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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Purple Rose Theatre Company gives wings to *Willow Run*
A world premiere about the women behind local World War II efforts**

CHELSEA, Mich. (May 9, 2018) – The Purple Rose Theatre Company will conclude its stellar 2017-2018 season with *Willow Run*, an original play featuring the women behind local World War II efforts who became known as Rosie the Riveters. Tickets are on sale now.

Leading up to and during World War II, some 40,000 employees, mostly women, migrated from all over the country to turn out B-24 bombers at the rate of one every 55 minutes at the Willow Run Bomber Plant near Ypsilanti, Michigan. Written by Ann Arbor-based playwright Jeff Duncan, *Willow Run* will bring the journey of four of those women to the stage. Together they encounter a multitude of challenges, learn to endure new sorrows, overcome deep-seated prejudices and forge new friendships.

Willow Run is the winner of the 2017 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award and will feature original music composed by Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels, his son Ben, of the Ben Daniels Band, and Resident Artist, Brad Phillips.

“This play is one of the most exciting and creative projects to come our way,” says Artistic Director Guy Sanville. “Aside from the timeless heroism and story, it is stuffed with nostalgia from a time when we pulled together as a country and a people; a time when women answered the call to serve in unprecedented numbers.”

Duncan, a retired professor of English at Eastern Michigan University, is currently in residence at Ann Arbor’s Wild Swan Theatre, for which he has written over 20 works including *Shipwrecked!*, *The Wind in the Willows*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. He also previously wrote plays for the Performance Network, including *The Insomniac*, *In the Image*, and *Persephone*.

As part of his research for the play, Duncan and his wife, Barbara, interviewed eight original Rosies. “They told us how they and all the other women did jobs that men had always believed women could not do,” says Duncan, “making for a story about empowerment and a fascinating

chapter in the ongoing struggle for women's equality, as well as an important story about Michigan.”

Willow Run performances are from Thursday, June 14 through Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018. Previews, with reduced-price tickets are available through Thursday, June 21. Opening night is Friday, June 22.

Directed by Guy Sanville, the cast features Resident Artists Michelle Mountain (Grass Lake), Rhiannon Ragland (Gregory), K. Edmonds (Detroit), Lauren Knox (Milan), Angela Kay Miller (Pinckney), Caitlin Cavannaugh (Chicago, IL), David Bendena (Chelsea), and Brad Phillips (Dexter). Set design is by Sarah Pearline, properties by Danna Segrest, costumes by Susanne Young, lighting by Noele Stollmack and sound by Tom Whalen. Thomas Macias is the stage manager.

The production sponsors are Chelsea State Bank, Phil and Kim Curtis Foundation, and Legacy Assisted Living. Underwriting support for the season comes from the Ford Motor Company Fund, The Hamp Family Fund, the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, and the Matilda R. Wilson Fund. The media sponsors include Michigan Radio, Detroit Performs, ChelseaMich.com, Applied Storytelling, and HOME.fm.

Ticket Information

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

Ticket prices range from \$20.50 to \$46 with special discounts for students, seniors, teachers, members of the military and groups. For more information or to make reservations call (734) 433-7673 or go to 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 Hubbard at (734) 433-7782, khubbard@purplerosetheatre.org.

Performance Date	Time	Price	Notes
Week 1			
Thursday, June 14	8:00 p.m.	\$22	Preview with Talkback
Friday, June 15	8:00 p.m.	\$31	Preview with Talkback/Private Event
Saturday, June 16	3:00 p.m.	\$31	Preview with Talkback
Saturday, June 16	8:00 p.m.	\$36	Preview with Talkback
Sunday, June 17	2:00 p.m.	\$31	Preview with Talkback/Father's Day
Week 2			
Wednesday, June 20	3:00 p.m.	\$25	Preview
Thursday, June 21	8:00 p.m.	\$22	Preview/Private Event
Friday, June 22	8:00 p.m.	\$41	Opening Night with Lobby Reception
Saturday, June 23	3:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, June 23	8:00 p.m.	\$46	
Sunday, June 24	2:00 p.m.	\$41	
Week 3			
Wednesday, June 27	3:00 p.m.	\$30	
Thursday, June 28	8:00 p.m.	\$27	
Friday, June 29	8:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, June 30	3:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, June 30	8:00 p.m.	\$46	
Sunday, July 1	2:00 p.m.	\$41	
Week 4			
Wednesday, July 4	3:00 p.m.	\$30	Independence Day
Thursday, July 5	8:00 p.m.	\$27	
Friday, July 6	8:00 p.m.	\$20.50	Ford Friday with Talkback
Saturday, July 7	3:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, July 7	8:00 p.m.	\$46	
Sunday, July 8	2:00 p.m.	\$41	
Week 5			
Wednesday, July 11	3:00 p.m.	\$30	
Thursday, July 12	3:00 p.m.	\$30	Added Matinee
Thursday, July 12	8:00 p.m.	\$27	
Friday, July 13	3:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, July 14			"Rustic Rose" Event - No Performances
Sunday, July 15	2:00 p.m.	\$41	

Week 6

Wednesday, July 18	3:00 p.m.	\$30
Thursday, July 19	8:00 p.m.	\$27
Friday, July 20	8:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, July 21	3:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, July 21	8:00 p.m.	\$46
Sunday, July 22	2:00 p.m.	\$41

Week 7

Wednesday, July 25	3:00 p.m.	\$30	Added Matinee
Thursday, July 26	3:00 p.m.	\$30	
Thursday, July 26	8:00 p.m.	\$27	
Friday, July 27	8:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, July 28	3:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, July 28	8:00 p.m.	\$46	
Sunday, July 29	2:00 p.m.	\$41	

Week 8

Wednesday, Aug. 1	3:00 p.m.	\$30
Thursday, Aug. 2	8:00 p.m.	\$27
Friday, Aug. 3	8:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, Aug. 4	3:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, Aug. 4	8:00 p.m.	\$46
Sunday, Aug. 5	2:00 p.m.	\$41

Week 9

Wednesday, Aug. 8	3:00 p.m.	\$30	Ford Friday with Talkback
Thursday, Aug. 9	8:00 p.m.	\$27	
Friday, Aug. 10	8:00 p.m.	\$20.50	
Saturday, Aug. 11	3:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, Aug. 11	8:00 p.m.	\$46	
Sunday, Aug. 12	2:00 p.m.	\$41	

Week 10

Wednesday, Aug. 15	3:00 p.m.	\$30
Thursday, Aug. 16	8:00 p.m.	\$27
Friday, Aug. 17	8:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, Aug. 18	3:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, Aug. 18	8:00 p.m.	\$46
Sunday, Aug. 19	2:00 p.m.	\$41

Week 11

Wednesday, Aug. 22	3:00 p.m.	\$30
Thursday, Aug. 23	8:00 p.m.	\$27
Friday, Aug. 24	8:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, Aug. 25	3:00 p.m.	\$41
Saturday, Aug. 25	8:00 p.m.	\$46
Sunday, Aug. 26	2:00 p.m.	\$41

Week 12

Wednesday, Aug. 29	3:00 p.m.	\$30	
Thursday, Aug. 30	3:00 p.m.	\$30	Added Matinee
Thursday, Aug. 30	8:00 p.m.	\$27	
Friday, Aug. 31	8:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, Sept. 1	3:00 p.m.	\$41	
Saturday, Sept. 1	8:00 p.m.	\$46	Closing Night