Warehouse serves up the witty and wicked

One for the family, one for the adults

YOU CAN GO

What: "Season's Greetings" and "The Santaland Diaries" by David Sedaris
When: Thursdays and Fridays at 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m. Performances are Friday-Dec. 9; also Dec. 13-16, 20-23 and 28-29
Where: The Warehouse Theatre, 37 Augusta St.
Tickets: $30 general admission
Information: 864-235-6948

The Warehouse Theatre is presenting two Yuletide theatrical treats, but they could hardly be more different from each other.

American poet Ogden Nash's "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't" is a musical for the whole family, while David Sedaris' double-bill of "Season's Greetings" and "The Santaland Diaries" is definitely not for the kids.

The plays open Friday.

Rhyming musical

"The Christmas That Almost Wasn't" follows the adventures of Nicholas Knock as he brings Christmas back to the kingdom of King Oldwin.

The Warehouse, best known for its edgy shows, rarely presents a children's musical. Paul Savas, the Warehouse's executive and artistic director, participated in a staging of "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't" more than 15 years ago and has always wanted to produce the show at the Warehouse.

"It's a fun piece of literature and of theater," Savas said. "The language of Ogden Nash is so playful, rich and fun. It takes place in a fantasy Christmas land. It's basically 'The Grinch Who Stole Sakolsky ranges from ballads to blues and Christmas carols, Savas said.

"The Christmas That Almost Wasn't," directed by Brenna Yeary, features Chelsea Atkins, Michael Hart, Stevie Keese, Drake King, Chris Onken, Charles Poore, Graham Poore, Angie Price and Clarka Wickliffe.

Joe Wehunt leads a four-person band for the show.

Sedaris double-bill

The Warehouse's adult option is the double-feature "Season's Greetings" and "The Santaland Diaries," one-act and one-actor plays by the irreverent humorist David Sedaris.

"Season's Greetings," starring Kerrie Seymour, centers on the reading of a Christmas newsletter about a very dysfunctional family. It will be directed by Anne Kelly Tromsness.

"The Santaland Diaries" is based on Sedaris' actual experiences as a Macy's elf in a Santa display.

Ryan Bradburn, a well-known Greenville actor who moved to Atlanta a little more than a year ago, returns to the Warehouse Theatre to star as Sedaris' wry alter ego, Crumpet the Elf, in "The Santaland Diaries."

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"It's a fun show," Bradburn said. "It's so true about Christmas. You always think Christmas is going to be so wonderful. And then Christmas arrives and you're so tired and busy."

Sedaris' humor is mostly cynical, but the play also includes a fleeting bit of sentiment, Bradburn said.

"Like most holiday classics, it has that moment where the character discovers the true meaning of Christmas," he said.

Bradburn last appeared at the Warehouse in the well-received one-man show "A Tale of Two Cities," which ran in the summer of 2011.

He's largely taken a break from the theater since that time.

"I felt like I was out to pasture, but I'm jumping back into it," Bradburn said.

"The Santaland Diaries" will be directed by Matt Reece, who performed in the play several years ago at the Warehouse.

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Stevie Keese, left, and Graham Poore are featured in the Warehouse Theatre's family show, "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't." STEPHEN BOATRIGHT/PROVIDED