DAVID RAKOFF BRINGS HIS RAPIER WIT TO ZELLERBACH HALL
SATURDAY, APRIL 4 AT 8:00 P.M.

BERKELEY, February 24, 2009—Humorist, essayist, author, actor and popular public radio personality, David Rakoff puts his many talents on display at Zellerbach Hall Saturday, April 4 at 8:00 p.m. He is familiar to Cal Performances audiences from his past appearances with David Sedaris and Ira Glass, whose popular Public Radio International’s This American Life first brought Rakoff to national attention. Rakoff has written two New York Times bestsellers, Fraud and Don’t Get Too Comfortable. He specializes in skewering a culture of vanity, consumerism and greed, delving into the frenzied acquiring and spending that often defines contemporary life. “Rakoff knows the incantatory power of a story well-told, the art of keeping words aloft like the bubbles in a champagne flute. He possesses the crackling wit of a ’30s screwball comedy ingénue, a vocabulary that is a treasure chest of mots justes, impressive but most times not too showy for everyday wear” (Los Angeles Times).

Canadian-bred Rakoff’s experiences as a gay, Jewish, expatriate writer in New York City serve as the basis of many of his fish-out-of-water writings that offer alternative perspectives on the American experience. “Like a whore with a heart of gold, David Rakoff says all the nasty things we want to hear and then reveals that, actually, it’s all about love,” says Glass.

In addition to being a regular on This American Life, Rakoff is also a frequent contributor to The New York Times Magazine, a correspondent for Outside magazine, and has written for GQ, Salon, New York Magazine, Conde Nast Traveler, Harper’s Bazaar, The New York Observer, and Wired, among others. His first collection of essays, Fraud (2001), established Rakoff as one of today’s funniest, most insightful writers. 2005’s Don’t Get Too Comfortable moved from personal to public, journeying out into contemporary America and taking readers on a grand tour of the culture of excess.

-MORE-
As an actor, Rakoff has portrayed columnist Lance Loud onstage, poet Vladimir Mayakovsky on public television and Sigmund Freud in the window of a Barney’s department store. Television appearances include Cosby, As the World Turns and Late Night with Conan O’Brien. Rakoff has worked in theater with David and Amy Sedaris, as director of their play Stitches, and he acted in The Little Freida Mysteries, The Book of Liz, and the Obie award-winning One Woman Shoe. He directed the Dueling Bankheads in Jail Babes at New York’s La Mama, and monologist Mike Albo at P.S. 122. Rakoff can be seen in the films Bad Bosses Go to Hell; Strangers with Candy, starring Amy Sedaris; and Capote, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for David Rakoff, on Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall are priced at $20.00, $26.00 and $32.00. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a $5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are $10.00 for UCB students; $15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and $20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

# # #

-MORE-
CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, April 4 at 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Strictly Speaking
David Rakoff

Program: David Rakoff, writer, satirist and contributor to public radio’s This American Life as well as author of two bestselling books, comes to Zellerbach Hall.

Tickets: $20.00, $26.00 and $32.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.