

Humorist David Sedaris - who parlayed escapades as santa's elf into speaking, writing career-to entertain at 8 p.m. Nov. 4 at UCSD

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HUMORIST DAVID SEDARIS WHO PARLAYED ESCAPADES AS SANTA'S ELF INTO SPEAKING, WRITING CAREER TO ENTERTAIN AT 8 P.M. NOV. 4 AT UCSD

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

Sedaris will entertain at 8 p.m. Nov. 4 in the Price Center Ballroom at the University of California, San Diego.

Sedaris began his comic and satirical rise in notoriety recounting his off-the-wall, but true, escapades as a Macy's Christmas elf clad in green tights. "When Sedaris read his SantaLand Diaries on National Public Radio in 1992, his writing career took off like a sleigh pulled by Donder and Blitzen," writes People.

SantaLand Diaries led to other commentaries for National Public Radio's Morning Edition, each stamped with Sedaris' sardonic humor, social critique and irreverent style.

"On the air, Sedans' shrewd, wickedly funny pieces prick up your ears," writes the Washington Post. "On the page, Sedaris seems even more accomplished."

Sedaris is the author of Barrel Fever, a collection of quirky stories and essays, and Naked, his 1997 autobiographical collection which won a nine-week spot on the New York Times bestseller list. With his sister Amy, he co-authored plays, including One Woman Shoe, which received an Obie Award; Stump the Host, Stitches, and Incident at Cobbler's Knob.

Sedaris taught writing at the Art Institute of Chicago, his essays appear regularly in The New Yorker, and his original radio pieces can be heard on public radio's This American Life, distributed nationally by WBEZ in Chicago.

Of his autobiographical Naked, the New York Observer writes, "David Sedaris' essays are about feeling oneself among strangers in an inhospitable place, starting with that most alien place of all: the bosom of the family." In a "cast of endearing characters ... no other character comes close to the writer himself for sheer roiling weirdness or lameness."

The Observer concludes: "Sharp, sympathetic, wonderfully written, the essays in Naked re-created the cathartic, the spiritual experience of laughing so hard that it hurts."

New York Magazine says "it would be hard to find someone more in touch with a child's pure, unadulterated delight in his surroundings and experiences than Sedaris," a comic "who fuses a skewed wit with the sincere, well-scrubbed good manners of a Boy Scout leader."

Mingling child-like fantasy and imagination with mature observation and improvisation, Sedaris has become one of NPR's most popular and humorous commentators.

Tickets for an evening with David Sedaris are \$14 general admission, \$12 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$7 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 5348497, and at Ticketmaster outlets at 220-8497. The performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. For information on the entire season of events sponsored by the University Events Office, visit the website, <http://ueo.ucsd.edu>, or call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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