



The Purple Rose Theatre Company
137 Park Street
Chelsea, MI 48118-1038

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2010

BEST OF FRIENDS BY JEFF DANIELS OPENS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
2010 / 2011 "All New, All Michigan" season begins with the PRTC's 39th World Premiere

CHELSEA, Mich. — The Purple Rose Theatre Company is proud to present their 39th World Premiere to open the 20th anniversary season this fall: *Best of Friends* by Jeff Daniels. The production will enjoy a ten-week engagement from Thursday, October 14 through Saturday, December 18, 2010. Seven low-price previews of *Best of Friends* will be performed from Thursday, October 14, through Thursday, October 21, with Press Opening on Friday, October 22, 2010. Regular performances for the duration of the engagement are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 PM with Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 3:00 PM and Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM. (*Editor's Note: A complete performance schedule including pricing and added performance dates can be found on page 3.*) All performances are held at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan 48118.

Daniels' 14th career play is a wicked comedy set in a small Midwestern town. Two middle-aged married couples — the Martins and the Porters — stand on the verge of becoming "the best of friends." A perceived slight over dinner quickly devolves the blossoming relationship into an escalating game of one-upsmanship to see which couple can devise a plan that will sever the relationship forever. In the words of the characters themselves: "Say you've got a friend. ... The last thing you do is pull some stunt that undermines everything you have, right? But you could. You have the ability. ... And why? Because you can't help yourself. Because every single one of us is capable of doing anything."

PRTC artistic director Guy Sanville will direct Matthew David (*Flint, MI*), Alex Leydenfrost (*Ann Arbor, MI*), Michelle Mountain (*Chelsea, MI*) and Rhiannon Ragland (*Flint, MI*). (*Editor's Note: Cast interviews and complete biographies are available by calling 734.433.7782.*)

Design for this production includes set by Vincent Mountain, properties by Danna Segrest, costumes by Sally L. Converse-Doucette, lighting by Dana White and sound by Quintessa Gallinat. Gregory Butka stage manages with Jessica Garrett as assistant stage manager.

Best of Friends is underwritten by Helppie Family Charitable Foundation, Ford Motor Company and Excelda and produced in media partnership with Michigan Radio.

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Founded in 1991 by acclaimed actor and Chelsea-native Jeff Daniels, The Purple Rose Theatre Company is a leading American theatre dedicated to producing the new American play and creating opportunities for Midwest theatre professionals. The PRTC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theatre operating under a Small Professional Theatre agreement with the Actors' Equity Association. The PRTC promotes the development of new American theatre and its practitioners, provides valuable educational opportunities for young artists, and through consistently high quality production values has earned the respect of both local and national theatre communities.

Tickets are available by phone at 734.433.7673; Box Office hours are Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM. Single tickets are also available for purchase at purplerosetheatre.org.

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Meet the Playwright

Jeff Daniels

has written fourteen plays for The Purple Rose Theatre Company: *Shoe Man*, *The Tropical Pickle*, *The Vast Difference*, *Thy Kingdom's Coming*, *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, *Apartment 3A*, *Boom Town*, *Across The Way* (2002 American Theatre Critics Association Best New Play Finalist), *Norma & Wanda*, *Guest Artist* (2006 American Theatre Critics Association Best New Play Runner-Up), *Escanaba In Love*, *Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid*, *Escanaba*, and now, *Best of Friends*. His four CDs, capturing his critically acclaimed live performances, are available for purchase in the PRTC lobby or online at jeffdaniels.com; proceeds benefit the PRTC. He also acts.



Best of Friends

Performance Schedule

Wednesday, October 27	3PM	\$25	
Wednesday, October 27	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, October 28	8PM	\$25	
Friday, October 29	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, October 30	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, October 30	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, October 31	2PM	\$35	Halloween

Wednesday, November 3	3PM	\$25	
Wednesday, November 3	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, November 4	8PM	\$25	
Friday, November 5	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 6	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 6	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, November 7	2PM	\$35	

Wednesday, November 10	3PM	\$25	
Wednesday, November 10	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, November 11	8PM	\$25	
Friday, November 12	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 13	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 13	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, November 14	2PM	\$35	

Wednesday, November 17	3PM	\$25	
Wednesday, November 17	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, November 18	8PM	\$25	
Friday, November 19	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 20	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 20	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, November 21	2PM	\$35	

Tuesday, November 23	8PM	\$25	added performance
Wednesday, November 24	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, November 25	NO SHOW		Thanksgiving
Friday, November 26	3 PM	\$25	added performance
Friday, November 26	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 27	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, November 27	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, November 28	2PM	\$35	

Wednesday, December 1	3PM	\$25	
Wednesday, December 1	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, December 2	8PM	\$25	
Friday, December 3	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, December 4	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, December 4	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, December 5	2PM	\$35	

Wednesday, December 8	3PM	\$25	
Wednesday, December 8	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, December 9	8PM	\$25	
Friday, December 10	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, December 11	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, December 11	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, December 12	2PM	\$35	

Tuesday, December 14	8PM	\$25	added performance
Wednesday, December 15	3PM	\$25	
Wednesday, December 15	8PM	\$25	
Thursday, December 16	8PM	\$25	
Friday, December 17	8PM	\$35	
Saturday, December 18	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, December 18	8PM	\$40	closing night

Performance Schedule

Thursday, October 14	8PM	\$20	preview w/ talkback
Friday, October 15	8PM	\$25	preview w/ talkback
Saturday, October 16	3PM	\$25	preview w/ talkback
Saturday, October 16	8PM	\$30	preview w/ talkback
Sunday, October 17	2PM	\$25	preview w/ talkback

Wednesday, October 20	8PM	\$20	preview
Thursday, October 21	8PM	\$20	preview
Friday, October 22	8PM	\$35	opening night
Saturday, October 23	3PM	\$35	
Saturday, October 23	8PM	\$40	
Sunday, October 24	2PM	\$35	(con't)



Coming Soon!

a World Premiere

Corktown

"A friend will help you move.

A real friend will help you move a body."

by Michael Brian Ogden

Directed by Guy Sanville

January 20-March 5, 2011

Press Opening Night: Friday, January 28

From the writer behind *Bleeding Red*, a heartbreaking and hopeful dark comedy about an extraordinary day in the life of a Detroit mobster who finds love under the most violent and dangerous circumstances.

Call for more information
or to arrange a complimentary press package

734.433.PRTC 7782