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**PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY TO PRESENT WORLD PREMIERE
JEFF DANIELS' *ACROSS THE WAY*
FROM SEPTEMBER 26 THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2002**

The Purple Rose Theatre Company will present the World Premiere of Jeff Daniels' *Across The Way* for a ten week engagement from Thursday, September 26 through Sunday, December 1, 2002. Seven low priced Previews will be performed from Thursday, September 26 through Thursday, October 3, followed by Press Opening Night on Friday, October 4 and a special fundraising Gala Event on Saturday, October 5. Performances for the remainder of the engagement will be Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 PM with Saturday matinees at 3:00 PM and Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM. (Editors' Note: A daily performance calendar is enclosed.) All performances are at the Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, MI.

Across The Way is about loss and love that transcends time. This World Premiere production tells the story of a woman searching for peace. On her journey, she receives help from people out of her present... and her past. While delivering meals to a lonely old man, she discovers that the secrets of his heart mirror the emotions that lie deep within her soul. *Across the Way* contains nudity and is recommended for mature audiences.

The cast of *Across The Way* includes actors familiar to Purple Rose audiences - Sandra Birch, David Daoust, Michelle Mountain, Inga R. Wilson, and Will David Young - as well as a professional actor from Chicago - Bryan McElroy - who is making his PRTC debut in this production. (Editors' Note: Individual biographies of each cast member are available for hometown stories or interviews by calling the Purple Rose Theatre Company at (734)433-PRTC.)

Across The Way was written by Jeff Daniels, Executive Director/Founder of Purple Rose Theatre Company; it is the first new Jeff Daniels play to be produced at the Purple Rose since 1998. Other plays Daniels has written for the PRTC stage include *Shoe Man*, *The Tropical Pickle*, *Thy Kingdom's Coming*, *The Vast Difference*, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, *Apartment 3A*, and *Boom Town*. He also co-founded the Michigan based Purple Rose Films with Bob Brown; he has since written, directed, and starred in two original movies for PRF: *Escanaba in da Moonlight* and *Super Sucker* -- which won the Audience Award for Best Feature at this year's HBO Comedy Arts Festival.

Serving as director for *Across The Way* is Guy Sanville, who celebrated his seventh anniversary as PRTC Artistic Director this year. He has also directed the PRTC World Premiere productions of *Apartment 3A* and *Escanaba in da Moonlight* by Jeff Daniels, *Book of Days* and *Rain Dance* by Lanford Wilson, and *Orphan Train: An American Melodrama* and *Let It Be* by Dennis E. North. Mr. Sanville will be making his Off-Broadway directing debut next March with *Rain Dance* at the Signature Theatre in New York.

Production design for *Across The Way* includes set design by Andrew Gorney, costume design by Colleen Ryan-Peters, lighting design by Reid G. Johnson, prop design

by Danna Segrest, and sound design by Quintessa Duffield. The stage manager for *Across The Way* is Amy Hickman, with Michelle DiDimenico as assistant stage manager.

The Purple Rose Theatre Company World Premiere production of *Across The Way* is sponsored by a generous gift from Meijer.

Seven previews with discount prices (\$17.50 - \$25.00) will be held for *Across The Way* from September 26 through October 3, with the Press Opening Night on Friday, October 4 and a special fundraising Gala Event on October 5, 2002. Ticket prices after Opening Night (with the exception of our Gala Event) will be \$22.50 for Wednesday and Thursday performances, \$27.50 for Saturday and Sunday matinees; and \$32.50 for Friday and Saturday evening performances.

Reservations are recommended and can be obtained by calling the PRTC Box Office at (734)433-ROSE (7673). Regular hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and on performance evenings beginning one hour prior to curtain. For information about our Gala Event, contact Judy Gallagher in the PRTC Administrative Office at (734)433-PRTC (7782).