996. ZACH Theatre operates under a Small Professional Theatre contract with **Actors' Equity Association**, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States; ZACH Theatre is a Constituent Member of **Theatre Communications Group** (TCG), the prestigious association of professional theatres nationwide; and an organizational member of the **National Alliance for Musical Theatre** (NAMT).

Cast

MARTIN BURKE*

AMY DOWNING* *(performs evening performances)*

JILL BLACKWOOD* *(performs matinee performances)*

JASON CONNOR on Piano

Act 1

"LET'S BE NAUGHTY" Amy/Jill

By Gary Allan

"ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU" Amy/Jill

By M. Carey and W. Afanasieff. By permission of Songs Universal Inc.

"MAKING LOVE ALONE" Amy/Jill

By Marilyn Miller & Cheryl Hardwick

DINAH Martin

By David Sedaris

"SURABAYA SANTA" Amy/Jill

By Jason Robert Brown & Kristine Zbornik

"MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS BABY" Amy/Jill

By Sylvia Lopez. By permission of Arc Music Group

"TEN PILLS AND YOU'RE FINE" Amy/Jill

By Capitol Steps

- 15-Minute Intermission -

Act 2

THE SANTALAND DIARIES Martin & Amy/Jill

By David Sedaris

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The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, or by camera phone, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices – such as cell phones, pagers, etc. – and refrain from texting and/or tweeting during the performance.

About the Author



DAVID SEDARIS

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, **DAVID SEDARIS** 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 *Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*, as well as collections of personal essays, *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* and *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, each of which became a bestseller. There are a total of seven million copies of his books in print and they have been translated into 25 languages. He was the editor of *Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories*. Sedaris's pieces appear regularly in *The New Yorker* and have twice been included in "The Best American Essays." His newest book, a collection of fables entitled *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary* (with illustrations by Ian Falconer), was published in September 2010 and immediately hit the NYT Bestseller Fiction List. His next book is entitled *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* and will be published late spring 2013.

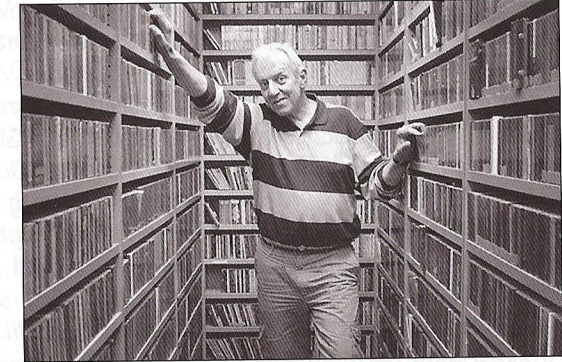
He and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name "The Talent Family" and have written half-a-dozen plays which have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center, and The Drama Department in New York City. These plays include *Stump the Host*, *Stitches*, *One Woman Shoe*, which received an Obie Award, *Incident at Cobbler's Knob* and *The Book of Liz*, which was published in book form by Dramatists Play Service. David Sedaris's original radio pieces can often be heard on *This American Life*, distributed nationally by Public Radio International and produced by WBEZ. David Sedaris has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for "Best Spoken Word" and "Best Comedy Album." His most recent live album is *David Sedaris: Live For Your Listening Pleasure* (November 2009).

Visit www.facebook.com/davidsedaris

Director's Notes

Austin loves David Sedaris. If you've ever attended one of his book signings or readings locally, the reception is nothing short of rapturous.

JOHN AIELLI first made Sedaris a star with local Austin audiences. Each holiday season on his Eklektikos KUT-FM radio show he plays excerpts of Sedaris reading his autobiographical story about being an out of work actor and working at Macy's Santaland as an elf over the holidays. John's phone would light up every day with requests to play "the little elf."



JOHN AIELLI

When the story was adapted for the stage, we began producing the show with Austin actor Martin Burke, who has become as identified with the "little elf" as Sedaris himself. Subsequently, John began to play Martin on his radio show annually as an Austin tradition.

Martin is one of Austin's favorite comic actors, and for good reason, having delighted thousands of audience goers over the years. Joined this year by ZACH actresses Jill Blackwood and Amy Downing, who have their own legion of fans, and Jason Connor on piano, they spark comedic magic together for all of our delight.

This is the last year we will be producing *The Santaland Diaries* – at least for a while – as we move on to some new holiday traditions next season at ZACH. Thank you for joining us as we bid a fond farewell to the little elf. Happy Holidays!

– Dave Steakley, Producing Artistic Director

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About the Company



MARTIN BURKE* – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Fully Committed* (2003 and 2012), *The Laramie Project* (2002 and 2012), *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Take Me Out*, *The Santaland Diaries* (1998-2003, 2006-2007, 2009-2011), *House Arrest*, *Circumference of a Squirrel*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and *Perestroika*. IMAGINE THAT PRODUCTIONS: *House of Several Stories*, *A Writer's Vision(s)*, *Down the Drain*. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Celebrity Autobiography* at The Long Center, *Greater Tuna* with Joe Sears (Charles Dugan Presents), *Twelfth Night* (Sneak Up! Productions, Vortex Repertory Company), *Jeffrey* (Capital City Playhouse), *Richard III/2 Actors* and *Family Affair* (Public Domain), *Shopping and F**king* and *Fur* (Vortex Repertory Company), *Richard III*, *Julius Caesar* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival), *Riversong*, *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Idaho Repertory Theatre). AWARDS: *Austin Chronicle's* Best of 2010 "Best Actor" Award, Austin Critics' Table Award "Acting in a Leading Role" for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, B. Iden Payne Award "Outstanding Ensemble" for *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Laramie Project* and *Shakespeare's R&J*; B. Iden Payne Award "Outstanding Lead Actor, Comedy" for *House of Several Stories*; B. Iden Payne Award "Outstanding Featured Actor in a Drama" for *Take Me Out*; Austin Critics' Table Award "Best Actor, Drama" and B. Iden Payne Award "Outstanding Lead Actor, Comedy" for *Circumference of a Squirrel*; Austin Critic's Table Award "Best Actor, Comedy" for *The Santaland Diaries*; B. Iden Payne Award "Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play" for *Twelfth Night*, *Angels in America: Perestroika* and *Family Affair*; Austin Critic's Table special citation "Show Savior" for *Richard III/2 Actors*, *Family Affair* and *Lucifa*. OTHER CREDITS Martin holds a B.F.A. in Acting from The University of Texas, Austin.



JILL BLACKWOOD* – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Ragtime*, *Xanadu*, *Hairspray*, *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *365 Days/365 Plays*, *Bad Dates*, *Urinetown: The Musical*, *Aida*, *Cabaret*, *Master Class*, *The Rocky Horror Show*. REGIONAL THEATRE: Jill has performed regularly for Austin Shakespeare, Austin Playhouse, the former Austin Musical Theatre (including "Glinda" in *The Wizard of Oz* at Bass Concert Hall), Zilker Theatre Productions (onstage and in the pit orchestra), The State Theatre, TexARTS and Mississippi's New Stage Theatre. AWARDS: Numerous Austin Critics' Table and B. Iden Payne Awards, most recently for the TexArts' production of *Carousel* at the Paramount and for her work as a guest artist in *Full Circle* at St. Edward's Mary Moody Theatre.

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About the Company



AMY DOWNING* – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Hairspray*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; *Speeding Motorcycle*; *High School Musical* (B. Iden Payne Award), *Present Laughter*, and *Urinetown*. NEW YORK: National Tour of *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles), *Trapped Family Singers* with Alex Geminiani, *Medea Machine* NYC Fringe Festival, Terrance Mann's musical workshop of *Romeo and Juliet* (Lady Capulet). REGIONAL THEATRE: *A Chorus Line* (Diana Morales) and *Oliver!* (Mrs. Sowerberry) at Cincinnati Conservatory of Music; *Joseph...Dreamcoat* (Potiphar's Wife) at The Hangar Theatre. OTHER THEATRE: *Under Construction* at The Mary Moody Northern Theatre, *I Love You Because* with Penfold Theatre, *Heddatron* and *Black Snow* with Paper Chairs at Salvage Vanguard Theatre; *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Helena Landless) at Austin Playhouse; *Nickel N' Dime* (Holly) and *A Christmas Carol* (Ms. Fezziwig) at The State Theatre. TV: *Guiding Light*. OTHER CREDITS: Amy studied musical theatre at CCM and is a graduate of Ithaca College. Her other passion is teaching and being a momma.



JASON CONNOR (*Pianist, Musical Director*) – AT ZACH THEATRE: *Ragtime* (Keyboards), *Next to Normal* (Piano/Conductor), *Rent* (Piano/Conductor), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Altar Boyz*, *High School Musical* (Musical Director), *The Rocky Horror Show* 2000 and 2006 (Musical Director), *Cabaret* (Musical Director), *Always... Patsy Cline*, *The Santaland Diaries* (Pianist), "Bertolt" in *Jouët*, *Schoolhouse Rock* (keyboards, Assistant Musical Director), *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Flaming Idiots*, *Evita*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Tommy*, *Forever Plaid*, *The Taffetas*, *Das Barbecü*, *Dreamgirls*, *Ruthless!*, *Beehive*, *Soul Sisters*, *Falsettos* and *Nonsense*. Jason traveled with The Flaming Idiots to play keyboards for their performances at The New Victory Theatre, Off-Broadway in 2000 and 2009. OTHER CREDITS: Jason is a graduate of Texas State University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. Jason teaches elementary music with the Austin Independent School District.

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Actors' Equity Association, founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. www.actorsequity.org

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