



music dance theater

# Cal Performances

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



**David Sedaris**

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2021-2022

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As many of you already know, Cal Performances recently announced details of its upcoming 2022–23 season. Beginning in September, with the brilliant **Miami City Ballet** and its legendary production of George Balanchine’s iconic *Jewels* (1967), and continuing into June 2023, when the ever-popular **Eifman Ballet** arrives at Zellerbach Hall with its lavish, fully staged *Russian Hamlet*, it’s a schedule packed with extraordinary opportunities to experience the very best in live music, dance, and theater.

And what a schedule! More than 70 events, with highlights including the return of the legendary **Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra**, under conductor **Christian Thielemann**; the beloved **Mark Morris Dance Group** in Morris’ new *The Look of Love: An Evening of Dance to the Music of Burt Bacharach*; revered South African artist **William Kentridge**’s astonishing new *SIBYL*; a rare Berkeley performance with the **San Francisco Symphony** and conductor **Esa-Pekka Salonen**; and a special concert with chamber music superstars pianist **Emanuel Ax**, violinist **Leonidas Kavakos**, and cellist **Yo-Ma**. And these are only a few of the amazing performances that await you!

*Illuminations* programming next season will take advantage of Cal Performances’ unique positioning as both a renowned international performing arts presenter and a part of one of the world’s top-ranked public research universities. Each season, *Illuminations* takes up a pressing theme reflected in both the arts and scholarship, and offers the public a multifaceted understanding of the issue by connecting research on the UC Berkeley campus with exceptional performances. This third season of *Illuminations* centers on the theme of “**Human and Machine**,” investigating how technology continues to catalyze and challenge creative expression and human communication. Through programming that includes performances, public events, artist talks, and symposia, we’ll be engaging communities on and off campus to examine the evolution of musical instruments, the complex relationships between technology creators and users, technology’s impact on the creative process, and questions raised by the growing role of artificial intelligence in our society.

This concept of “Human and Machine” has never been so pertinent to so many. Particularly over the course of the pandemic, the rapid expansion of technology’s role in improving communication and in helping us emotionally process unforeseen and, at times, extraordinarily difficult events has made a permanent mark on our human history. Throughout time, our reliance on technology to communicate has—for better or worse—influenced how we understand others as well as ourselves. During this *Illuminations* season, we will investigate how technology has contributed to our capacity for self-expression, as well as the potential dangers it may pose.

Some programs this season will bring joy and delight, and others will inspire reflection and stir debate. We are committed to presenting this wide range of artistic expression on our stages because of our faith in the performing arts’ unparalleled power to promote empathy. And it is because of our audiences’ openness and curiosity that we have the privilege of bringing such thought-provoking, adventurous performances to our campus. The Cal Performances community wants the arts to engage in important conversations, and to bring us all together as we see and feel the world through the experiences of others.

Please make sure to check out our brand new 44-page season brochure and our website for complete information. We can’t wait to share all the details with you, in print and online!

Finally, thank you for joining us for today’s appearance by our longtime friend, David Sedaris. It’s great that we’re all back together again, enjoying the pleasures and rewards of live performance.

Jeremy Geffen  
Executive and Artistic Director, Cal Performances





Thursday, May 5, 2022, 7:30pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## David Sedaris

David Sedaris is one of America's pre-eminent humor writers—a master of satire and one of today's most observant writers. His recent book *The Best of Me* is a collection of 42 previously published stories and essays, about which novelist Andrew Sean Greer wrote in the *New York Times*: “You must read *The Best of Me*. It will be a new experience, knowing that enough time has passed to find humor in the hardest parts of life. More than ever—we're allowed to laugh.”

Sedaris' next book, *Happy-Go-Lucky*, his first new collection of personal essays since the best-selling *Calypso*, will be released by Little, Brown and Company on May 31, 2022.

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 *Calypso*, which was a *Washington Post* Best Book of the Year. He is the author of *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary*, a collection of fables with illustrations by Ian Falconer, and he is also the author of an essay length ebook titled *Themes and Variations*. Each of these books was an immediate bestseller. Sedaris was also 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.” The first volume of his diaries, *Theft By Finding: Diaries (1977–2002)*, was a *New York Times* best-selling book. As a companion piece to the book, Jeffrey Jenkins published and edited an art book of Sedaris' diary covers, entitled *David Sedaris Diaries: A Visual Compendium*. A second volume of Sedaris' diaries, *A Carnival of Snackery, Diaries (2003–2020)* was published last October.

Sedaris 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*, which received an Obie Award; *Incident at Cobbler's Knob*; and *The Book of Liz*, which was published in book form by Dramatists Play Service.

Sedaris has been nominated for five Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. His audio recordings include *David Sedaris: Live for Your Listening Pleasure* and *David Sedaris Live at Carnegie Hall*. A feature film adaptation of his story C.O.G. was released after a premiere at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. Since 2011, he can be heard annually on a series of live recordings on BBC Radio 4 entitled *Meet David Sedaris*. In 2019, Sedaris became a regular contributor to *CBS Sunday Morning*, and his master class, *David Sedaris Teaches Storytelling and Humor*, is available from [masterclass.com](http://masterclass.com).

There are over 16 million copies of his books in print and they have been translated into 32 languages. In 2018, he was awarded the Terry Southern Prize for Humor, as well as the Medal for Spoken Language from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In March 2019, Sedaris was elected as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2020, the New York Public Library voted *Me Talk Pretty One Day* one of the 125 most important books of the last 125 years.

[www.facebook.com/davidsedaris](https://www.facebook.com/davidsedaris)  
<http://www.davidsedarisbooks.com/>

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WILLIAM KENTRIDGE'S *SIBYL*



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