

# THE **PURPLE ROSE** THEATRE COMPANY

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**December 10, 2012**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEW COMEDY BY JEFF DANIELS TO PREMIERE AT PURPLE ROSE**

**The Meaning of Almost Everything begins in previews January 10**

CHELSEA, Mich. — The Purple Rose Theatre Company is proud to announce the world premiere production of a new comedy by Jeff Daniels. *The Meaning of Almost Everything* will enjoy a nine-week engagement from Thursday, January 10 – Saturday, March 9, 2013. Eight low-priced previews will be performed Thursday, January 10 – Thursday, January 17, with Press Opening on Friday, January 18, 2013. 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, Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM, and additional Thursday matinees at 3:00 PM. (*Editor's Note: A complete performance schedule including pricing can be found on page 3*). Underwriting support for this production comes from The Helppie Family Charitable Foundation, Domino's Pizza and Ruth R. Glancy. Season support comes from The Ford Motor Company Fund, The Hamp Family, Sage Foundation, Matilda R. Wilson Fund, The David A. Brandon Foundation, Craig & Donna Common, Peter & Patti Feeney, The William B. Holmes Family, The Dawn J. & Jeffrey S. Williams Charitable Gift Fund, Curtis & Curtis, P.C., Chelsea Comfort Inn and Village Conference Center, Chelsea State Bank, Classic Turning, and Excelda. Additional support is provided by media partners WJR and Michigan Radio. All performances will be held at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan 48118.

The 15th play penned by PRTC founder Jeff Daniels, *The Meaning of Almost Everything* is perhaps one of Daniels' most personal, and yet, most whimsical pieces to date. With elements of slapstick, vaudeville, tragedy and farce, this exuberant romp of a play explores the pain and the joy of human existence.

The story follows two men, "A" and "B," who exist in an undefined place and time, a place of safety and comfort, but also a place where nothing happens. One man wants to remain. The other isn't so sure. Through their feats of daring (and sometimes cowardice), they stumble through the darkness to find the big answers to life's big questions. This comedy questions the nature of our world and the absurdity of it all. *The Meaning of Almost Everything* contains adult language and content.

When asked about the impetus for *The Meaning of Almost Everything*, playwright Jeff Daniels explains, "I've never been one to think whatever may come after this life will be better. One can always hope and pray and believe, sure, but given the choice between the known and the unknown, frankly, it seems a lot of us would rather just stay put, thank you very much. That's the 'What if...?' that drove the writing on this one. How do we turn this life of ours into an everlasting one? Forget leaving a legacy or living on in other people's memories, I mean staying put. Right here, right now, forever and ever. That it doesn't work that way is the conflict in the play. And in us."

Directed by Guy Sanville, the cast includes Matthew Gwynn of Farmington (*Our Town, Growing Pretty*) and Michael Brian Ogden of Berkley (*Superior Donuts, White Buffalo, Escanaba in da Moonlight*).

Founded in 1991 by 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 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 both local and national theatre communities.

Tickets are available for purchase now. Ticket reservations can be made by calling The Purple Rose Theatre Company Box Office at (734) 433-7673 or online at [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org).

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# THE MEANING OF ALMOST EVERYTHING PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 10	8PM	\$22	preview w/ talkback	Wednesday, February 13	3PM	\$27	
Friday, January 11	8PM	\$27	preview w/ talkback	Wednesday, February 13	8PM	\$27	
Saturday, January 12	3PM	\$27	preview w/ talkback	Thursday, February 14	8PM	\$27	
Saturday, January 12	8PM	\$32	preview w/ talkback	Friday, February 15	8PM	\$37	
Sunday, January 13	2PM	\$27	preview w/ talkback	Saturday, February 16	3PM	\$37	
Wednesday, Jan. 16	3PM	\$22	preview	Saturday, February 16	8PM	\$42	
Wednesday, Jan. 16	8PM	\$22	preview	Sunday, February 17	2PM	\$37	
Thursday, Jan. 17	8PM	\$22	preview	Wednesday, February 20	3PM	\$27	
Friday, January 18	8PM	\$37	press opening	Thursday, February 21	3PM	\$27	Added Matinee
Saturday, January 19	3PM	\$37		Thursday, February 21	8PM	\$27	
Saturday, January 19	8PM	\$42		Friday, February 22	8PM	\$37	
Sunday, January 20	2PM	\$37		Saturday, February 23	3PM	\$37	
Wednesday, Jan. 23	3PM	\$27		Saturday, February 23	8PM	\$42	
Wednesday, Jan. 23	8PM	\$27		Sunday, February 24	2PM	\$37	
Thursday, January 24	8PM	\$27		Wednesday, February 27	3PM	\$27	
Friday, January 25	8PM	\$37		Wednesday, February 27	8PM	\$27	
Saturday, January 26	3PM	\$37		Thursday, February 28	8PM	\$27	
Saturday, January 26	8PM	\$42		Friday, March 1	8PM	\$18.50	Ford Friday
Sunday, January 27	2PM	\$37		Saturday, March 2	3PM	\$37	
Wednesday, January 30	3PM	\$27		Saturday, March 2	8PM	\$42	
Wednesday, January 30	8PM	\$27		Sunday, March 3	2PM	\$37	
Thursday, January 31	8PM	\$27		Wednesday, March 6	3PM	\$27	
Friday, February 1	8PM	\$18.50	Ford Friday	Wednesday, March 6	8PM	\$27	
Saturday, February 2	3PM	\$37		Thursday, March 7	3PM	\$27	
Saturday, February 2	8PM	\$42		Thursday, March 7	8PM	\$27	
Sunday, February 3	2PM	\$37		Friday, March 8	8PM	\$37	
Wednesday, February 6	3PM	\$27		Saturday, March 9	3PM	\$37	
Thursday, February 7	3PM	\$27	Added Matinee	Sunday, March 9	8PM	\$42	Closing Night
Thursday, February 7	8PM	\$27					
Friday, February 8	8PM	\$37					
Saturday, February 9	3PM	\$37					
Saturday, February 9	8PM	\$42					
Sunday, February 10	2PM	\$37					