A Conversation with David Sedaris

Selected audio outtakes from the print interview which appears in our Spring 2007 issue. Lania Knight talks with David Sedaris, author of the best-selling Barrel Fever and Holidays on Ice and essay collections such as Naked. Sedaris' work airs on National Public Radio and appears regularly in The New Yorker and Esquire, and he recently edited an anthology to raise money for 826NYC, an organization devoted to tutoring youth in Brooklyn. He divides his time between residences in New York, France and England and is working on his next book.

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David Sedaris first came into the national spotlight in 1992, when Ira Glass asked him to read for Morning Edition on National Public Radio. At the time, Sedaris was living in New York City, working as a house cleaner. He read "Santaland Diaries" for NPR, an essay that chronicles his odd experiences working in green tights as a Macy's elf. Since that first reading, Sedaris has written the best-selling books Barrel Fever and Holidays on Ice and several collections of essays, including Naked, Me Talk Pretty One Day and Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim. His radio pieces air on National Public Radio's This American Life, and his essays appear regularly in The New Yorker and Esquire. He also writes plays with his sister, Amy Sedaris, creator of the Comedy Central series Strangers with Candy. Along with David's partner, Hugh, they collaborate as "the Talent Family" on plays that have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center and The Drama Department, in New York City.

Sedaris recently edited an anthology to raise money for 826NYC, an organization dedicated to tutoring youth in Brooklyn, modeled on the successful 826 Valencia project in San Francisco. He currently divides his time between residences in New York, France and England and is working on his next book. [2007]

Lania Knight teaches writing and literature at the University of Missouri and is an editorial assistant at the Missouri Review. She is currently at work on her first novel. [2009]