



The Purple Rose Theatre Company
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May 24, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY PREMIERES SECOND MITCH ALBOM COMEDY
And The Winner Is Second Collaboration Between Albom and PRTC Artistic Director Guy Sanville

Starting in June, acclaimed author and columnist Mitch Albom and The Purple Rose Theatre Company Artistic Director Guy Sanville team up on their second World Premiere, a sleight-of-hand comedy titled ***And The Winner Is***. This summer's selection will run from Thursday, June 23 through Saturday, August 27, 2005.

Seven low-priced previews of ***And The Winner Is*** will be performed from Thursday, June 23, through Thursday, June 30, with Press Opening Night on Friday, July 1. Regular 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. (*Editor's Note: Please find a daily performance calendar, including ticket prices and added performance dates, on page 3*). All performances are held at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan.

As the title suggests, it is awards season in Hollywood when movie star Tyler Johnes wakes up in a strange bar where time has no meaning and nothing is as it seems. All Johnes wants is to get to the Oscars so he can accept the Best Supporting Actor award he thinks he so richly deserves, but the odd bartender named Seamus keeps throwing a wrench in the works. Unexpected appearances by his agent, his old acting partner, his well-endowed escort and his soon-to-be ex-wife further complicate Johnes' attempts to keep his date with destiny. Flavored with Albom's signature introspection, ***And The Winner Is*** has all the charm of *It's A Wonderful Life* for life in the fast lane.

And The Winner Is is directed by PRTC Artistic Director Guy Sanville. "It's a quirky, heartfelt and slightly wicked tale of life, death and sacrifice," Sanville says. About his second collaboration with the playwright, he continues, "Mitch uses humor as a window into the human heart."

The cast of this new comedy includes Paul Hopper (***Bus Stop, Guys On Ice***), Sarab Kamoo (***The Underpants, Marcus Is Walking***), Grant R. Krause (***Bus Stop, Norma & Wanda***), and Wayne

(Bus Stop)
Continued from page 1

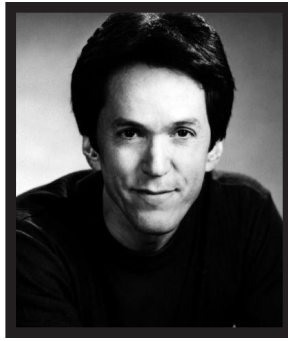
David Parker (*Duck Hunter Shoots Angel, Escanaba in da Moonlight*). Two actors will make their PRTC debut this summer in *And The Winner Is*: Eastern Michigan University graduate Jerri Doll and Chelsea-native Patrick Michael Kenney. (Editors' Note: Cast biographies are available for hometown stories or interviews by calling The Purple Rose Theatre Company at 734-433-PRTC).

Design for *And The Winner Is* includes set design by Vincent Mountain, lighting design by Reid G. Johnson, costume design by Christianne Myers, prop design by Danna Segrest and sound design by Quintessa Gallinat. The stage manager for *Bus Stop* is Michelle DiDomenico, with Katie Doral and Brian Papendick as Assistant Stage Managers.

Exclusive production sponsorship for *And The Winner Is* is generously provided by TARGET.

Ticket reservations can be made by calling The Purple Rose Theatre Company Box Office at 734-433-ROSE (7673). The PRTC Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

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Meet the Playwright

Mitch Albom

Mitch Albom is a best-selling author, nationally-syndicated newspaper columnist, nationally-syndicated radio host, and television commentator.

Albom is the author of eight books, including the *New York Times* best-sellers *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays With Morrie*. The major television movie based on *Tuesdays With Morrie*, starring Jack Lemmon and Hank Azaria, earned four Emmy Awards, including Best Actor (Lemmon) and Best Supporting Actor (Azaria). With more than five million copies now in print, *Tuesdays With Morrie* has been published in 30 languages.

For more than a decade, Albom has been named #1 Sports Columnist in the nation by the sports editors of America (APSE), the highest honor in his field. He has also received seven first place APSE honors for feature writing. No other columnist has won the APSE award more than once.

His work has appeared in numerous national and international publications, including *Sports Illustrated*, *GQ*, *Sport*, *The New York Times*, *TV Guide*, *USA Today*, *GEO magazine* and MSNBC online.

Albom hosts two nationally-syndicated radio talk shows. His broadcasts originate from ABC-owned flagship station WJR-AM in Detroit and include *The Mitch Albom Show*, *The Mitch Albom Show On The Weekend* and *The Monday Sports Albom*.

Albom is also a panelist on ESPN's *Sports Reporters* and has been profiled by ABC News, NBC's *Today Show*, the CBS *Early Show*, and ESPN's *Up Close*. Albom has also twice served as a network Olympic commentator, first during the Atlanta Games and most recently for the Games in Sydney, Australia.

Albom has founded two charities in the Detroit area: "The Dream Fund," which allows disadvantaged children to become involved with the arts and "A Time To Help," which brings volunteers together for various humanitarian projects around Detroit. Albom serves on the boards of various charities, including CATCH (Caring Athletes Team for Children's and Henry Ford Hospitals), Forgotten Harvest, and Michigan Hospice Organization. In 1999, he was named National Hospice Organization's Man of the Year.

PREVIEWS

Thursday, June 23	8:00 PM	\$17.50
Friday, June 24	8:00 PM	\$25.00
Saturday, June 25	3:00 PM	\$17.50
Saturday, June 25	8:00 PM	\$25.00
Sunday, June 26	2:00 PM	\$17.50
(Talk backs following performances listed above)		
Wednesday, June 29	8:00 PM	\$17.50
Thursday, June 30	8:00 PM	\$17.50

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Friday, July 1	8:00 PM	\$32.50	Press Opening Night
Saturday, July 2	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, July 2	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, July 3	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Wednesday, July 6	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, July 7	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, July 8	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, July 9	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, July 9	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, July 10	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Wednesday, July 13	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, July 14	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, July 15	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, July 16	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, July 16	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, July 17	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Wednesday, July 20	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, July 21	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, July 22	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, July 23	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, July 23	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, July 24	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Wednesday, July 27	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, July 28	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, July 29	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, July 30	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, July 30	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, July 31	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Wednesday, August 3	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, August 4	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, August 5	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, August 6	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, August 6	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, August 7	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Wednesday, August 10	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, August 11	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, August 12	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, August 13	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, August 13	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, August 14	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Wednesday, August 17	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, August 18	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, August 19	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, August 20	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, August 20	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Sunday, August 21	2:00 PM	\$27.50	
Tuesday, August 23	8:00 PM	\$22.50	Added Performance (TBA)
Wednesday, August 24	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Thursday, August 25	8:00 PM	\$22.50	
Friday, August 26	8:00 PM	\$32.50	
Saturday, August 27	3:00 PM	\$27.50	
Saturday, August 27	8:00 PM	\$32.50	Closing Night

And The Winner Is



Special Performances

Wednesday Senior Matinee

*Sponsored by
Rosebud Foundation*
3:00 PM \$15.00
August 3

Wednesday Matinees **3:00 PM \$22.50**

July 13
July 20
August 10
August 24

Sunday Evenings **7:00 PM \$22.50**

July 10
July 31
August 7
August 21

COMING SOON!



2005 - 2006

SEASON

featuring new plays by

Jeff Daniels

Steven Dietz

David MacGregor

**CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE
A COMPLIMENTARY PRESS PACKAGE**

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