



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:**

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**TAM Delivers a Blizzard of Laughs with *The Santaland Diaries***

Monmouth, Maine – Theater at Monmouth presents the cult holiday classic, *The Santaland Diaries*, adapted by Joe Mantello 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. *The Santaland Diaries*, recounts the tale of Sedaris' stint as a Macy's Department Store elf named "Crumpet." This off-kilter, witty, instant holiday classic (not suitable for children) will have you laughing into the New Year!

*The Santaland Diaries* features TAM favorite Mike Anthony as Crumpet, the quintessential elf-gone-bad, as he relates a series of merry misadventures in this antidote for holiday havoc. Spend some time with one of Santa's little helpers during Macy's Christmas shopping rush as he handles the hordes of insufferable shoppers and their kiddos with whacked out wisdom and wicked humor. Producing Artistic Director, Dawn McAndrews explains, "You know that old saying when something goes terribly wrong, 'Someday we will laugh about this'? Well, that's exactly what David Sedaris has done; he's taken the memory of an awful job during a rough year in his life, and turned it into a delightful funny and deliciously decadent lesson for us all."

David Sedaris made his NPR debut in 1992, when he read his essay titled *The Santaland Diaries* on the show "Morning Edition." Since then, Sedaris has gone on to publish multiple bestselling books including *Me Talk Pretty One Day* and *Let's Talk Diabetes with Owls*. He also has been a frequent contributor on NPR's popular radio show, "This American Life," all of which has contributed to his reputation as one of America's top humorists. Sedaris' story was adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello and premiered on November 7, 1996 at the Atlantic Theatre Company in New York City.

"Performing the role of Crumpet the Elf is a dream come true" says Mike Anthony. Mike spread holiday cheer from 2012-14 in *This Wonderful Life* based on Frank Capra's classic film. Since then, he has been starring in *Hamilton* on Broadway. In the lobby. Behind the bar. Selling Junior Mints. While there he hung out with President Obama, Bruce Springsteen, Harrison Ford, Oprah Winfrey, and Amy Schumer (the tabloids were all about the \$2,000 tip she left him, but the real story is their love). Who knew how far overpriced candy could get a guy? Mike is currently producing a documentary about the possibility that life doesn't end when the body does. He's been honored to experience some life-changing moments in the course of the film and plans to share those moments in the not-too-distant-future. While studying the possibility of an afterlife, one thing has become abundantly clear to him, the miracle of THIS life, of which Theater at Monmouth is a large part.

On Thanksgiving Day, tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance are \$10. After your feast, bring your whole family out for a night full of holiday cheer. Non-perishable food donations for the Monmouth Food Pantry will be accepted at all performances. Tickets for all other performances are \$25.

Performance calendar: PREVIEW 11/23 at 7:30 p.m.; OPENING 11/24 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 11/25, 11/30, 12/1, 12/2 at 7:30 p.m.; 11/25, 11/26, 12/2, 12/3 at 1:00 p.m. For tickets, please contact the TAM Box Office at 207.933.9999 or visit [www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org).

### Tickets, Subscriptions, and Ways to Save

Single tickets for the Holiday Show are \$25. Groups of 10 or more can enjoy TAM shows at up to a 22% discount. Groups may also schedule pre or post show discussions with tours of historic Cumston Hall. Contact the Box Office for more information and to book your group's event.

Opening Nights are Educator Nights. Educators receive 20% off the single ticket price with a photo ID at the Box Office.

Under 30 Rush Tickets: For patrons under 30, twenty \$10 Rush Tickets are available at each performance in the season. Sign up by contacting the Box Office, either by emailing [boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org](mailto:boxoffice@theateratmonmouth.org) or calling 207.933.9999 the morning of the performance. Tickets will be released to the first 20 people on the list ten minutes before curtain.

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Theater at Monmouth, founded in 1970, was named the Shakespearean Theater of Maine by the State Legislature in 1975. The theatre's mission is to present innovative approaches to Shakespeare and other classic plays through professional productions that enrich the lives of people throughout Maine. Since its founding, TAM has produced expertly crafted, engaging productions in its three-month Summer Repertory Season entertaining audiences from 36 states and through Education Tours annually reaching more than 15,000 students statewide.

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