

THE **PURPLE ROSE** THEATRE COMPANY



THE
Purple
Rose
APPRENTICE
PROGRAM

The logo for The Purple Rose Theatre Company, featuring the company name in a stylized font and a silhouette of a rose on a stem.

WORK **PLAY** **LIVE** **LEARN**

I LEARNED I COULD
REALLY DO THIS.
THIS IS A UNIQUE,
SPECIAL PLACE.

—KEVIN BARRON '09
BOX OFFICE MANAGER
THE BERMAN CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS



The Purple Rose apprentice program offers a unique, hands-on opportunity to gain real-world experience in a professional theatre. As an apprentice you will work side by side with directors, designers, stage managers, actors and administrators striving to create great theatre. During your apprenticeship you will be exposed to every aspect of the process - performance, design, tech, administration and fundraising.

Gain the knowledge and experience you'll need to build the rest of your career. Learn, grow and challenge yourself. Make friends who will last a lifetime. Follow in the footsteps of apprentices who now work professionally all over the country.

By excelling in one of the most intensive and varied apprenticeships in the region, countless program graduates have gone on to successful careers in the business. You'll find PRTC apprentice graduates working as designers or design assistants, administrators and/or educators, actors, stage managers, writers, directors or artistic directors. There are countless doors to be opened; your drive, initiative and ambition are the keys!

THE APPRENTICE
PROGRAM WAS ONE
OF THE PIVOTAL
EXPERIENCES IN MY
CAREER AS AN ARTIST.
THROUGH INVALUABLE
PRACTICAL HANDS-ON
TRAINING, YOU LEARN
AND EXPERIENCE
THEATRE AT AN
UNEXPECTED LEVEL.
THE VALUE OF THE
PROGRAM IS EVIDENT
IN THE LESSONS YOU
DON'T EXPECT TO
LEARN, BUT STICK WITH
YOU FOR YEARS TO
COME.

—JAMES KUHL '02
PRODUCING ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR, TIPPING
POINT THEATRE



I LOVED MY TIME WITH THE PURPLE ROSE
THEATRE COMPANY APPRENTICESHIP
PROGRAM. IT PREPARED ME FOR A
PROFESSIONAL THEATER TECHNICIAN
CAREER IN NEW YORK CITY.

—JOE REECHER '06
STAFF ELECTRICIAN
THE JULLIARD SCHOOL





THE PURPLE ROSE IS
A FINE EXAMPLE OF
ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AT
ITS VERY BEST.”

—BILL IVEY
NEA

“THE PURPLE ROSE IS ONE
OF THE BEST THEATRES
IN THE COUNTRY. THEIR
MATERIAL'S GOOD, THEY
DO IT REALLY WELL, AND
THEY CARE ABOUT THE
WORK AND EACH OTHER
AND THE AUDIENCE. IT'S A
GREAT PLACE TO BE.”

—LANFORD WILSON,
ANN ARBOR NEWS,
JULY 18, 2004

THE **PURPLE ROSE** THEATRE COMPANY

Our mission is to exemplify trust through the work of a theatre ensemble striving to create and develop a dramatic experience that elevates the human spirit. We give a forum to established artists where they can experiment in a protected environment. We help the young find their voice and we, in turn, learn from their youth. We include respect and compassion in the process of creation – addressing issues of the heart while searching for the soul of the issue. We explore the masters’ classical examples and apply their principles to new works and forms yet to be conceived. We find these things in the collaborative nature of a family, holding one another in trust.

Founded by actor Jeff Daniels in 1991, The Purple Rose Theatre Company is a nonprofit regional theatre operating under an SPT contract with Actors’ Equity Association. We produce four shows per year; each show runs eight to fourteen weeks.

The apprentice program is patterned after one Mr. Daniels was a member of when he first moved to New York City to serve as an apprentice at the Circle Repertory Company. The Purple Rose considers it an important part of our mission to offer opportunities to young professionals seeking additional training and experience.

ENCOURAGING **YOUNG ARTISTS** THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION

Apprentices participate in many of the career development classes offered by the Purple Rose, including the acclaimed Actor/Director Lab. Purple Rose company members also teach apprentice-only workshops on a variety of topics such as auditioning, improvisation, stage combat, directing, script analysis, playwriting, design, stage management and arts administration. These workshops culminate in the Apprentice Dark Night, a one-night-only performance written, directed, designed, produced and performed by the each Apprentice class for an invited audience of fellow artists, friends, family, and staff.

Apprentices can also apply for Actors’ Equity Association membership candidacy. Points are earned by serving as production assistant to the stage manager or rehearsal assistant. Opportunities for acting and understudying are also occasionally offered to exceptional apprentices, but are not guaranteed.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PURPLE ROSE APPRENTICE

Purple Rose apprentices are the backbone of the company. An apprenticeship is a full-time position, requiring an exclusive commitment for the duration of four productions (approximately 12 months). Apprentices work a minimum of 40+ hours per week; the intensive production schedule sometimes demands as many as 80. A modest living stipend is provided.

Day-to-day operating duties are shared among the apprentices throughout the year. Apprentices strike and load in scenery, hang lights, clean and maintain the facility and lead tours for school and senior groups. They answer phones, assemble mailings, maintain our patron database and help the development staff with special events. Apprentices take ticket reservations, put up posters, and serve as the front line of customer service to our patrons.

THE NIGHT LIFE: CREW ASSIGNMENTS

The program is designed to give apprentices the opportunity to work different production-related positions for each show. Each apprentice is assigned to eight production positions over the course of their apprenticeship. Crew assignments include:

- production assistant to the stage manager
- rehearsal assistant
- assistant to the properties designer
- assistant to the master electrician
- sound engineer
- house manager
- backstage crew
- crew backup
- scene shop assistant
- light board operator
- sound board operator
- evening box office staff

Crew assignments are made based on the areas of interest indicated on your application. Every effort is made to make sure that each apprentice gains the experience they are seeking from our program.

IF YOU APPROACH THE APPRENTICESHIP WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND AN OPEN MIND, IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING BUT MOST REWARDING THEATRICAL EXPERIENCES POSSIBLE”.

—LYLE M. HENNING '10
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR,
NEW THEATRE PROJECT



SOME OF THE DAYS WERE ABSOLUTELY CRAZY AND HECTIC AND LONG, BUT MOST OF THE TIME I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT THE FACT THAT I WAS WORKING AT ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING THEATERS IN THE COUNTRY.

—KELLY A. VIEAU '08
RESIDENT STAGE
MANAGER
THE BE COMPANY



THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

APPRENTICE APPLICATION

Please submit your application form with a resume (both professional work history and theatrical experience), three letters of reference and a cover letter stating how a Purple Rose apprenticeship relates to your career goals to:

The Purple Rose Theatre Company
ATTN: Guy Sanville, Artistic Director
137 Park Street, Chelsea, MI 48118

Today's Date _____

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Alt. Phone _____

E-mail _____

(Please provide contact information that will be valid for the next 6 - 9 months)

Education _____

When are you available to begin your apprenticeship? _____

Please list any conflicts or prior commitments during the year following your available start date:

Do you: own a car? have a valid drivers' license?

Please select the top five areas in which you hope to gain experience:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> directing | <input type="checkbox"/> acting | <input type="checkbox"/> stage management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> sound | <input type="checkbox"/> carpentry & scenic painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> properties | <input type="checkbox"/> costumes | <input type="checkbox"/> house management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> box office | <input type="checkbox"/> arts management | <input type="checkbox"/> fundraising / grant writing |

Do you have any special skills or experience you would like us to know about?
