

Crumpet the Elf wishes all the best in holiday jeer

FLORENCE — Class Act Theatre (CAT) presents Matthieu Korso as Crumpet the Elf in “The Santaland Diaries” the weekends of Dec. 9 to 11 and 16 to 18. Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. It will be a PG-13 show.

Christmas is fast approaching, and Crumpet has a special invitation for everyone who looks forward to the holidays with joy, leavened with a certain degree of dread: You are not alone.

“Santaland Diaries” began as an essay by humorist David Sedaris. It is a humorous account of Sedaris’ stint working as a Christmas elf in “Santaland” at Macy’s department store in the early 1990s. He later published the essay in the collections “Barrel Fever” (1994) and “Holidays on Ice” (1997). The piece is now a one-man, one-act

play performed by Korso to perfection.

In CAT’s production, Korso is accompanied with bonus holiday music and musings by Jason Wood, Maree Beers and Hilary Roach, three of the best voices in Florence.

It promises to be a memorable, if irreverent, evening. But be warned: This show doesn’t paint a Norman Rockwell Christmas.

In the play, Korso’s character 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, he becomes battle-wary and bitter. He grins and bears it, occasionally taking out his frustrations on the children and parents alike.

Korso has lived in Florence for 12 years now.

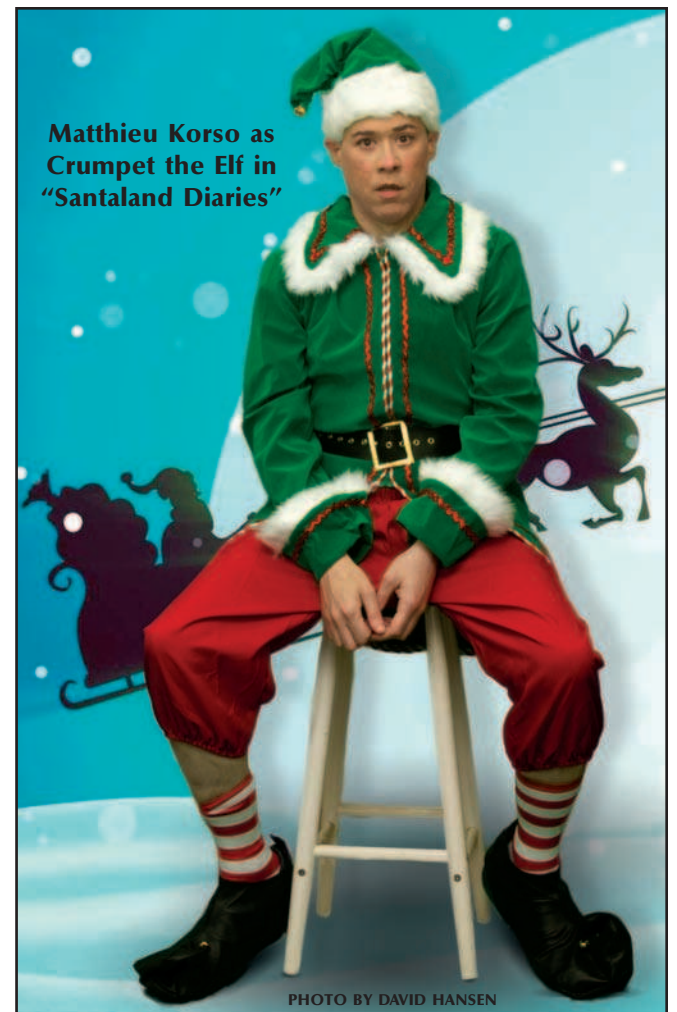
In that time, he has enjoyed play-

ing such roles as The Baker from “Into The Woods,” Leo/Maxine in “Leading Ladies,” Billy Bibbet in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” and The Emcee in “Cabaret,” the latter being his favorite role to date. Most recently he played Billy Flynn in “Chicago: The Musical” and the irrepressible Leaf Coneybear in two productions of “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.”

Tickets are \$18 and can be purchased at www.catproductions.org, 866-967-8167 or at the CAT Box Office.

CAT is at 509 Kingwood St. in Florence, at the corner of Rhododendron Drive. There is plenty of on-street parking.

The Florence Repertory Theatre Company is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.



Matthieu Korso as Crumpet the Elf in “Santaland Diaries”

PHOTO BY DAVID HANSEN

Joyful Noise choir to perform

Joyful Noise Children’s Choir will present its Christmas production, “Angels Alert,” on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. at the Florence Christian Church at Second and Ivy. The event is free and all are invited to attend.

Joyful Noise Childrens Choir is a seasonal choir for children of the Florence community, ages 4 years through fifth grade.

For more information, contact the church office at 514-997-2291.



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