



KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR TICKETS: Box Office at
816.235.2700 or www.KCRep.org.

**Kansas City Repertory Theatre
Announces Cast and Creative Team of
David Sedaris’
*The Santaland Diaries***

Starring Brian Sills

Tickets NOW ON SALE

Dec. 3 through Dec. 24 at Copaken Stage

Kansas City, MO (Nov. 9, 2015) – Kansas City Repertory Theatre continues its 2015-16 season with the return of David Sedaris’ *The Santaland Diaries*, directed by Kansas City Repertory Theatre Artistic Director Eric Rosen and starring Brian Sills as Crumpet the Elf. Leave the kids at home for this hilariously irreverent holiday show. It’s David Sedaris’ side-splitting send-up of Christmas and his brief, misguided career as a Macy’s elf. Featuring an uproarious soundtrack of holiday tunes, *The Santaland Diaries* skewers everything we love (and secretly loathe) about the holidays. See what it’s like for the subversive to work at Santaland, where the only thing more plentiful than good cheer is a good case of the giggles.

“...lots of acerbic asides, plenty of irony and numerous chuckles thanks to the incongruous humor of an embittered elf holding back the curtain for us to see the grimy reality of creating ‘holiday magic.’” – *Kansas City Star*

The Santaland Diaries runs December 3 through 24 at KC Rep’s Copaken Stage, at the H&R Block World Headquarters in the Power & Light District in downtown Kansas City, MO. This performance, as a work of satire, contains material that might be objectionable to some audiences. Appropriate for ages 16 and up. Past production high resolution photos can be found [here](#). Press night is Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 pm.

About the Artists

Brian Sills is a New York City-based actor, originally from Toronto, Canada. His work at KC Rep includes: three seasons performing *The Santaland Diaries*, and the Emcee in *Cabaret*. New York: *The Machine* (Park Avenue Armory), *Himself And Nora* (NYMF). National Tour: *The Lion King* (original cast). Regional Theatre: *Fairfield* and *Around The World In 80 Days* (Cleveland Play House), *How Water Behaves* (Capital Repertory Theatre), *The Heidi Chronicles* (Asolo Repertory Theater), *Assassins* (Milwaukee Repertory), *Amadeus* (Clarence Brown Theater), *My Life Is A Musical* (Bay Street Theatre), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Cymbeline* (Joseph Jefferson Award nomination), *The Three Musketeers*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and *How Can You Run With A Shell On Your Back?* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). TV: *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* (Netflix), *Mr. Robot* (USANetwork) Film: *Baby On Board*, *Nothing Like The Holidays*, *Rocky Marciano*. www.briansills.com AEA Member.

Shanna Jones KC Rep: *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Stillwater*, *Hair: Retrospection*, *Santaland Diaries* (2013, 2014). **New York:** *Phaedra’s Cabaret*, *Undone*, and *The Fall*. **Regional:** *Les Miserables* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *Romeo and Juliet* (Utah Shakespearean Festival); *Saturday’s Voyeur* (Salt Lake Acting Company). **Education:** BA, the Actor Training Program at the University of Utah (2008). www.shannajonesmusic.com AEA Member.

Eric Rosen (Director) was the founding Artistic Director of Chicago’s About Face Theatre (AFT) from 1995 to 2008, and is a writer, director and producer. Original projects include *Venice* (KC Rep, Center Theatre Group-LA, Public Theater-NYC, “Best Musical of 2010”–*TIME* Magazine); *Wedding Play* (Steppenwolf/AFT, Jefferson nomination); *Winesburg, Ohio* (Steppenwolf/AFT-Jeff Award, Philadelphia’s Arden Theatre Company—Barrymore Award, KC Rep); *Clay* (AFT, Lookingglass Theatre-Chicago, Center Theatre Group, KC Rep, Lincoln Center/CT3-Drama Desk Nomination, Jeff Award); and *Undone*, *Whitman* and *Dream Boy* (Jeff Award, several productions across the country). In addition to *Venice*, other KC Rep directing credits include: *Clay*; *Winesburg, Ohio*; world premiere of *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical!* (a hit musical on Broadway—three Tony nominations, including Best Musical); *Cabaret*; *August: Osage County*; *The Whipping Man*; *Pippin*; *Death of a Salesman*; *Romeo and Juliet*; and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Additional directing credits include Kansas City Repertory Theatre’s *The Santaland Diaries* Dec. 3 through Dec. 24 at Copaken Stage

productions at Lincoln Center, Center Theatre Group, Steppenwolf, Goodman, Alliance, Lookingglass, Chicago Shakespeare, Hartford Stage, 5th Avenue, Prince, Cincinnati, Melbourne (Australia) and workshops at Sundance, O’Neill, Playwrights Horizons, and the Public Theater. He has developed and produced over 40 world premieres, including Doug Wright’s Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning *I am My Own Wife* and work by Mary Zimmerman, Frank Galati, Stephen Flaherty, Moisés Kaufman, David Cale and *The Civilians*, among others. He holds a doctorate in performance studies from Northwestern University, has twice served as an NEA panelist, and serves on the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group, the national organization of non-profit theatres.

David Sedaris (Author and playwright) made his comic debut recounting his strange-but-true experiences of being a Macy’s elf clad in green tights, reading his *The Santaland Diaries* on National Public Radio’s “Morning Edition”. Sedaris’ sardonic humor and incisive social critique have since made him one of NPR’s most popular and humorous commentators and a best-selling author in the United States and abroad. 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, David Sedaris is the author of the best-sellers *Barrel Fever* and *Naked*. His collection of Christmas related stories is entitled *Holiday on Ice*. His book of essays *Me Talk Pretty One Day* was published in June 2000 and became an immediate best-seller. Sedaris is a regular contributor to “Esquire” magazine and his essays have also appeared in “The New Yorker,” “Allure,” and “Travel and Leisure.” His original radio pieces can often be heard on public radio’s “This American Life,” distributed nationally by WBEZ in Chicago, as well as BBC radio in London.

The design and production team includes **Clint Ramos** (Scenic Design), **Margaret Spare** (Lighting Design), and **Craig Campbell** (Production Stage Manager).

Performances begin Thurs. Dec. 3 and run through Thursday, Dec. 24 at Copaken Stage. Press night is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 5, 8pm curtain. High res rehearsal photos can be found [here](#)
Appropriate for ages 16+.

Thurs. Dec. 3	7 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 4	8 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 5	8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 6	2 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 9	7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 10	7 p.m. *
Fri., Dec. 11	8 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 12	8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 13	2 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 16	7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 17	7 p.m.

Kansas City Repertory Theatre’s *The Santaland Diaries*
Dec. 3 through Dec. 24 at Copaken Stage

Fri. Dec. 18	8 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 19	8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 20	2 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 22	7 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 23	7 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 24	7 p.m.

* press night

Subscriptions and Tickets

The Santaland Diaries runs December 3 – 24, 2015 at Copaken Stage, located at 13th and Walnut Streets in Kansas City, MO. Tickets cost \$25-\$59. For additional ticket and performance information, please call the Box Office at 816-235-2700 or visit www.KCRep.org. For group ticket sales, please call 816-235-6122.

Gala 2016

Save the date for Friday, May 20, 2016 at the newly renovated Spencer Theatre! Last year's Fearless Fête raised more than \$655,000 which helps ensure that KC Rep can continue to create professional productions that garner regional and national acclaim and provide lifelong learning opportunities through our Education and Community Programs which benefit more than 10,000 Kansas City area students each year. For more information, please contact Amanda Middaugh at Middaugham@kcrep.org or 816.235.1489.

About Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre, one of the nation's oldest and most respected regional theaters, is the center of a great theatre town. KC Rep produces theatrical excellence, creating and sharing stories at the center of our nation's creative crossroads. KC Rep's mission is to advance the art form while cultivating passionate audiences, artists, and advocates to invest in our region's creative future. We build community by connecting people through productions and outreach that educate, entertain, challenge and inspire. Lauded by *The Wall Street Journal*, *TIME* magazine, *Variety* and *The Toronto Sun*, KC Rep produces mainstage plays and special events at Spencer Theatre, where it serves as the professional theatre in residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), and Copaken Stage located in downtown Kansas City. KC Rep employs more than 250 professional artists, technicians and administrators, and serves more than 100,000 patrons and 12,000 school children annually. Kansas City Repertory Theatre is led by Artistic Director Eric Rosen and Executive Director Angela Lee Gieras.

Social and Digital Media

Receive daily updates by 'Liking' KCRep's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KCREP and follow KC Rep on Twitter at @KCRep or on YouTube by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/user/kansascityrep>. High resolution photos can be downloaded [here](#).

B-roll is available upon request.

2015-2016 Season At A Glance

Kansas City Repertory Theatre's *The Santaland Diaries*
Dec. 3 through Dec. 24 at Copaken Stage

Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre ticket office 816.235.2700

Purchase tickets online at www.kcrep.org.

Sunday in the Park with George

September 11- October 4, 2015 | Atkins Auditorium at the Nelson-Atkins Museum | Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim | Book by James Lapine | Directed by Eric Rosen

You've seen Georges Seurat's famous painting, but have you heard it? Those who love art, music or both are in for a rare treat as Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's stunning Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece takes the stage inside the Nelson-Atkins Museum. While Seurat works on his famous painting, we see the fascinating drama of his life unfold around him. Savor the Grammy award-winning score that moves the audience through time as we celebrate life, love and the creation of art.

"An audacious, haunting, and in its own intensely personal way, touching work." – *The New York Times*

Origin KC - WORLD PREMIERE

Blueprints to Freedom: An Ode to Bayard Rustin

October 16- November 15, 2015 | Copaken Stage | Written by Michael Benjamin Washington | Directed by Lucie Tiberghien | Co-production with La Jolla Playhouse

Written by and starring Michael Benjamin Washington, this story is more than relevant. It's riveting. Those who stand up for equality in 2015 are following in the footsteps of Bayard Rustin, the lesser known but powerfully influential civil rights leader who orchestrated the March on Washington and stepped forward himself as an openly gay man at a time when few had the courage to do so. In this ode, an exiled Rustin masterminds "a tribute to the ancestors" 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

A Christmas Carol

November 20 - December 24, 2015 | GRAND RE-OPENING of Spencer Theatre | Written by Charles Dickens / Directed by Jerry Genochio

Bah, humbug! Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition is back for its 35th season, and the magnificent new Spencer Theatre promises an experience that's more magical than ever. Come share the joy, as our theatre transforms into a page right out of Dickens. Richly textured sets, ornate costumes and spectacular special effects will transport the entire family into the tale of the grumpy Ebenezer Scrooge, who requires the intervention of a few ghostly guides to find the true meaning of Christmas – and life itself.

The Santaland Diaries

December 3- December 24, 2015 | Copaken Stage | Written by David Sedaris | Directed by Eric Rosen

Leave the kids at home for this hilariously irreverent holiday show. It's David Sedaris' side-splitting send-up of Christmas and his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf. Featuring an uproarious soundtrack of holiday tunes, *The Santaland Diaries* skewers everything we love (and secretly loathe) about the holidays. See what it's like for the subversive to work at Santaland, where the only thing more plentiful than good cheer is a good case of the giggles.

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The Diary of Anne Frank

January 29 – February 21, 2016 | Spencer Theatre | Written by Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett | Newly Adapted by Wendy Kesselman | Directed by Marissa Wolf

The most personal aspects of Anne Frank's story went untold until newly discovered writings became part of a mesmerizing Pulitzer-Prize winning play, adapted for our stage by Wendy Kesselman. Peer into the world of a family in hiding and a gifted young writer who came of age during the horrors of the Holocaust. This adaptation weaves together Anne's reflections with actual survivor accounts to tell the chilling story of Nazi persecution and the prevailing hopes of a girl who – despite everything – inspired generations with her unwavering faith in humanity.

"A powerful new version that moves the audience to gasp, then tears." —Associated Press.

Origin KC- WORLD PREMIERE

Roof of the World

February 26 – March 27, 2016 | Copaken Stage | Written by D. Tucker Smith | Directed by Eric Rosen

Part spy thriller, part *Downton Abbey*, this world premiere production is an epic love story about a British explorer and an Indian spy during Queen Victoria's rule. This high speed, sweeping drama takes you into uncharted territory (quite literally), where suspense and romance keep your pulse racing and your knees weak. It's fun, sexy, edge-of-your seat excitement that will leave you breathless from the exhilaration of a grand overseas adventure.

The Fantasticks

March 18 – April 10, 2016 | Spencer Theatre | Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones | Music by Harvey Schmidt | Directed by Jerry Genochio

It's the longest-running musical in history for a reason. This is theatre magic in its purest form, with clever props, snappy dialogue, plot twists and the mesmerizing performances of a stunningly talented cast. The delightful drama starts as a tale about a boy and a girl whose fathers lovingly hatch a plan to bring them together. But when the sly El Gallo steps in to assist, the young lovers experience the harsh realities of life before wising up to the world and fully realizing their love. A small cast never made such a big impression. Don't miss it.

Origin KC- New Works Festival

Kansas City Repertory Theatre's *The Santaland Diaries*
Dec. 3 through Dec. 24 at Copaken Stage

Two WORLD PREMIERES presented in rotating repertory
April 22- May 22, 2016 | Copaken Stage | Curated by Marissa Wolf

Fire in Dreamland

Written by Rinne Goff | Directed by Marissa Wolf

Moments after you've settled into your seat, this coming-of-age story grabs you with such intensity that you can't look away. A world premiere from celebrated playwright Rinne Groff (*Saved!*, *Compulsion*), it's the story of a modern-day young woman named Kate who is seduced by the vision of a Dutch filmmaker obsessed with the tragic 1911 fire on Coney Island. Past and present converge against a destructive backdrop, and when Kate finally sees the illusion of filmmaking – and of life with an inattentive lover – she rediscovers her ambitions as an independent woman.

Lot's Wife

Written by Eric Rosen

You're at times inside the play, at times behind the scenes, all the while wondering whether the story is actually a murder confession. This world premiere production from KC Rep Artistic Director Eric Rosen centers on Adam Mace, a promising playwright with a troubling past who has written his first new play since the tragic deaths of his wife and infant child. Set as a 1930s noir thriller, the script opens old wounds between ex-friends and lovers as actors are made to play themselves, and even the dead take the stage to tell their side of the story in an epic meta-theatrical murder mystery that is both heartbreaking and hilarious.

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**Please direct all media inquiries to: Ellen McDonald at 816.444.0052,
816.213.4355 (cell) or publicity@kcrep.org.**

For further information, please visit our Web site at www.kcrep.org.

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The image shows the KCRep logo in large blue letters on the left. To the right is a grid of eight production posters for the 2015-2016 season. The first row includes 'SUNDAY ON THE PANK WITH GEORGE' (Sep 11 - Oct 4, 2015), 'BLUEPRINTS TO FREEDOM' (Oct 16 - Nov 15, 2015), 'Go Christmas Carol' (Nov 20 - Dec 24, 2015), and 'SANTALAND DIARIES' (Dec 3 - 24, 2015). The second row includes 'THE WAY OF ANNE FRANK' (Jan 29 - Feb 21, 2016), 'ROOF OF THE WORLD' (Feb 26 - Mar 27, 2016), 'FANTASTICKS' (Mar 18 - Apr 10, 2016), and 'NEW WORKS FESTIVAL' (Apr 22 - May 22, 2016). Below the grid is a banner that reads: 'NEW LOOK : NEW SEASON! SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW at 816.235.2700 or visit KCRep.org.'