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**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.

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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](http://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](http://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.

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**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.

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