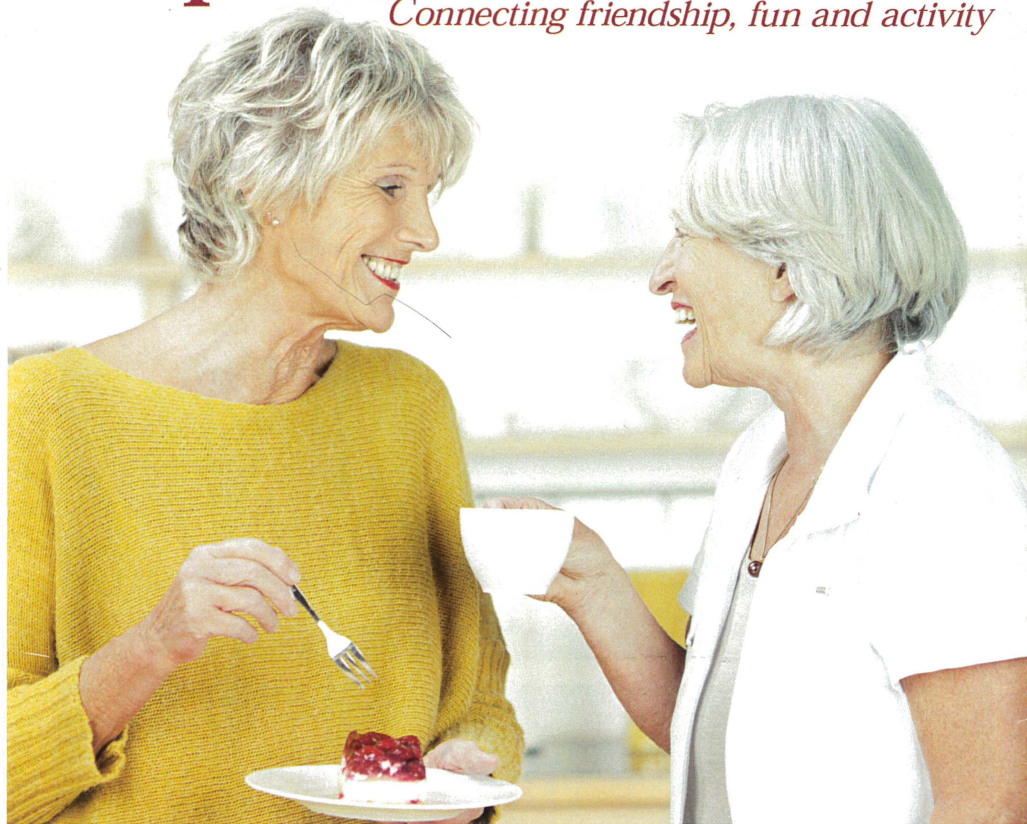


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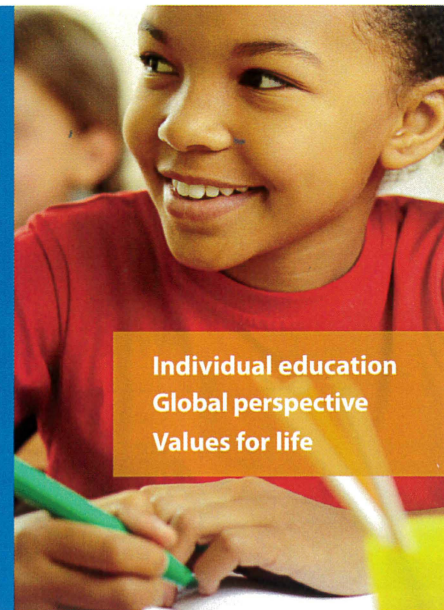
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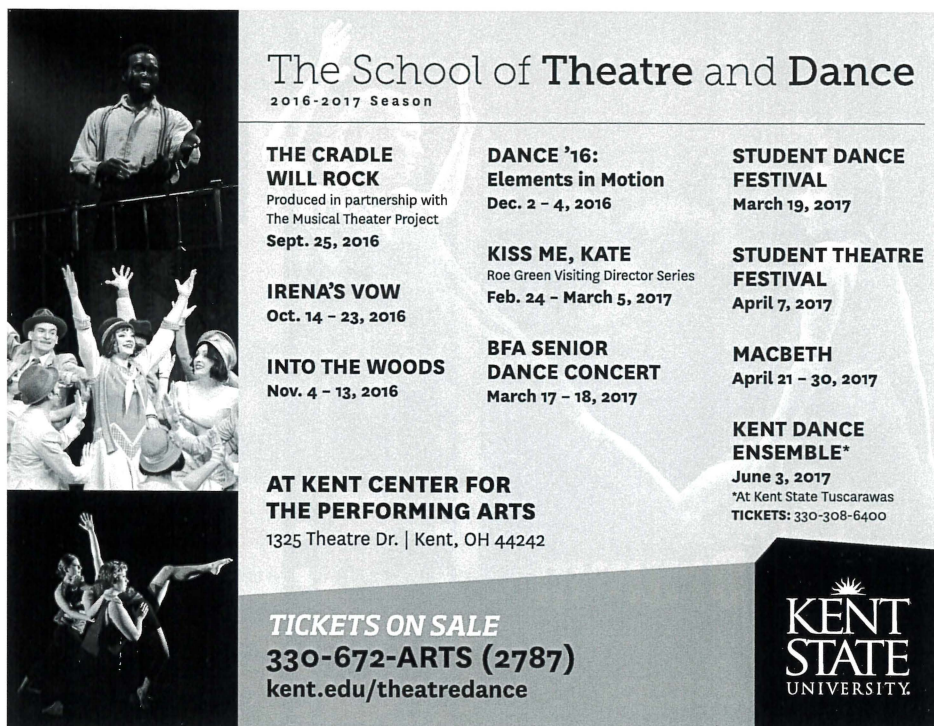
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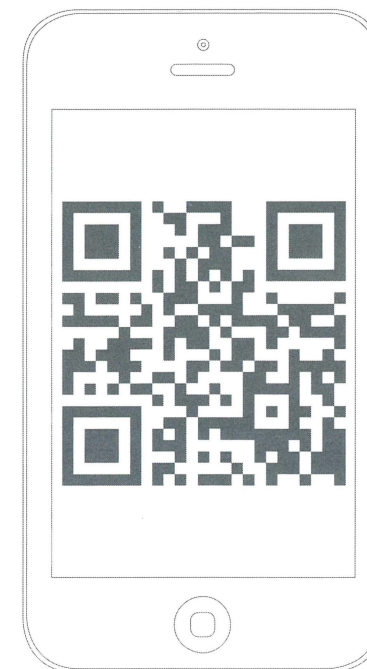
A Brief History of WeatherVane Playhouse	7
Thank You to our Production Underwriters	7
WeatherVane Boards and Staff	8
Our Generous Donors	9
In the Harris Family Gallery	11
<i>The Santaland Diaries</i>	13
About the Show and the Creators	14
Welcome from the Managing Director	16
Cast List	16
Thanks to our Hard Working Volunteers	17
Creative Team Biographies	18
Cast Biographies	19

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley ...

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members – Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch – and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works – even opera – with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space "Weathervane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weathervane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935, the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan, with the other founders, offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938, a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. This group is now the Volunteer Guild.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75<sup>th</sup> season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 82<sup>nd</sup> Season.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Weathervane Playhouse produces high-quality live theater with volunteer artists, designers, and technicians under professional direction, provides education and training in theater arts and appreciation, and engages and entertains its audience and constituents to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

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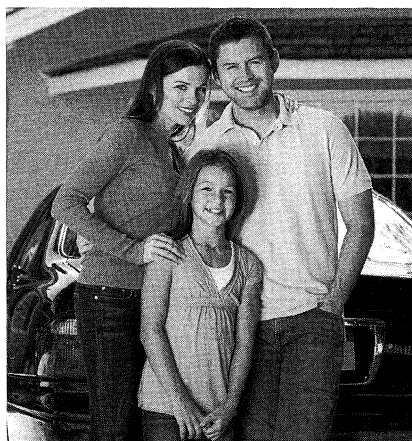
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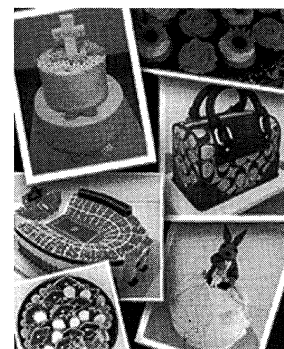
### From Glover Elementary School

Artwork created by third-graders under the inspired guidance of their art teacher, Ms. Jodi Ashe-Crossley. The artwork was inspired by the other show running in rep this December, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The students are from the classrooms of Mrs. Deborah Tobias and Mrs. Stephanie Arnett.

We are pleased to showcase artwork from Glover Elementary School, done by third-grade students working with Ms. Ashe-Crossley, their art teacher. Working from the information in Weathervane's study pack for the show, she and the children discussed the story of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in detail. The students then chose their favorite part of the narration and created the artwork to either illustrate that scene or to express their feelings about the story.

Students and their teachers are invited guests to a daytime performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. After the show, they will be onstage to have their picture taken with the cast and are then treated to a reception in the lobby! Our thanks to the students and teachers for the wonderful artwork that they have provided.

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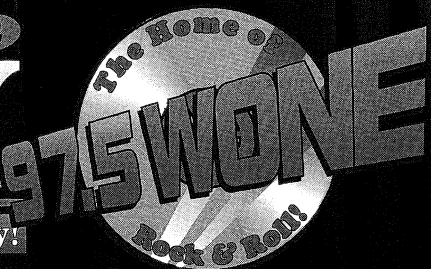
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David Sedaris, adapted by Joe Mantello

Directed by **MELANIE YC PEPE**

---

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Originally produced in New York  
by David Stone and Amy Nederlander-Case on November 7, 1996.

THE SANTALAND DIARIES is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. New York.

*The Santaland Diaries* is performed with NO intermission.

## ABOUT THE PLAY

Before he became a best-selling writer and humorist, David Sedaris worked at Macy's in New York City during Christmastime. Based on his experiences there, Sedaris wrote a semi-autobiographical monologue, originally for radio, that has since evolved into the one-man play *The Santaland Diaries*. In keeping with Sedaris's sardonic and satirical style, *The Santaland Diaries* is a brilliant evocation of what a slacker's Christmas must feel like.

We meet a jaded, 30-something, out-of-work actor/slacker who decides to become a Macy's elf during the holiday crunch. At first the job is simply humiliating, but once the thousands of visitors start pouring through Santa's workshop, "Crumpet the Elf" becomes battle-weary and bitter. Finding consolation in the fact that some of the other elves were television extras on *One Life to Live*, he grins and bears it, occasionally taking out his frustrations on the children and parents alike.

*The Santaland Diaries* is a funny, touching — and twisted! — show that takes a weary-eyed look at "the most wonderful time of the year."

Adapted from the essays he originally wrote and performed on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* in 1992, David Sedaris's *The Santaland Diaries* premiered at the Atlantic Theatre in New York City on Nov. 7, 1996, and played for 63 performances before closing on Dec. 29, 1996. The production was directed by Joe Mantello and starred Timothy Olyphant.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, **DAVID SEDARIS** has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today.

He is the author of *Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*, as well as collections of personal essays, *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, and his most recent book, *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*, each of which became an immediate bestseller. He is the author of *The New York Times*-bestselling collection of fables entitled *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary* (with illustrations by Ian Falconer). He was also the editor of *Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories*. Sedaris's pieces appear regularly in *The New Yorker* and have twice been included in *The Best American Essays*. There are a total of 10 million copies of his books in print and they have been translated into 25 languages.

He and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name "The Talent Family" and have written half-a-dozen 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

Dramatists Play Service. His original radio 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*. A feature film adaptation of his story C.O.G. was released after a premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in 2013. Since 2011, he can be heard annually on a series of live recordings on BBC Radio 4 entitled *Meet David Sedaris*. His next book will be a collection of his diaries, entitled *Theft by Finding* (to be published in summer 2017).

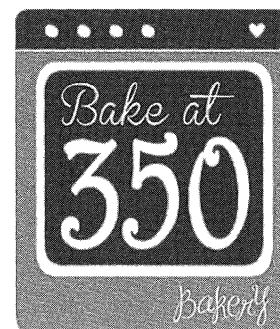
Source of this biographical sketch:  
[DavidSedarisBooks.com](http://DavidSedarisBooks.com)

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Actor/director **JOE MANTELLO** adapted David Sedaris's essays for the stage as a one-man, one-act play. Mantello began his career in the theater as an actor but also directs plays and musicals. His Broadway credits as a director include *The Humans* (2016 Tony

Award for Best Play), *Blackbird*, *An Act of God*, *Airline Highway*, *The Last Ship*, *Casa Valentina*, *I'll Eat You Last: A Chat with Sue Menges*, *The Other Place*, *Other Desert Cities*, *9 to 5*, *Pal Joey*, *The Ritz*, *Three Days of Rain*, *The Odd Couple*, *Assassins*, *Take Me Out*, *Wicked* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!* As an actor, his New York credits include Louis in the original Broadway productions of both *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and *Angels in America: Perestroika* and Ned in the 2011 revival of *The Normal Heart*. His Off-Broadway credits as a director include *Dogfight*, *A Man of No Importance*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Corpus Christi* and *The Santaland Diaries*. Among his many awards and honors, he is the recipient of two Tony Awards for his direction (*Assassins* and *Take Me Out*) and one Drama Desk Award for his acting (with the ensemble of *The Normal Heart*). In February 2017, Mantello will return to the Broadway stage in *The Glass Menagerie*, playing the role of Tom opposite Sally Field as Amanda.

Source of this biographical sketch: [Playbill.com](http://Playbill.com)  
and the Internet Broadway Database



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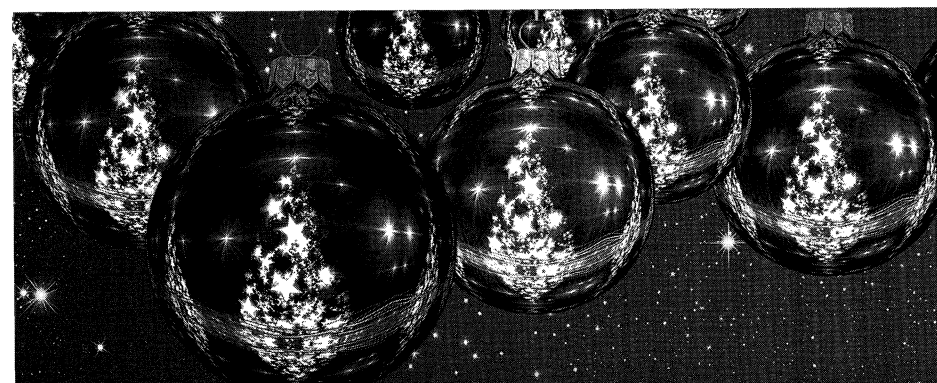
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Lisa Mansfield  
Managing Director

## CAST LIST

Patrick Michael Dukeman..... Crumpet the Elf



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**MELANIE YC PEPE** (Director) holds a B.F.A. in Theatrical Performance and Management from Kent State University, where she is now serving on the School of Theatre and Dance Advisory Board. At Weathervane, she has produced over 35 theatrical productions and recent directing credits include *Red*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. And as always, she sends special thanks to her husband and children for their incredible love and support.

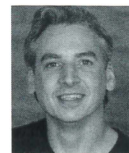


**JARED SPARKS** (Stage Manager/ Properties Designer) is thrilled to be returning to Weathervane Playhouse to work on this production! Jared has been heavily involved in theatre since the age of 10 around the Canton/Akron area. Some of his favorite productions have been *Flower for Algernon* (Charlie Gordon), *Grease* (Kenickie), *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble), *Two By Two* (Japheth), *Ordinary Days* (Ensemble), *Godspell* (Musical Director) and *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka* (Stage Manager) to name a few. He would like to thank Melanie and Patrick for making this one of the most enjoyable theatre experiences to date! Philippians 4:13



**ROB PECK** (Scenic Designer) has worked as a technical director, production manager, stage manager, sound, lighting and scenic designer as well as a properties master. He has worked for The Cleveland Play

House, Ensemble Theatre Company, Dobama Theatre, Cleveland Public Theatre and Opera Cleveland as well as serving as the Technical Director and Resident Designer for Hathaway Brown School and also had the pleasure of serving as an artist in residence at The Cleveland School of the Arts.



**CHRISTOPHER PEPE** (Sound Designer) has been working with live sound for more than 25 years. In May of 2008, he started an event production company, Clear Gold Audio & Lighting, which has expanded to live sound, lighting and video production for numerous Northeast Ohio events. Recent projects include audio for a private event with Sandra Joseph (from the Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera*), a national holiday tour as production manager and audio engineer for Jim Brickman, as well as a full concert production for Steve Augeri (former lead singer of Journey). Christopher has designed for numerous Weathervane productions including *Red*, *Annie*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Dracula*, *Peter and the StarCatcher* and *Monty Python's Spamlot*.



**JOHN CATLOS** (Costume Designer) served as costume co-designer for *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Pippin* and *Christmas My Way*. He also served as stage manager for *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Madeline* and *the Gypsies* and *The Great White Hope*.



**PATRICK MICHAEL DUKEMAN** (Crumpet the Elf) was last seen on our stage in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Vanya). Other credits last season include *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Beverly Carlton), for which he won a Chanticleer Award, and Margaret Mead in *Hair*. Other credits at Weathervane include *The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd* (Sir), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Lawrence), *Xanadu* (Calliope/Aphrodite) and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Chairman). He made his debut on our stage in his dream role,

Man in Chair, in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, for which he also won a Chanticleer Award. Since his relocating back to Akron from San Francisco, where he had been acting professionally for 20 years, he has played in *The Producers* (Roger) and *Honk!* (Ugly). In San Francisco, his portrayal of Jerry Springer in *Jerry Springer the Opera* garnered him a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Best Actor nomination. He also received a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Best Supporting Actor nomination for his portrayal of The Stepmother in *Cinderella* at New Century Theater.



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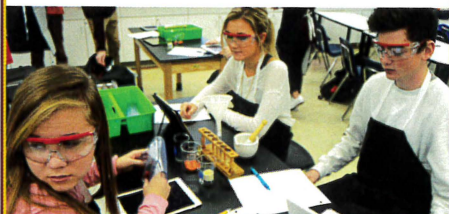




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