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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Gaps in the Fossil Record”

The Purple Rose Theatre presents Michigan playwright’s second world-premiere

CHELSEA, Mich. (February 29, 2016)— “Gaps in the Fossil Record,” a world premiere by Michigan-born playwright Matt Letscher, is the next play slated to appear at [The Purple Rose Theatre Company](#) as part of its 25th anniversary season.

When Jane brings home the much older, soon-to-be father of her unborn child, Mom thinks that she’s kidding. What starts as a practical joke turns into a thoughtful exploration of what it is that we pass down through the generations. Is it more than just DNA? Please note the play contains adult language.

“Gaps in the Fossil Record” will run from Thursday, April 14 through Saturday, May 28, 2016. Previews, with reduced-price tickets, begin Thursday, April 14; opening night is Friday, April 22.

A Grosse Pointe native, Matt Letscher is no stranger to the Purple Rose stage. In 1992, after receiving his BA in Acting from the University of Michigan, he launched his professional career on the PRTC stage in Jeff Daniels’ original play, “The Tropical Pickle”. Since then he has appeared on numerous hit television series, including “The Flash”, “Scandal”, “Carrie Diaries”, “Boardwalk Empire”, “Brothers and Sisters”, “Entourage”, and “The New Adventures of Old Christine”. His film credits include “13 Hours”, “Her”, “Teacher of the Year”, “Devil’s Knot”, “Towelhead”, “Identity”, and “The Mask of Zorro”. Between his Hollywood successes, Letscher performed on Broadway in Neil Simon’s “Proposals”, “The Rivals”, and Julia Cho’s “The Language Archive”. In 2001, he returned to the Purple Rose to act in the world premiere of “Rain Dance”, by Lanford Wilson, and again in 2007 to direct his self-written play, “Sea of Fools”, for its world premiere.

Letscher and the Purple Rose now prepare to mount his latest work after winning the 2015 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Beginning in 2007, the Edgerton Foundation provides financial support to theatres across the U.S. with an established reputation for producing new plays. These grants, which fund extended rehearsal time for the creative team behind plays still in development, have enabled plays to schedule many subsequent productions, 15 of which have landed on Broadway. The award’s most notable recipients include two-time 2014 Tony Award Winner “All the Way” and 2010 Pulitzer Prize Winner “Next to Normal”.

The cast of “Gaps in the Fossil Record” features PRTC Literary Manager and long-time resident artist Michelle Mountain (Grass Lake) along with Mark Colson (Lansing) and Aja Brandmeier (West Bloomfield).

Set design is by Vince Mountain, properties by Luciana Piazza, costumes by Christianne Myers, lighting and projection by Noelle Stollmack, and sound by Tom Whalen. Thomas Macias is the stage manager.

Underwriting support for the season comes from the Ford Motor Company Fund, The Hamp Family Fund, the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, the Sage Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and the Matilda R. Wilson Fund. “Gaps in the Fossil Record” production sponsors are the Edgerton Foundation and Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center. Media sponsors include Michigan Radio, ChelseaMich.com, Detroit Performs, and Applied Storytelling.

Ticket Information

All performances will be held at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan 48118.

Tickets are available for purchase beginning Monday, March 7 at 10am. Prices range from \$19 to \$43 each with special discounts for students, seniors, teachers, members of the military, and groups. For more information or to make reservations call The Purple Rose Theatre Company box office at (734) 433-7673 or go online at www.purplerosetheatre.org.

About the Purple Rose Theatre Company

Founded in 1991 by actor, playwright, musician and Chelsea native Jeff Daniels, the Purple Rose Theatre Company is a creative home for original American plays. In the 168-seat theatre, patrons experience an intimate encounter with live theatre.

The PRTC also provides an apprenticeship program, performance classes, readings, lectures and tours. It commissions new work from established and early-career playwrights. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional theatre, the PRTC operates under a Small Professional Theatre agreement with the Actors’ Equity Association.

For more information contact PRTC Managing Director Katie Doral at (734) 433-7782, kdoral@purplerosetheatre.org.

Performance Schedule for “Gaps in the Fossil Record”

Performance Date	Time	Type	Price	Notes
Week 1				
Thur, Apr 14	8:00 PM	PREVIEW	\$20	Talkback
Fri, Apr 15	8:00 PM	PREVIEW	\$28	Talkback
Sat, Apr 16	3:00 PM	PREVIEW	\$28	Talkback

Sat, Apr 16	8:00 PM	PREVIEW	\$33	Talkback
Sun, Apr 17	2:00 PM	PREVIEW	\$28	Talkback
Week 2				
Wed, Apr 20	3:00 PM	PREVIEW	\$23	
Thur, Apr 21	8:00 PM	PREVIEW	\$20	
Fri, Apr 22	8:00 PM	OPENING	\$38	Opening photos/Lobby reception
Sat, Apr 23	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Sat, Apr 23	8:00 PM	Evening	\$43	
Sun, Apr 24	2:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Week 3				
Wed, Apr 27	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$28	
Thur, Apr 28	8:00 PM	Evening	\$25	
Fri, Apr 29	8:00 PM	Evening	\$19	Ford Friday w/ talkback
Sat, Apr 30	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Sat, Apr 30	8:00 PM	Evening	\$43	
Sun, May 1	2:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Week 4				
Wed, May 4	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$28	
Thur, May 5	8:00 PM	Evening	\$25	
Fri, May 6	8:00 PM	Evening	\$38	
Sat, May 7	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Sat, May 7	8:00 PM	Evening	\$43	
Sun, May 8	2:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	Mother's Day
Week 5				
Wed, May 11	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$28	
Thur, May 12	8:00 PM	Evening	\$25	
Fri, May 13	8:00 PM	Evening	\$38	
Sat, May 14	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Sat, May 14	8:00 PM	Evening	\$43	
Sun, May 15	2:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Week 6				
Wed, May 18	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$28	
Thur, May 19	8:00 PM	Evening	\$25	
Fri, May 20	8:00 PM	Evening	\$19	Ford Friday w/ talkback
Sat, May 21	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Sat, May 21	8:00 PM	Evening	\$43	
Sun, May 22	2:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Week 7				
Wed, May 25	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$28	
Thur, May 26	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$28	
Thur, May 26	8:00 PM	Evening	\$25	
Fri, May 27	8:00 PM	Evening	\$38	
Sat, May 28	3:00 PM	Matinee	\$38	
Sat, May 28	8:00 PM	Evening	\$43	Closing Night