

Coastal Repertory Theatre  
1167 Main St  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
www.coastalrep.com  
650-204-5046

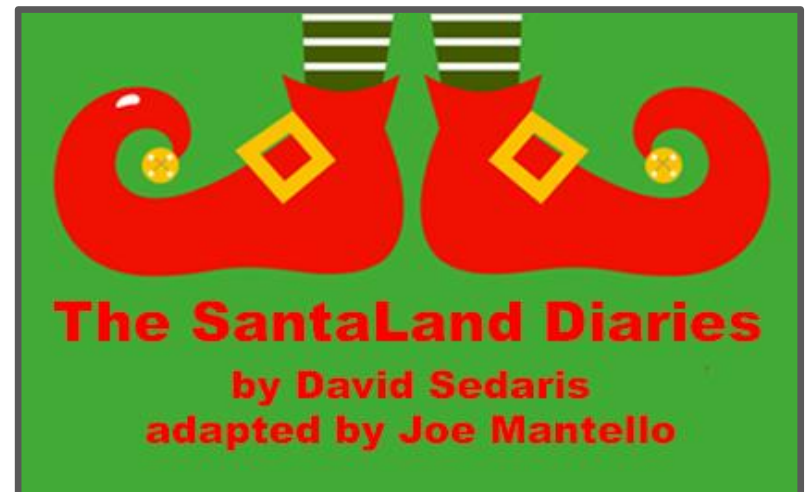
# SantaLand Diaries

By David Sedaris

Adapted by Joe Mantello

Directed by Erica Abrahamson

- ◆ *This show is presented with NO intermission.*
- ◆ *Eating or drinking is only allowed in the lobby area.*
- ◆ *Masks must stay on while in the theatre.*



**COASTAL REPERTORY THEATRE**

**December 3-19, 2021**

*SantaLand Diaries* is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

## Director's Notes...

This Director's Note has been perplexing for me to piece together...not because I don't have a lot to say, but more so because I want to say it in the right context.

This essay is auto biographical and written by sardonic playwright David Sedaris at what is seemingly a challenging time in his life. Dare I say, we've all been there. I have.

I parallel this play to baking a cake from scratch. The icing on the cake is what people gravitate to, but what goes into making it can be complex, difficult, and unseen.

Most people think of the holidays as a time with family, friends, faith, frankincense & myrrh. Santa, snowflakes, latkes, cookies, Christmas music, dreidels, Hallmark TV... the list goes on. What we think "less" about is what people are going through during this time.

I'm assuming most of us look forward to the holiday season for multiple reasons: we are lucky, fortunate, and blessed while there are so many underserved, unhealthy (physically & emotionally) people facing issues we do not see OR care to see. Shame on us?

This piece is funny in an unconventional way. As the director, I immediately recognized that the playwright's words needed to be conveyed exactly as he wrote them because otherwise moments could be lost in translation. This essay is not meant to harm; it's simply about struggle and some bad behavior – by *everyone*.

*SantaLand* deserves a special comedian with the heart and ability to transfer this story with sensitivity while yet being apathetic & irritated in the most candid ways. David Blackburn is the right elf. He found heart, candor, & the courage to be vulnerable & compassionate, relaying life's moments in ways we all can understand.

Enjoy this tale of Santa's elf just trying to make ends meet & the people he encounters along the way...in the late 1980's.

---Erica Abrahamson

**Coastal Rep's  
2022 Season**

<b>NOISES OFF</b> FEBRUARY 11-27, 2022	<b>THE Cemetery Club</b> March 28 - April 30, 2022	<b>Angels in America part 1</b> June 17 - July 3, 2022
<b>SPAMALOT</b> August 5-28, 2022	<b>MURDER ON THE NILE</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS IN Orléans</b> December 1-18, 2022

Coastal Rep **Reserve your tickets today!**

**Val Clear** (*Lighting Designer*) Valerie is no stranger to CRT. She has lit over 100 shows here over the years. Some favorites are *Approaching Zanzibar*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Wait Until Dark*. Valerie also designs around the Bay Area. She has worked at Pear Theatre, Hillbarn Theatre, Los Altos Stage Co, Sacred Heart Schools and HMBHS among others. Valerie is starting a new lighting adventure lighting artwork and glass sculptures. She wants to thank her fiancé for all her love and support. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday.

**Gail Erwin** (*Producer*) Gail has been hanging around Coastal Rep for years, sometimes on the Board, sometimes onstage, writing and directing plays for Summer Drama Camp, and working on the Artistic Committee. She is delighted to welcome Director Erica Abrahamson, Artist David Blackburn, and Stage Managers Eric and Adria Olson to the stage

**Corlette Lotridge** (*Costumer*) has costumed shows at Sea Crest School, Crystal Springs Uplands School, CRKT Summer Drama Camp, and Coastal Rep. Some of her favorite characters to have costumed are the Ghost of Christmas Present, Pumbaa, and the King, from *A Christmas Carol*, *The Lion King* and *The Princesses* and the Pea respectively.

**Adria Olson** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Adria is excited to return to the backstage at Coastal Rep after a hiatus from the coast. She is excited to work on this show with Erica, David, Eric, and the rest of the team and looks forward to a great run!

**Eric Olson** (*Stage Manager*) Eric has amassed many years of theatre experience and is excited to be working on his first show at Coastal Rep, with his lovely wife, Adria. He looks forward to a great show with an amazing team!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO GINO PETTINARI**

## Cast

### David Blackburn



**David Blackburn** (Crumpet) is so excited to finally be back onstage for the first time post-COVID. Honestly, it probably took a full two years for

him to work up the snowballs to try and tackle a one-man show; but he couldn't be more thrilled to be doing it alongside this incredible creative team. David has performed at various theatres throughout the Bay for the last few years. Some of his most recent roles were *Sweaty Eddie* (*Sister Act*), *Henslow* (*Shakespeare in Love*), *Tim* (*Noises Off*), *Bobby* (*Saturday Night Fever*), *Lumiere* (*Beauty and the Beast*), and *Oscar* (*Sweet Charity*). Special thanks to Erica, Danny, Eric, Adria, the fam, my Cali fam, the Nefertitties, the QUEEN Judy, and the true LOML, Letherer Farms. "Merry Christmas, ya filthy animal[s]. And a Happy New Year!"



### Coastal Repertory Theatre Board of Directors

Danny Martin – Chair  
Susan Savich – Treasurer  
Noelle Lane – Secretary

Gail Erwin – Director  
Caroline Naito – Director  
Emily York – Director

Michael Adler – Emeritus

Sean Rollings – Emeritus



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of live theatre at Coastal Rep

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Coastal Repertory Theatre extends deep appreciation to  
our 2019-2021 Season Sponsors



### About Us

Coastal Repertory Theatre was founded in 1986 to bring back quality theatrical entertainment to the Coastsides. In 1993, the theatre found its home here at 1167 Main Street. An artistic beacon of the Coastsides, Coastal Rep is a non-profit theatre. Our theatrical talent is drawn from throughout the Greater Bay Area.

For the people involved with Coastal Rep, it's a labor of love – love of the arts. Time and creative energy are given tirelessly. And while all of us receive personal satisfaction from our participation, we are also in it for the greater good: the contribution that performing arts make in enriching the community.

Coastal Rep is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit organization, registered in California

## Production Staff

Director.....Erica Abrahamson  
Producer.....Gail Erwin  
Stage Managers.....Eric Olson  
Assistant Stage Manager .....Adria Olson  
Set Design .....Doug McCurdy  
Set Build.....Paul Smith, George Lotridge, Chris Kammeyer  
Costumer.....Corlette Lotridge  
Light Designer .....Valerie Clear  
Set Dressing.....Greet Jaspaert, Jane Seifert, Norma Vite,  
.....Michele Parry, Jane Hanson, Sue Joswiak, Ginger Cutter,  
.....Christy Conklin, Will McCluney, Weston Warren  
Social Media.....Deborah Joves  
Marketing.....Sarah Simnett  
Box Office .....Ginger Cutter

## Production Staff Profiles

**Erica Wyman Abrahamson** (*Director*) is excited to direct her first Coastal Rep production after being last seen onstage in 2005 in NUNSENSE as Robert Ann.

Erica landed in San Francisco in 1990 where she spent over a decade creating very attention-grabbing characters in San Francisco's longest running cabaret and jewel, Beach Blanket Babylon.

After leaving BBB, Erica focused on her entrepreneurial spirit, having served as one of two founding members of a local talent agency and directing theatre throughout the Bay Area. Some of her directorial productions include *Big Fish*, *Sister Act*, *West Side Story* (2018 BACC Winner), *Cabaret* (2017 TBA Winner), *Sweet Charity*, *The Producers* and many more.

Erica is married to Stu, a Silicon Valley businessman and retired Navy Commander. Together, they have a son, Jack.  
Thank you, team, for everything!