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# Love That Dirty Waters

Director John Waters on his December 11 Christmas show at State Theatre to promote his book, *Role Models*. **INTERVIEW BY COLIN W. SARGENT**

**Are you looking forward to coming to Portland on December 11?**

Are you kidding? I've been there many, many times—on book tours, doing the Christmas show, all sorts of reasons, and it's always been a pleasure. I like it very much. Good movie town, good book town. Oh. That's Portland, Oregon!

**Is there another Baltimore?**

Yes. It's Sydney, Australia—Perth, too. I was just there on tour, and the kids in the audience look just like they might in Baltimore—They all look cool and connected and global.

**Is that because of Baltimore's Inner Harbor? In the 1980s, our city planners used to dream of joining the 'renaissance' and having something like that here.**

I hope that didn't happen to you. I never go to the Inner Harbor. It's too touristy. That's not the Baltimore I write or make movies about. Now every city has something like that. It's good for the town, but it's part of why everyplace is beginning to look like everyplace else and everybody is starting to look like everybody else. The Internet helps make that happen, too. There are pluses and minuses to this.

**Well, we look forward to seeing you at the State Theatre.**

I'm like Johnny Mathis. If it's Christmas, I'm there.

**How do you say "Merry Christmas" in Baltimore?**

"Merry Christmas, hon." But I play it safe and say, "Seasons' Greetings." I'm politically correct.

**When Miss America was crowned in Atlantic City years ago, her first stop on her national tour was Portland, Maine, "north of nowhere," to dramatize the sweep of geography she'd be traveling. Is that why we made it on your tour this year?**

I'd like to say I do well in raunchy places, but I do best in places like Portland. My promoter sets up the tour, so you must be part of the 'smart' segment of places to be. You have that Yankee chic, right?

**There's a paperback and a Kindle sitting side by side.**

**You're rushing to the airport. Which do you grab as you head out the door?**

I carry hardcover books when I fly. Which causes weight-restriction problems at check-in. This is not to say I'm

unhappy that the ebook versions of my books are doing well. I'm not a snob about that. I don't care how they read, as long as they're reading.

**Surely you've been to Maine before. Maybe to see [*Hairspray* star] John Travolta, who summers on Vinalhaven?**

I'm a good friend of John Travolta, but I haven't seen him in Maine. I've been to Maine before—to the college towns. Touring for 40 years, I think I've been everywhere. It all blends together, you know? The only city in the United States I haven't seen yet is *Alaska*. ■

