



Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

David Sedaris

Cal Performances' 2017–18 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. He is the master of satire and one of today's most observant writers addressing the human condition, especially apparent in his latest book, a collection of his diaries entitled *Theft By Finding: Diaries (1977–2002)*.

Beloved for his personal essays and short stories, Sedaris is the author of *Barrel Fever*, *Holidays on Ice*, *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*, and *Theft By Finding: Diaries (1977–2002)*. He is also the author of *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary*, a collection of fables with illustrations by Ian Falconer. Each of these books was an immediate bestseller. Sedaris was the editor of *Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories*. His pieces regularly appear in *The New Yorker* and have twice been included in "The Best American Essays." There are over ten million copies of his books in print and they have been translated into 25 languages. In 2018 Sedaris was awarded the Terry Southern Prize for Humor, a prize honoring humor and wit in writing.

He and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name "The Talent Family" and have written half-a-dozen plays that 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* (Obie Award), *Incident at Cobbler's Knob*, and *The Book of Liz*, which was published in book form by Dramatists Play Service.

Sedaris' original audio pieces can often be heard on the public radio show *This American Life*. He has been nominated for three Grammy awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. His latest audio recording of new stories (recorded live) is *David Sedaris: Live for Your Listening Pleasure* (November 2009). A feature film adaptation of his story *C.O.G.* was released after a premiere at the Sundance Film Festival (2013). Since 2011 he can be heard annually on a series of live recordings on BBC Radio 4 entitled "Meet David Sedaris."

As a companion piece to *Theft By Finding*, Jeffrey Jenkins published and edited an art book of Sedaris' diary covers, entitled *David Sedaris Diaries: A Visual Compendium* (October 2017). A new book of essays entitled *Calypso* is set to be published later this month, and a second volume of his diaries is expected for summer 2019.