

“I’m a Cat and I’m an Alcoholic!”

David Sedaris to Perform at the Victoria Theatre on October 13

By Michael J. Makuch

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David Sedaris will be bringing his quirky, self-deprecating sense of humor to the Victoria Theatre in downtown Dayton on October 13. Sedaris is an author and a spoken word performance artist who uses his life experiences as well as fabricated tales to expound on the human condition, mostly his own. I don’t know where the line is crossed between spoken word and comedy because all of Sedaris’s work is humorous and, ultimately, pretty darned funny.

I became aware of Sedaris after discovering a radio show called “This American Life,” which is an hour long syndicated radio show that can be heard on NPR and features between one and five radio plays and/or documentaries that provide a unique and often quirky spin on the human condition. The show has many recurring contributors and Sedaris is one of them. I quickly became a fan and soon looked forward to hearing Sedaris’s quirky monologues. The nice thing about “This American Life,” is the show’s website which features MP3’s and streaming audio of most of the show’s broadcasts made since 1995 when the show began. It is here that I was opened up to the world of David Sedaris, as I have gone through and listened to just about every episode of “This American Life” and found Sedaris’s work peppered throughout.

The quote in the title of this article is from one of Sedaris’s early broadcasts and is about a cat and some other animals who are attending an AA meeting. After much prodding from the other animals in the meeting, the fed-up cat admits to being an alcoholic. And so goes Sedaris’s strange sense of humor which features many monologues featuring woodland creatures as well as monologues about Sedaris’s life, family and friends. These are my favorite monologues and I absolutely love it when Sedaris does impressions of his father. Frankly, I can’t do Sedaris’s work any justice so I would recommend checking out Sedaris’s work on “This American Life” and you might try “youtubing” him, as well. In any event, anyone with a sense of humor should appreciate his work and would not be disappointed to see him live at the Victoria Theatre on October 13.