

THE
Purple
Rose



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

1991-2011

ALL NEW, ALL MICHIGAN

THE **PURPLE ROSE** THEATRE COMPANY

PREMIERE SCRIPT CATALOGUE



BEST OF FRIENDS

DANIELS



ACROSS THE WAY



GUEST ARTIST



ESCANABA IN LOVE



PANHANDLE SLIM & THE OKLAHOMA KID



ACROSS THE WAY

a drama by Jeff Daniels

3M / 3W

While delivering meals to a lonely old man, a woman searching for peace receives help from people out of her present... and her past. An unforgettable story about loss and love that transcends time.

American Theatre Critics Association New Play finalist

“ ... an emotionally resonant, intriguing play dealing with weighty themes in fluid fashion. The writing feels smart, lyrical and complex. Its evocation of mourning has integrity and wisdom and there’s an interesting understanding of pain and memory.” —*Variety*

“ ... this miraculous play bears the power, wisdom and soul to profoundly affect anyone lucky enough to see it ... a surreal, lyrical masterpiece.” —*The Ann Arbor News*

“Daniels’ characters glow with joy, wit, and tenderness ...” —*Ann Arbor Observer*

“ ... a fascinating meditation on love and time and loss, which sounds artsy and boring, but isn’t at all in Daniels’ hands. ... many moments when the irrepressible Daniels’ wit crackles to the surface ... ” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*



BEST OF FRIENDS

a comedy by Jeff Daniels

2M / 2W

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-upmanship to see which couple can devise a plan that will sever the relationship forever.

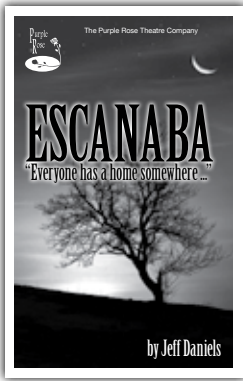
“BEST OF FRIENDS is worth spending time with ...” —*Detroit Free Press*

“Daniels’ script certainly contains sharp moments of laugh-out-loud humor ...” —*AnnArbor.com*

“... playwright Jeff Daniels’ new comedy is like putting bugs together in a jar and shaking it up to watch them fight. ” —*The Rogue Critic*

“... Jeff Daniels demonstrates an unfailing ear for dialogue that is at once natural-sounding, hilariously clever, and borderline creepy.” —*Detroit Theatre Examiner*

“Daniels’ quirky dialogue always delights ...” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*



ESCANABA

a comedy by Jeff Daniels

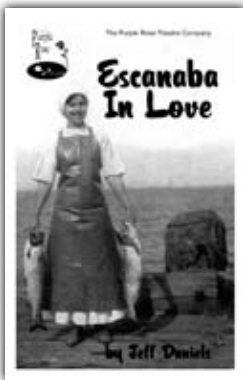
3M

The legend begins in this final installment of the classic Yooper trilogy. Alphonse Soady is putting the finishing touches on his newly-constructed deer camp when a wild-eyed James Negamanee bursts through his door fleeing a black bear. This origin story reveals the role this strange trespasser plays in time-honored Soady Deer Camp traditions, including the saga of the Soady Ridge Buck.

“... delivers a simple yet profound message about the meaning of home.” —*Detroit Free Press*

“... a delightful glorification of Michigan storytelling.”
—*Lansing City Pulse*

“... Don’t worry if you missed the first two shows and lack the ‘Escanaba’ background because this introduction to its ancestry easily stands alone. It’s a hoot either way.”
—*Chelsea Standard*



ESCANABA IN LOVE

a comedy by Jeff Daniels

4M / 1W

The hilarious prequel to *Escanaba in da Moonlight* is set in the Soady deer camp during World War II and outfitted with a whole new cast of Wacky Yoopers. Eighteen-year-old Albert Soady, Jr. is celebrating his final hunting season before he becomes a sharpshooter for the U.S. Army when he falls head-over-heels for the legendary Big Betty Balou. The question is, does she have what it takes to become part of Escanaba’s “royal” family?

“Daniels brings back much of what made *“Moonlight”* appealing, but his growth as a playwright is also evident.”
—*Between The Lines*

“I worried *“Love”* would be a strictly ‘for guys, about guys’ play; yet this warm comedy in a cold setting completely won me over ... ” —*The Ann Arbor News*

“Bless you, Jeff Daniels, for taking us back to the Soady deer camp ... ” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*



GUEST ARTIST

a drama by Jeff Daniels

3M

In his most autobiographical work yet, Daniels weaves a funny and poignant story about a young man coming face to face with his hero and explores the tangled relationship between the dreams of youth and the wisdom of age.

American Theatre Critics Association New Play finalist

“Daniels’ 10th play is his best yet.” —*Detroit Free Press*

“... pure perfection ... there’s something in *Guest Artist* that transcends the stage.” —*Oakland Press*

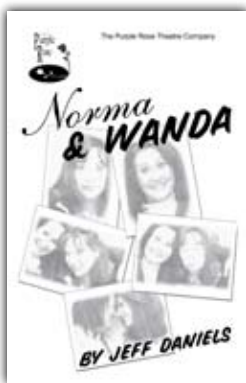
“... a moving love letter to the playwright’s art in his splendid new play.” —*Detroit Monitor*

“... passionate, thought-provoking ... intensely gripping ... An artist never apologizes, and neither should Daniels for this important look at post 9-11 America.” —*Between The Lines*

“... powerful and smart.” —*The Ann Arbor News*

“... polished and compelling.” —*Metro Times*

“... funny and sometimes alarming cat-and-mouse game.” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*



NORMA & WANDA

a comedy by Jeff Daniels

3M / 3W

This deliciously wicked comedy follows two very different sisters as they get themselves into an outrageous pickle with an old high school boyfriend, a chaotic church social and a secret family recipe for Christmas sausage.

“*Norma & Wanda* does for women what *Escanaba (in da Moonlight)* did for men; it plants them in a house and makes them look foolish while emphasizing the importance of family bonding.” —*Detroit Free Press*

“There are moments of heart-stopping tension ... which evolve from the comic situations quite naturally. ... the play’s bright energy and wit keep things brisk, and numerous unexpected plot twists and surprises make for a thrilling, fun ride ...” —*The Ann Arbor News*

“It’s a play that moves relentlessly. It’s got thrills, surprises, physicality and most importantly, it’s got characters who really resonate.” —*Current Magazine*



PANHANDLE SLIM & THE OKLAHOMA KID

a comedy with music by Jeff Daniels

2M

A fateful tale of a prairie showdown between a vagrant outlaw and a singing cowboy. Thrown together by unfortunate circumstances, Panhandle Slim and The Oklahoma Kid argue the virtues of mayhem, music and the meaning of life.

“... a cowboy story with plenty of laughs, but also with moments that are touchingly tender and thoughtful.”
—*Detroit Monitor*

“Charm, humor, pathos: Daniels’ new play has it all.”
—*Ann Arbor News*

“Daniels delivers yet another smartly written comedy that will surely rustle up enthusiastic crowds ...” —*Between the Lines*

“... a deceptively terrific new play ... it lulls us with some early goofiness ... Then it adds warmth and spirituality.”
—*Lansing State Journal*

“... one of Daniels’ most interesting plays to date, taking his craft to a whole new level.” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

“Working economically and with a richness of character reminiscent of short stories by Elmore Leonard, Daniels fashions a play that is at once moving and bizarrely funny.” —*Detroit Free Press*



SHOE MAN

a comedy by Jeff Daniels

4M / 4W

Set in a small town, Daniels’ first play spoofs some of the community’s passionate beliefs, including the grand game of golf. The intertwining of these passions, both on and off the course, leads to infidelity, mayhem and critical lessons in the proper way of hitting a seven iron.

“... highly theatrical, slightly absurdist in tone, satirical and cartoonish in style, and very funny. There’s a compelling new comedic voice to be heard here ... intelligent, sophisticated ... and thoroughly original ... Daniels has a freshly wry sense of what is humorous in American culture and romance.” —*The Detroit News*

“... a romp of a play ... It is a woozie jitterbug that punishes infidelity with a seven iron to the beanie.” —*Lansing State Journal*

“... amiably zany ... grandly and goofily entertaining ...”
—*The Ann Arbor News*

“... marvelous ... a comedy that will not quit.” —*The Chelsea Standard*



THY KINGDOM'S COMING

a comedy by Jeff Daniels

4M

A movie star, his personal assistant, producer and screenwriter are convinced that an action movie based on the Bible will break box office records. As they struggle to translate ancient wisdom into sound bytes and promotional trailers, religious and political leaders swarm to censor their artistic venture.

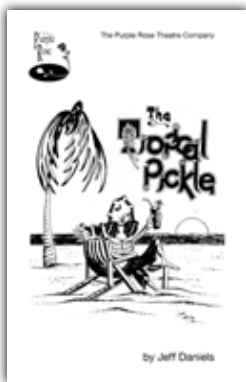
“... blisteringly funny ... topical, political, and outrageously satisfying ...” —*Back Stage*

“It’s good comedy ...” —*Detroit Free Press*

“... a raucous, over-the-top, scathingly funny sendup of Hollywood movers and how they cannibalize culture, art, icons and history for their own gain.” —*The Oakland Press*

“A saber-toothed satire of Hollywood huckerism as well as the religious right ...” —*The Ann Arbor News*

“... a terrific script ... We can’t ask for much more from a play than to be entertained while simultaneously being given food for thought.” —*The Michigan Daily*



THE TROPICAL PICKLE

a comedy by Jeff Daniels

4M / 3W

Bob Lee, plant manager of Shankelferd Pickle Company, will stop at nothing to win a promotion and an all-expense-paid trip to the Annual Condiment Convention in Miami. His plan to wine and dine the company’s new president collapses when unexpected guests crash his carefully planned dinner party.

“... physical slapstick worthy of Laurel and Hardy. ... the show shines with unforgettable moments.” —*The Ann Arbor News*

“... a rollicking success. ... it’s a show to relish.” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

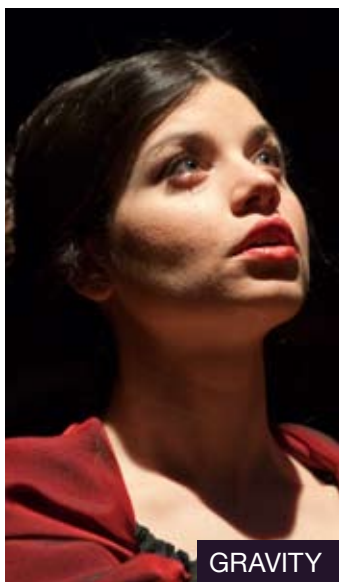
“... unique dialogue. It is the stuff of genuine farce, which requires totally serious people having absolutely no luck in communicating with each other.” —*Detroit Free Press*

“... non-stop comedy ...” —*The Chelsea Standard*

MACGREGGOR



GRAVITY



GRAVITY



GRAVITY



GRAVITY



GRAVITY

a drama by David MacGregor

3M / 1W

"Isaac Newton was not humanity's first scientist. He was our last sorcerer."

For centuries, the true nature of the work that engaged Isaac Newton in the years after his *Principia Mathematica* rocked the world lay hidden among trunks of forgotten papers. Based on Newton's actual letters, this play explores his relationship with a mysterious patroness as he pursued the most important work of his life, driving himself relentlessly in pursuit of Truth and riding the delicate line between divinity and madness.

"... paints a surprisingly human portrait of one of history's greatest thinkers. Isaac Newton may have taught mankind that gravity is a relatively weak force, but David MacGregor's GRAVITY holds an audience with a fierce intensity. ... the production is likely to surprise patrons as a wholly fresh, entirely different theatrical experience."
—*EncoreMichigan.com*

"... smart and, quite often, sharply funny. MacGregor writes great characters and dialogue ..."
—*AnnArbor.com*

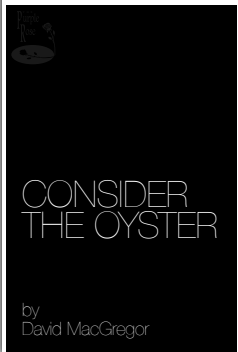
"MacGregor gets an A+ for a storyline that is crafted like a fine piece of art." —*MIEntertainment.biz*

"... GRAVITY is further proof that [David] MacGregor is the most talented of the local playwrights premiering works on the Purple Rose stage." —*Detroit Free Press*

"... one of the most intriguing pieces of live theater seen in decades." —*Lansing City Pulse*

available fall 2011

THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

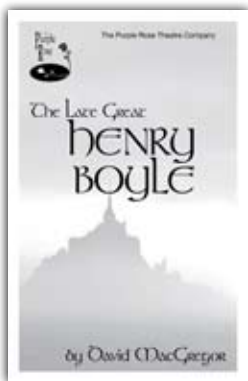


CONSIDER THE OYSTER

a comedy by David MacGregor

2M / 3W

This deceptively light comedy takes two scientific facts — 1) all oysters are born male, then turn female, and 2) doctors now use oyster shells to help repair human bone — and spins them into a modern fairy tale that asks: what does it really mean to love someone?



THE LATE GREAT HENRY BOYLE

a comedy by David MacGregor

3M / 1W

In this charming love story, meet the endearingly befuddled medieval scholar Henry Boyle. After a painful divorce, Boyle develops an absinthe habit while writing a novel that inexplicably becomes an overnight pop culture sensation. Suffering from intense media scrutiny and recurring hallucinations about giant rodents, a chance meeting with a damsel named Rachel might be the only thing that can pull Boyle back from the edge.

“ ... not to be missed ... a comedy that’s not afraid to show its heart.” —*Detroit Free Press*

“From start to finish, a funny, enchanting, well-acted and well-written treat.” —*Current Magazine*

“... expertly strikes a balance between comedy and drama.” —*The Ann Arbor News*

“... funny and touching ...” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*



VINO VERITAS

a comedy by David MacGregor

2M / 2W

On Halloween night, two couples prepare to attend an annual costume party. Though the evening begins as usual, familiar traditions unravel when the foursome shares a bottle of South American ceremonial wine made from the skin of blue dart tree frogs. Under the influence of this tribal truth serum, what follows is an unpredictable night of unbridled honesty that stretches the bounds of their friendship forever.

“ ... speaks directly and profoundly about marriage, child-rearing, career choices, even the existence of God. It also made me laugh - hard.” —*Detroit Free Press*

“Both funny and gut-wrenching ... the playwright offers wisdom and insight into many aspects of the human condition ... (and) especially shines with his meticulous planning and realistic dialogue.” —*Between The Lines*

“The bottom line, *Vino Veritas* is craftily put together ...” —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

“... an entertaining, thought-provoking new show ... Just make sure to buckle your seatbelts. It is—in the best way possible—a bumpy night.” —*Ann Arbor News*



THE LATE GREAT HENRY BOYLE



VINO VERITAS



THE LATE GREAT HENRY BOYLE



VINO VERITAS

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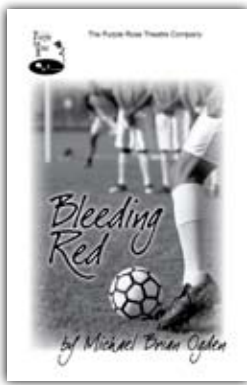
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BLEEDING RED

a comedy by Michael Brian Ogden

3M / 2W

The biggest football match in twenty years is about to kick off. Tommy, confirmed bachelor and passionate Liverpool supporter, arrives at his best mate Bobby's London flat to discover he's been dumped by his fiancée. Trouble is, Bobby is the linchpin of the all-important pre-game regimen. Tommy must get him on his feet before the match starts, even if it means recruiting the help of another traitorous female, Bobby's fetching sister Sarah.

"... Ogden shines in this production and director Guy Sanville has an excellent sense for comic timing ..." —*The Detroit Monitor*

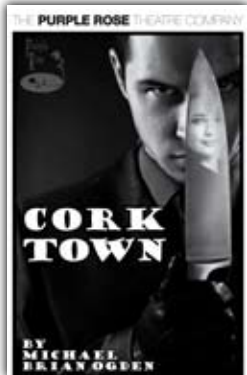
"With this play, Ogden captures the importance of the seemingly casual pastimes that occupy our lives and fill the spaces between the few moments of true intimacy." —*Lansing City Pulse*

"... an impressively polished, sophisticated, funny, and satisfying script. ... a first-time playwright can sometimes pull off a memorable upset - and that's always an exciting thing to witness." —*The Ann Arbor News*

"... *Bleeding Red* is a decidedly strong showing for Ogden, leaving the impression that there are many fine productions still to come from his pen. He's done an admirable job distilling the complex, but universal emotions of love - of both sport and romance - into a cohesive and witty play, and the result is both unique and genuinely entertaining." —*EncoreMichigan.com*

"... the show is bursting with energy, and it's clear that real writing talent is at work." —*Jackson Citizen Patriot*

available
summer 2011



CORKTOWN

a drama by Michael Brian Ogden

3M / 2W

A gritty romance about an extraordinary day in the life of an Irish assassin in Detroit. Enter the dark underworld of a man looking for a second chance, a man who discovers love in the very last place he expected to find it.

PRTC production photos by Danna Segrest and Sean Carter Photography.
On cover: BEST OF FRIENDS (Matthew David and Rhannon Ragland). On page 2: ACROSS THE WAY (Sandra Birch, Will David Young, Michelle Mountain, Bryan McElroy, David Ducost and Inga R. Wilson). GUEST ARTIST (Grant R. Krause), ESCANABA IN LOVE (Jake Christensen, Charlyn Swarthout), PANHANDLE SLIM & THE OKLAHOMA KID (Tom Whalen, John Saibert and Jessica Garrett). On page 9: GRAVITY (Will David Young, Stacie Hudgkess, Rhannon Ragland, Michelle Mountain and Alex Loydalfrost). On page 11: THE LATE GREAT HENRY BOYLE (Paul Hopper and John Leonard), VINO VERTAS (Quetta Carpenter, Tommy A. Gomez and Suzi Rogati). On page 12: BLEEDING RED (Matthew David, Michael Brian Ogden, Matthew Gwynn, and Heidi Bennett).

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please send information about new titles via email

ORDER INFORMATION

Title of Play: _____ Quantity: _____

Title of Play: _____ Quantity: _____

Title of Play: _____ Quantity: _____

Total number of scripts: _____ @ \$10.00 each = Total Payment: \$ _____

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 Visa MasterCard American Express

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Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Name (*please print*): _____

THE **PURPLE ROSE** THEATRE COMPANY

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