

# THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

ADDRESS: 137 Park Street  
Chelsea, MI 48118

FOR INTERVIEWS:  
Julie Brunzell, Managing Director  
brunzell@purplerosetheatre.org

BUSINESS: 734.433.7782  
BOX OFFICE: 734.433.7673  
FAX: 734.475.0802  
WEB SITE: www.purplerosetheatre.org

FOR PHOTOGRAPHS:  
Heidi Bennett, Marketing Director  
bennett@purplerosetheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2011

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, ESCANABA IN DA MOONLIGHT RETURNS TO THE PRTC  
The Purple Rose reloads Jeff Daniels' hunting comedy for the next generation

CHELSEA, Mich. — The Purple Rose Theatre Company will kick off the 2011/12 Season with a revival of *Escanaba in da Moonlight* by Jeff Daniels. The production will enjoy a thirteen-week engagement from Thursday, September 22 – Saturday, December 17, 2011. Eight low-priced previews of *Escanaba in da Moonlight* will be performed Thursday, September 22 – Thursday, September 29, with Press Opening on Friday, September 30, 2011. Regular performances for the duration of the run 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 can be found on page 3). The PRTC is also pleased to announce there will be two matinees performed for high school students at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 25 and Tuesday, November 22. In addition to being the 2011/2012 Lead Season Sponsor, the Ford Motor Company Fund is providing half-price tickets on two "Ford Fridays," October 21 and November 18. Additional support for this production comes from Excelda, The Helppie Family Charitable Foundation, WJR and Michigan Radio. All performances will be held at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan 48118.

Set on the eve of the opening day of deer season 1989, *Escanaba in da Moonlight* tells the story of Reuben Soady, the only son in a family of U.P. hunters never to bag a buck. Joined by his pop Albert, brother Remnar and local oddball Jimmer Negamane, Reuben is hoping to get his shot and shed the mantle of "the buckless yooper." But before dawn approaches the arrival of a strange DNR employee and a series of weird occurrences will threaten Reuben's ultimate goal. Will he bag the buck or go down in family history as a failure?

*Escanaba in da Moonlight* by Jeff Daniels premiered at the Purple Rose in 1995, and was subsequently produced in 1997, setting record attendance numbers for the company. The play has also been produced locally at the Boarshead Theatre in Lansing and had a successful run at Detroit's Gem Theatre in 1999-2000. The fifth play in Daniel's playwriting career, *Escanaba in da Moonlight* spawned a feature film version in 2001 shot on location in Escanaba, Michigan. The play has also become part of the "Escanaba trilogy", as Daniels has written the prequels *Escanaba in Love*, and *Escanaba*, all produced by the Purple Rose.

The production will be directed by PRTC Artistic Director and Escanaba native, Guy Sanville. The cast will feature Wayne David Parker (Dearborn, MI) in the role he originated, Jimmer Negamane, Michael Brian Ogden (Berkley, MI) as Reuben Soady, Jim Porterfield (Northville, MI) as Albert Soady, Matthew David (Flint, MI) as Remnar Soady, Nate Mitchell (Novi, MI) as Ranger Tom Treado and Rhiannon Ragland (Flint, MI) as Wolf Moon Dance. (Editor's Note: Cast interviews and biographies are available by calling 734.433.7782 or emailing Heidi Bennett at

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bennett@purplerosetheatre.org).

Founded in 1991 by acclaimed actor and Chelsea native Jeff Daniels, The Purple Rose Theatre Company (PRTC) 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 professional 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 local and national theatre communities.

Tickets are now on sale for *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. Ticket reservations can be made by calling The Purple Rose Theatre Company Box Office at (734) 433-ROSE (7673); Box Office hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. Tickets are also available for purchase at [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org).

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## Meet da Jimmer

WAYNE DAVID PARKER

Wayne is a PRTC resident artist and will be appearing in his 24th production at the Purple Rose with *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. He has originated members of the Negamane family in each play of the Escanaba Trilogy, including da Jimmer in both the play and film versions of *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. Some of Wayne's other favorite plays he has done at the PRTC are *The Underpants*, *Book of Days*, *Thy Kingdom's Coming* and *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel*. He has performed at over a dozen venues in the Detroit area, including appearances in *Talley's Folly* and *Greater Tuna* at the Williamston Theatre. He is also a veteran of over 25 years of voice-over work and has worked on fourteen feature films, most recently Mitch Albom's *Have A Little Faith*.

Reloaded for the next generation.

# Escanaba in da Moonlight



## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 22	8PM	\$20	preview w/ talkback	
Friday, September 23	8PM	\$25	preview w/ talkback	
Saturday, September 24	3PM	\$25	preview w/ talkback	
Saturday, September 24	8PM	\$30	preview w/ talkback	
Sunday, September 25	2PM	\$25	preview w/ talkback	
Wednesday, Sept. 28	3PM	\$20	preview	
Wednesday, Sept. 28	8PM	\$20	preview	
Thursday, Sept. 29	8PM	\$20	preview	
Friday, Sept. 30	8PM	\$40	press opening	
Saturday, October 1	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 1	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, October 2	3PM	\$35		
Wednesday, October 5	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, October 5	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, October 6	8PM	\$25		
Friday, October 7	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 8	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 8	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, October 9	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, October 12	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, October 12	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, October 13	8PM	\$25		
Friday, October 14	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 15	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 15	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, October 16	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, October 19	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, October 19	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, October 20	8PM	\$25		
Friday, October 21	8PM	\$17.50	Ford Friday	
Saturday, October 22	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 22	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, October 23	2PM	\$35		
Tuesday, October 25	11AM	\$12.50	student matinee	
Wednesday, October 26	3PM	\$25		
Thursday, October 27	SOLD OUT		private event	
Friday, October 28	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 29	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, October 29	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, October 30	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, November 2	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, November 2	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, November 3	8PM	\$25		
Friday, November 4	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, November 5	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, November 5	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, November 6	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, November 9	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, November 9	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, November 10	8PM	\$25		
Friday, November 11	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, November 12	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, November 12	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, November 13	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, Nov. 16	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, Nov. 16	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, Nov. 17	8PM	\$25		
Friday, Nov. 18	8PM	\$17.50	Ford Friday	
Saturday, Nov. 19	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, Nov. 19	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, Nov. 20	2PM	\$35		
Tuesday, Nov. 22	11AM	\$12.50	student matinee	
Wednesday, Nov. 23	8PM	\$25		
Friday, Nov. 25	3PM	\$25		
Friday, Nov. 25	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, Nov. 26	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, Nov. 26	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, Nov. 27	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, Nov. 30	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, Nov. 30	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, December 1	8PM	\$25		
Friday, December 2	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, December 3	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, December 3	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, December 4	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, December 7	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, December 7	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, December 8	8PM	\$25		
Friday, December 9	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, December 10	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, December 10	8PM	\$40		
Sunday, December 11	2PM	\$35		
Wednesday, Dec. 14	3PM	\$25		
Wednesday, Dec. 14	8PM	\$25		
Thursday, December 15	8PM	\$25		
Friday, December 16	8PM	\$35		
Saturday, December 17	3PM	\$35		
Saturday, December 17	8PM	\$40	closing night	

COMING SOON:

## A STONE CARVER

a funny and touching tribute to  
fathers and sons

by WILLIAM MASTROSIMONE  
directed by RHIANNON RAGLAND

JANUARY 19 through MARCH 10, 2012

Old world beliefs collide with new world principles when Agostino, a retired stone mason, is evicted from his home to make space for a highway. When he barricades himself in his house, his son Raff must convince him to leave the house and all the memories that come with it. Featuring artistic director Guy Sanville as Agostino.

Advance donor sales November 28  
General ticket sales December 12  
Ford Fridays February 17 and March 2

PRESS OPENING NIGHT  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

For more information or to arrange a  
complimentary press package:

Phone: 734.433.7782  
Email: [bennett@purplerosetheatre.org](mailto:bennett@purplerosetheatre.org)

