

David Sedaris,
Sarah Vowell
& David Rakoff

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Zellerbach Hall

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David Sedaris made his comic debut recounting his strange-but-true experiences of being a Macy's elf clad in green tights, reading his SantaLand Diaries on National Public Radio's Morning Edition. Sedaris' sardonic humor and incisive social criticism have since made him one of NPR's most popular commentators. At the end of each of his commentaries, David Sedaris was identified as an apartment cleaner in New York City. But Sedaris isn't "just a working Joe who happens to put out these perfectly constructed pieces of prose," as Morning Edition's former producer Ira Glass puts it. The great skill with which Sedaris slices through euphemisms and political correctness proves that he is a master of satire. Everywhere he goes, David Sedaris delights his audience with his irreverent style and great humor.

In addition to his commentaries on NPR's Morning Edition, Sedaris is the author of the bestsellers *Barrel Fever*, *Naked*, and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*. His other book, a collection of Christmas-related stories, is entitled *Holiday on Ice*. David and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name *The Talent Family* and written several plays that 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* (Obie Award), *Incident at Cobbler's Knob*, and *The Book of Liz*.

Sedaris taught writing at the Art Institute of Chicago for two years, and his essays appear regularly in *The New Yorker* and *Esquire*. In 2001, he was named by *Time* magazine as "Humorist of the Year." Sedaris' original radio pieces can often be heard on Public Radio International's *This American Life*, distributed nationally by WBEZ in Chicago. In September 2001, he became the third recipient of the Thurber Prize for American Humor. David Sedaris currently resides in Paris.

Sarah Vowell, author and social observer, is best known for her monologues and documentaries for Public Radio International's *This American Life*. A contributing editor for the program since 1996, she has written about everything from her father's homemade cannon and her obsession with the *Godfather* films to the New Hampshire primary and her Cherokee ancestors' forced march on the Trail of Tears. She has been a staple of TAL's popular live shows around the country, for which *The New York Times* has commended her "funny querulous voice and shrewd comic delivery." Thanks to her first book, *Radio On: A Listener's Diary* (St. Martin's Press), *Newsweek* made her its "Rookie of the Year" for nonfiction in 1997, calling her "a cranky stylist with talent to burn." Reviewing her second book, the essay collection *Take the Cannoli: Stories from the New World* (Simon & Schuster), *People* magazine said, "Wise, witty and refreshingly warm-hearted, Vowell's essays on American history, pop culture, and her own family reveal the bonds holding together a great, if occasionally weird, nation."

As a critic and reporter, Vowell's writing has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines, including *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Artforum*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Spin*, and *McSweeney's*. As a columnist, she has covered education for *Time*; American culture for *Salon.com*; and pop music for the *San Francisco Weekly*, for which she won a 1996 Music Journalism Award. She has also taught writing and art history at Sarah Lawrence College and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, respectively.

Vowell has performed her comic monologues at the Aspen Comedy Festival, Amsterdam's Crossing Borders Festival, and Seattle's Foolproof Comedy Festival. She has appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman, Late Night with Conan O'Brien, and Nightline, which aired her appeal to television producers not to commemorate Frank Sinatra's death with her least favorite song, "My Way," on the day Sinatra died. She is at work on her third book, *Partly Cloudy Patriot*, which will be published by Simon & Schuster later this year. A native of Oklahoma and Montana, and a long-time resident of Chicago, Vowell currently lives in New York City.

David Rakoff is a regular on Public Radio International's *This American Life*, a frequent contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, a correspondent for *Outside* magazine, and contributor to *GQ*, *Salon*, *New York*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *The New York Observer*, and *Wired*, among others.

Rakoff has worked in theater with David and Amy Sedaris, as director of their play *Stitches*, and as an actor in *The Little Freida Mysteries* and the Obie Award-winning *One Woman Shoe*. He also directed the *Dueling Bankheads* and *Mike Albo*. As an actor, he has also portrayed Lance Loud, poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, and, in the window of *Barney's*, Sigmund Freud. Television appearances include *Cosby*, *As The World Turns*, and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.

Rakoff's collection of essays, *Fraud*, was published last May by Doubleday. He lives in New York City.