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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 29, 2008

## ADDED EVENT!

### MASTER OF SATIRE DAVID SEDARIS RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES WITH HIS LATEST COLLECTION OF ESSAYS SUNDAY, APRIL 26

**BERKELEY, October 29, 2008**—American humorist **David Sedaris** returns to Cal Performances **Sunday, April 26, 2009**, at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Sedaris, who “just may be the funniest man alive” (*Time Out New York*), will read from his new collection of personal essays, titled *When You Are Engulfed in Flames* (June 2008), his sixth book and a *New York Times* Best Seller. Sedaris uses his razor-sharp wit to detail some of life’s most bizarre and awkward moments, including his decision to quit smoking.

Sedaris may well be the closest thing the literary world has these days to a rock star—his speaking engagements are consistently standing-room-only, a far cry from his early days as a housecleaner in New York City. Sedaris made his comic debut recounting his strange-but-true experiences of his job as a Macy’s elf clad in green tights, reading his *SantaLand Diaries* on National Public Radio’s Morning Edition. The great skill with which Sedaris slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that he is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today.

Sedaris is the author of the bestsellers *Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*, as well as collections of personal essays, *Naked* and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, both of which became immediate bestsellers. Sedaris and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name “The Talent Family” and have written several plays which have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center, and The Drama Department in New York City. These plays include *Stump the Host*, *Stitches*, *One Woman Shoe*, which received an Obie Award, *Incident at Cobbler’s Knob*, and *The Book of Liz*, which was published in book form by Dramatist’s Play Service. His essays appear regularly in *Esquire* and *The New Yorker*.

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Sedaris's original radio pieces can often be heard on *This American Life*, distributed nationally by Public Radio International and produced by WBEZ in Chicago. In 2001, he became the third recipient of the Thurber Prize for American Humor. He was named "Humorist of the Year" by Time magazine in 2001. His book *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* was published in June 2004, and an anthology of stories, *Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories*, edited by Sedaris, was published in April 2005. In 2005, he was nominated for two Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word Album (*Dress Your Family in Corduroy & Denim*) and Best Comedy Album (*David Sedaris: Live at Carnegie Hall*).

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **David Sedaris** on **Sunday, April 26** at **8:00 p.m** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$28.00**, **\$36.00**, and **\$52.00**. 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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Cal Performances 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2008/09 season media sponsor.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, April 26 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Strictly Speaking*  
**David Sedaris**

**Program:** David Sedaris, NPR humorist and best-selling author, returns to Zellerbach Hall to read from his newly published collection of essays, titled *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*.

**Tickets:** \$28.00, \$36.00, and \$52.00, 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.

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