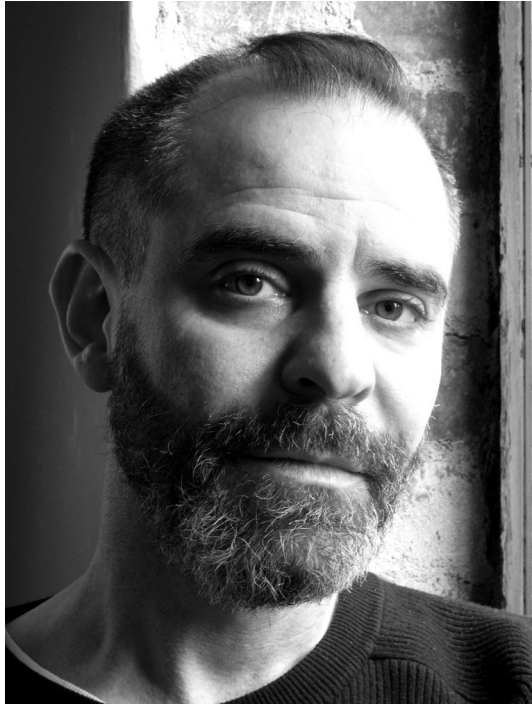


Sunday, February 19, 2012, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall

Strictly Speaking

An Evening with David Rakoff



Paul Rosin

Cal Performances' 2011–2012 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

THE WRY AND THE HEARTFELT join in humorist, essayist and author **David Rakoff's** prose to resurrect that most-neglected of literary virtues: wit. "Looking like a pug and sounding like the love child of Dorothy Parker, Oscar Wilde and *All About Eve's* Addison DeWitt" (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*), Mr. Rakoff has established himself as one of today's funniest, most insightful writers with his *New York Times* bestsellers *Fraud* and *Don't Get Too Comfortable*. "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*).

Short-listed for the Whiting Award and the Stephen Leacock Medal, he is two-time recipient of the Lambda Book Award for Humor. Mr. Rakoff is a charter member and regular contributor to Public Radio International's *This American Life*. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine* and been featured in *Best American Travel Writing*, *The Best American Non-Required Reading*, *Da Capo's Best Music Writing* (edited by Nick Hornby), and *Outside 25: The Best of Outside Magazine's 25 Years*. He contributed to the 2008 book *State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America*, the recent anthology *My First New York* and the forthcoming *The Fifty Funniest American Writers* from the Library of America.

His most recent book of sharply observed essays is entitled *Half Empty* (published in paperback in September 2011), in which he defends the commonsensical notion that you should always assume the worst, because you'll never be disappointed.

David Rakoff has worked in theater with David and Amy Sedaris on their plays *Stitches*, *The Little Freida Mysteries*, *The Book of Liz* and the Obie Award-winning *One Woman Shoe*. He has portrayed Lance Loud and poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, and can be seen in the films *Capote* (fleeting) and *Strangers with Candy* (fleeting; mutely). He adapted the screenplay and starred in the live-action short film *The New Tenants*, which won the 2010 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film.