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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND AT THE GAMM: David Sedaris' *The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings*

PAWTUCKET, RI (November 13, 2007) — **Crumpet and Jocelyn are back!** The Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre (The Gamm) is pleased to stage a limited engagement of **David Sedaris' *The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings*** a year after the off-beat holiday show broke previous Gamm box office records. The pair of comic monologues by **award-winning humorist David Sedaris**, adapted for the stage by **Joe Mantello**, runs for three weeks only from **December 4-23** at The Gamm Theatre, 172 Exchange St., Pawtucket, RI.

Chris Byrnes directs **Steve Kidd** in the retelling of Sedaris' strange-but-true experiences as a one-time Macy's Christmas elf named Crumpet in ***The SantaLand Diaries***. In ***Season's Greetings***, **Wendy Overly** directs **Casey Seymour Kim** in the role of Jocelyn Dunbar — a rigidly chipper housewife determined to push through a year of tragically funny events rather than forgo her annual Christmas family newsletter.

Play Synopsis

From award-winning humorist, playwright and **National Public Radio contributor David Sedaris** (*Me Talk Pretty One Day, Naked*), a pair of comic monologues **bursting with unconventional holiday humor**, adapted from the author's best-selling *Holidays on Ice*. A young man arrives in New York with dreams of being a writer for *One Life to Live* and instead lands a part-time job as a Macy's Christmas elf named Crumpet. From humiliating interview to elf indoctrination to scrapes with miscast Santas and obnoxious customers, the author's real-life experiences, detailed in ***The SantaLand Diaries***, are **merrily subversive and fall-on-your-knees funny!** In ***Season's Greetings***, a determinedly sunny Mrs. Jocelyn Dunbar takes pen to paper recounting the joys, the jobs, and the unexpected surprises of the past year — including the arrival of her husband's illegitimate, gold-digging, Vietnamese daughter on the doorstep. **Twisted, tragic and hilarious** in its lurid revelations, ***Season's Greetings*** is an antidote to the chipper holiday newsletter of yore. *Includes mature themes.*

The themes of **crass commercialism and happy holidays gone awry** found in both plays never grow old and seemed to have hit a chord with audiences last holiday season, said **Gamm Artistic Director Tony Estrella**.

"The response to the play last season was overwhelming, so a revival was an incredibly easy decision," Estrella said. "Sedaris' crazy Christmas tales are becoming necessary holiday staples. **Holly, ivy and mistletoe for sure; but also overcrowded malls, family anxiety and massive credit card debt are hallmarks of the season. Sedaris makes us laugh at it all.**"

The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings are underwritten by the **Citizens Bank Foundation**. **NBC10** is The Gamm's season sponsor. Additional support comes from **WBRU**.

"The Citizens Bank Foundation is pleased to underwrite the Gamm Theatre's production of *The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings*," said **Joseph J. MarcAurele, President of Citizens Bank, Rhode Island**. "The arts are a critical piece of the success of the community and The Gamm Theatre has added so much to the rebirth of downtown Pawtucket by providing **world-class, affordable, accessible entertainment for the entire community.**"

About The Gamm Theatre

Founded in 1984 as Alias Stage, the nonprofit **Sandra Feinstein-Gamm Theatre** performs great works of the classic and modern theater in an intimate setting that fosters the vital relationship between author, actor and audience. As the cornerstone of **The Arts Exchange** at the Pawtucket Armory, The Gamm seeks to engage and enrich the community through affordable entertainment and educational programming. The Gamm is a member of **New England Area Theatre (NEAT)**, a bargaining unit of the Actors Equity Association.

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION OF *THE SANTALAND DIARIES & SEASON'S GREETINGS*

By **David Sedaris**, adapted by **Joe Mantello**
The SantaLand Diaries directed by **Chris Byrnes**
Season's Greetings directed by **Wendy Overly**

Set & Costume Design by **David T. Howard**
Lighting Design by **Noah Beauregard**
Technical Direction by **Dade Veron**
Stage Management by **Stef Work***

Assistant Technical Direction, **Andrew Morissette**; Master Electricians, **Matt Terry & Kathy Crowley**; Assistant Stage Manager, **Mark McClure**; Dramaturge, **Jennifer Madden**

CAST

Steve Kidd*.....Crumpet
Casey Seymour Kim*.....Jocelyn Dunbar

*The actor or stage manager appears through courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

Tuesday, Dec. 4, preview performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 5, press performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 6, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 7, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 11, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 12, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 13, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 14, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 15, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 15, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 16, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 18, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 19, regular performance at 7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 20, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 21, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 22, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 22, regular performance at 8 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 23, matinee performance at 2 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 23, regular performance at 7 p.m.

Tickets \$20-\$34; Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday at 7 p.m. ONLY \$20. Discounts for subscribers, groups of 10 or more, seniors and students. For single ticket sales, call **401-723-4266**. Or purchase tickets at **www.artixri.com**. More information at **www.gammtheatre.org**