# <section-header>OFFICE CHRISTMAS DARTA DARTA GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH POLICE CALLED

A world premiere written & directed by **JEFF DANIELS** 

2

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# I adore the funny ones because I'd much rather make people laugh than make them cry. -LAURENCE OLIVIER

Good enough for Larry, good enough for me.

OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH POLICE CALLED came from a headline regarding an incident in a small town somewhere Up North. The article didn't provide any details - apparently, names were being held to protect the innocent - but as soon as I read it, I knew it was my next comedy. I knew it because every time I pulled someone aside and recited that headline, they laughed. Every time.

Like Sir Laurence, I love making people laugh. During some of our recent productions, I have stood in the back of our Stage Manager's booth and watched you. I've seen you double over, lose yourselves, stamp your feet, all of you smiling uncontrollable smiles. I've seen our shared sense of humor ease burdens, provide an escape from the mundane, keep us sane, unify us, and most of all, I have witnessed what laughter does better than anything else: I've seen it make us happy. All of us. All at once. Together. And nowadays, that has more value than ever.

I'm glad you're here. Maybe you needed to get out of the house, maybe you haven't had a good belly buster in a long time, or maybe you just want to see what a professional theatre company can do when it takes comedy seriously.

Regardless, welcome. Now sit back, relax, and enjoy the longest title of anything I've ever written.

JEFF DANIELS Purple Rose Founder & Artistic Director

# A Special Thank You To Our 2024-2025 Season Underwriters:

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The Shubert Foundation

The Matilda R. Wilson Fund

#### **"OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH** POLICE CALLED"

**Production Sponsors:** 

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Secret Crisis Comics

This production is supported in part by an award from MICHIGAN ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL and NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.



NATIONAL

ENDOWMENT



theatre company

# JEFF DANIELS Founder & Artistic Director KATIE HUBBARD Managing Director

with media partners JTV | Michigan Public

presents



# by Jeff Daniels

Set Design BARTLEY H. BAUER

**Costume Design** 

Lighting Design STEPHEN SAKOWSKI

Sound Design ROBERT W. HUBBARD SHELBY NEWPORT

Properties Design DANNA SEGREST

Rehearsal Stage Manager **BILL CARLTON\*** 

Assistant Director LUCAS DANIELS

**Production Stage Manager DANA GAMARRA\*** 

#### Director JEFF DANIELS

\*member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



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# CAST OF CHARACTERS

Wally Wilkins Jr.	Ryan Carlson*
Jerry Cornicelli	Paul Stroili*
Lamar Johnson	Henrí Franklin
Bernice Wilkins	Juji Berry*
Madge Milbury/additional roles	. Ruth Crawford*

\*member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

#### TIME

The play begins on Friday Afternoon December 15th, 2023 and ends on Christmas Eve.

#### PLACE

Various locations in and around the Middletown Fudge Factory in Middletown, Michigan.

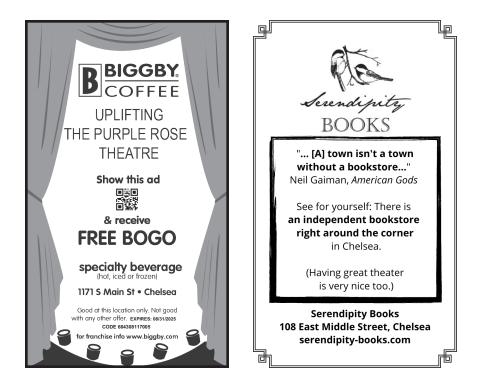
# PLEASE NOTE

#### There is NO intermission during the performance.

Please keep the aisles clear for the actors' entrances and exits.

The making of photographs and/or recordings inside the theatre is strictly prohibited.

Food or drink inside the theatre is prohibited.





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# CAST OF CHARACTERS

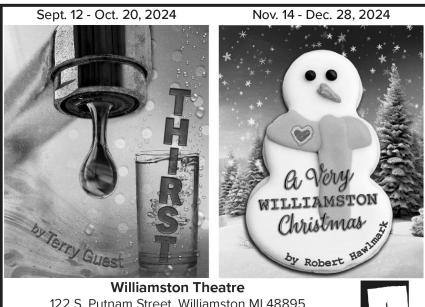


from Albion College in 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre and History. This is her debut performance on The Purple Rose Theatre Company's stage. Juji has worked within our non-profit organization for two years as a House Manager and Assistant Stage Manager. Her Credits include: Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Bev/Kathy in *Clybourne Park*, Mrs. Van Buren in *Intimate Apparel*, Kitty/Shona in *Top Girls*. "To those who supported me in achieving my dream: Your unwavering belief in me has made this moment possible, and I am truly grateful."

JUJI BERRY (Bernice Wilkins) graduated

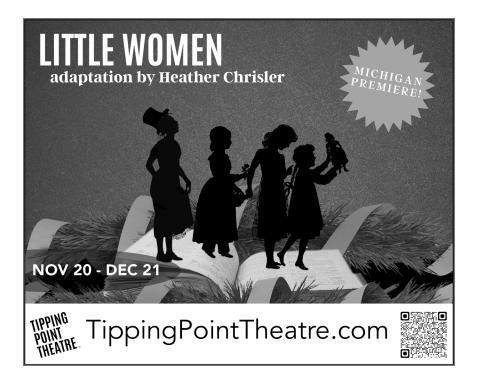


RYAN CARLSON (Wally Wilkins Jr.) is a Resident Artist with The Purple Rose Theatre Company and is grateful to be returning to his home stage. He was last seen as Duncan in The Purple Rose 2023/2024 season's The Antichrist Cometh. Ryan also worked in stage management for What Springs Forth and Diva Royale. You may remember him from such shows as Pickleball. Superior Donuts, Hot L Baltimore, The Glass Menagerie or Completing Dahlia to name a few. Ryan has been an AEA union member since the age of twenty. He has worked professionally all over Michigan including at the Detroit Repertory Theatre, Tipping Point Theatre, The Gem, City Theatre and Jewish Ensemble Theatre. Having done thousands of performances, he is hard pressed to pick a favorite show, but productions like Escanaba in da Moonlight, Funnyman, A Steady Rain, A Lie of the Mind, and The Tropical Pickle will forever hold a memorable place in his heart. Upon earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Detroit, Ryan became Artistic Director of Planet Ant during its first two seasons as a professional theatre. Ryan would like to thank you for supporting live local union strong productions like this. Find out where and when Ryan's next show will be by following him on the socials. www.theryancarlson.com



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# CAST OF CHARACTERS



RUTH CRAWFORD (Madge Milbury/additional roles) has appeared in numerous equity theatre productions in Michigan. At The Purple Rose Theatre she performed in A Jukebox for The Algonquin, Road Signs, and Morning's at Seven. She was in Driving Miss Daisy, Ripcord, The Importance of Being Earnest, and Rabbit Hole at the Tipping Point Theatre. Other favorites are The Gin Game at Williamston Theatre; Good People at the Performance Network, and Arsenic and Old Lace at Meadow Brook Theatre. As a member of the Colony Theatre in Los Angeles her work included roles in The Cocktail Hour and Ring Round the Moon. Ruth has also been featured in a number of movies and TV shows filmed in the Detroit area including: "American Rust", "Detroiters", "Low Winter Sun", "Flipped", "Trust", and "Guest Artist",

HENRÍ FRANKLIN (Lamar Johnson) is an award winning SAG-AFTRA actor based out of Detroit, MI. After obtaining his Bachelors Degree from Wayne State University's Theater Program, he went on to work professionally in the fields of stage, film, television, commercials and voice over. Some of his notable career accomplishments include. "Davs of Our Lives" and "Chicago P.D." on NBC, "Detroiters" on Comedy Central, "Low Winter Sun" on AMC, "Batman Vs Superman" for Warner Bros., commercial and voice work for Ford, Chevrolet, G.U.M., T. Rowe Price, and many others plus productions of Dominique Morisseau's Pipeline, Detroit' 67, and Paradise Blue, You can see him as Ahmed in Richard Wesley's "Black Terror" (produced by Tina Knowles-Lawson and directed by Richard Lawson) coming soon. Henrí is honored to be back at The Purple Rose and looks forward to continuing to do work that helps to change people's lives for the better! You can follow his journey at www.henrifranklin.com and @henrifranklin on social media platforms.

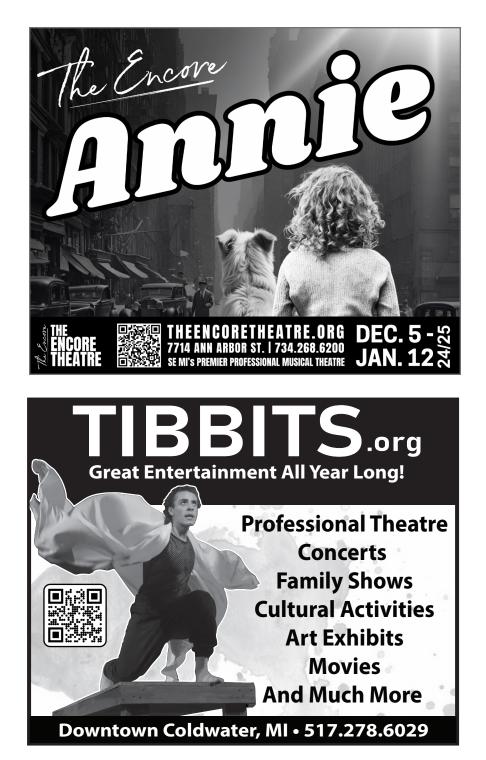


# CAST OF CHARACTERS



PAUL STROILI (Jerry Cornicelli) is an actor, director and playwright. Grinch/Rudolph marks his sixth show here at The Purple Rose as a proud Resident Artist. Favorite stage work includes God of Carnage, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear and The Lifespan of a Fact. As a playwright, his play A Jukebox for The Algonquin enjoyed an acclaimed World Premiere here at The Purple Rose last year and received a 2023 Wilde Award for Best New Play. His latest comedy, My Mother and the Michigan/Ohio War will premiere here in April of 2025. His other plays include Cheese Louise (with Maureen Morley), Plane Crazy (with Cissy Conner), and Last Call at The Aardvark, as well as the autobiographical solo show Straight Up with a Twist which toured the U.S. for nearly nine years culminating in a twice-extended Off Broadway run. Paul has enjoyed a career spanning four decades in theatre, film and television. www.paulstroili.com

ADVANCE TICKETS DID YOU KNOW? Annual Purple Rose donors of \$250 or more may purchase tickets two weeks before the general public.



# PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR



JEFF DANIELS (*Playwright & Director*) has now premiered twenty one full-length plays at The Purple Rose: *Shoe Man, The Tropical Pickle, The Vast Difference, Thy Kingdom's Coming, Escanaba in da Moonlight, Apartment 3A, Boom Town, Across the Way* (2002 American Theatre Critics Association Best New Play Finalist), *Norma & Wanda, Guest Artist* (2006 ATCA Runner-Up), *Escanaba In Love, Panhandle Slim & The Oklahoma Kid, Escanaba, Best of Friends, The Meaning of Almost Everything* (2013 ATCA Nominee), *Casting Session, Flint, Diva Royale, Roadsigns, and Pickleball.* 

Jeff has written pieces for the New York Times' Sunday Arts & Leisure Section, American Theatre Magazine, McSweeney's, Nora Guthrie's Woody Guthrie: Songs And Art, Words And Wisdom, and the forewords to Dave Hoekstra's The Camper Book: A Celebration of a Moveable American Dream, and How To Quit Golf by Craig Brass. Jeff has also written three screenplays: "Escanaba in da Moonlight", "Super Sucker", and "Guest Artist".

Drawing from over twenty years of Onstage & Unplugged performances at The Purple Rose, Daniels has written an audio memoir called, "Alive And Well Enough" which is available on Audible.com. As a Director, Jeff helmed Lanford Wilson's Hot L Baltimore (1997) as well as his own plays: Boom Town (1998) and the remount of Diva Royale (2023). On film, he wrote, directed, and starred in two independent features: "Escanaba in da Moonlight" (2001) and "Super Sucker" (2002), both shot in Michigan.



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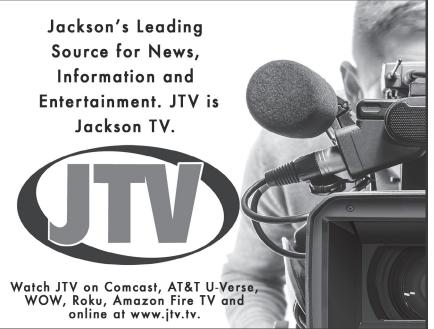
# ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

LUCAS DANIELS (*Assistant Director*) is honored to Assistant Direct this World Premiere of *OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH POLICE CALLED* by Jeff Daniels here at The Purple Rose Theatre Company. "To direct alongside my Dad and observe and work with these talented artists each day, is amazing." Lucas is learning so much and loves to be a part of the creative process. He grew up with The Purple Rose and would visit his Grandma Daph when she worked as the first Box Office employee when the theatre opened in 1991. Since joining the PRTC Artistic Associate team in September 2021, this is Lucas' third time in the Assistant Director role. Previous A.D. credits include: *Pickleball* (2022) and the remount of *Diva Royale* (2023). He couldn't do this job without the love and support of his girls, Shannon, Daphne, and Delaney. Love you so much.

#### DESIGNERS

BARTLEY H. BAUER (*Scenic Designer*) was given the great honor 33 years ago of working with Jeff Daniels to create a new theatre venue for Michigan playwrights and actors. This is his 39th scenic design for The Purple Rose Theatre Company. Design awards include *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear, Annapurna, Thy Kingdom's Coming, Stanton's Garage, Blithe Spirit,* and *Guest Artist.* He also spent the last thirty-plus years working as a designer for many different theatre groups, most notably Williamston Theatre, Tipping Point Theatre, Michigan State University Wharton Center, Lansing Community College, Civic Theatres, community organizations, area high schools, and as a faculty member of Interlochen National Music Camp. He is a Chelsea native and lives here with his family and works at Chelsea Lumber Company.





# DESIGNERS

ROBERT W. HUBBARD (*Sound Designer*) Dubz studied theater arts at Eastern Michigan University and post production at Colorado Film School. Designs for the stage include the Off Broadway production of *The Ruin*, The Purple Rose Theatre's *Pickleball*, *Human Error*, and *Diva Royale*, and local productions of *Meatballs and Macaroni Casserole* and *Boise Idaho*. Rob would like to thank his kids and wonderful wife Katie for the love, support and schedule bending that allowed for this commitment and every single person at The Purple Rose for consistently reaching above and beyond to foster such an incredible creative environment.

SHELBY NEWPORT (Costume Designer) is a professor of theatre at the University of Michigan-Flint, and currently the chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. She received her M.F.A. from Purdue University and completed her undergraduate studies at Cornell College. She designs regionally at Tipping Point Theatre, Kickshaw Theatre, Detroit Public Theatre, Flint Repertory Theatre, and is a Resident Artist here at The Purple Rose Theatre Company. Her designs have been seen internationally in London and Margate, England. Shelby is thrilled to be designing costumes for this new play with the whole team. It is her thirteenth production at PRTC, previously she designed costumes for *Diva Royale* (2023), In Common, Pickleball, Roadsigns, Diva Royale (2018), Flint, God of Carnage, Smart Love, Morning After Grace, Casting Session, Superior Donuts, and Stone Carver. You can see more of Shelby's work at www.shelbynewport.com and her next design on stage will be for Bat Boy: The Musical at Encore Musical Theatre Company in October.

# DESIGNERS

STEPHEN SAKOWSKI (*Lighting Designer*) is very excited to return to The Purple Rose after recently having collaborated on *Diva Royale*, and *In Common*. Stephen is an award winning freelance lighting designer for stage, film and television. His work is regularly seen on TV, where he has served as a lighting director for the NBA's special events and live entertainment, "Global Citizens Live", and the "NCAA Final Four Concert". Theatrically, he has been recognized three times with Kennedy Center Certificates of Merit for his lighting designs and in 2020 received the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Lighting Design for the world premiere of All Quiet on the Western Front in Chicago. Stephen is a Professor of Theatre & Film and the Chair of the Department at the University of Toledo. Stephen is also a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829.

DANNA SEGREST (*Properties Designer*) has enjoyed being in the PRTC family since volunteering for our first production, *Blush at Nothing*. She became an Equity Stage Manager for *Shoe Man* by Jeff Daniels in 1991 and stage managed many shows while training the PRTC's first apprentices. Danna has designed properties for almost all of our productions in her 33 years here and now wears many hats as Resident Properties Designer, Resident Artist, Archival Photographer, and Box Office Assistant. Danna is so happy to design the props once again for this illustrious playwright. Wade and Reeve, Merry Christmas!

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Receive Purple Rose news in your inbox: behind-the-scenes information, invitations to events, exclusive ticket discounts and more. Visit PurpleRoseTheatre.org

# STAGE MANAGEMENT

BILL CARLTON (Rehearsal Stage Manager) is happy to return to The Purple Rose Theatre Company after production stage managing last season's hit The Antichrist Cometh. Select New York credits include: Happy Birthday Doug, Bright Colors and Bold Patterns, SoHo Playhouse; The Men From The Boys, Some Men, Unusual Acts of Devotion, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre; A Christmas Carol In Harlem, The First Noel, Classical Theatre Of Harlem; ASYLUM Circus Exposure, 2017 NYU Skirball. Developmental Workshops: The Falling Season, Theatre Row; Miss Step, Playwrights Horizons/Village Theatre; Conversations with Mother, Signature Theatre Company; Broken Ground, Open Jar Studios/Village Theatre. Regionally: While I Have The Floor, Spoleto Festival USA Charleston, SC; CHICAGO, Ivoryton Playhouse, CT; All the Kings Men, Intiman Theatre, Seattle WA; Trying, Big River, The Member Of The Wedding, Ford's Theatre, Washington, DC; Martha, Josie, and the Chinese Elvis, The Faculty Room, Kiki & Herb, Los Big Names, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company Washington, DC. Proud member of Equity.

SYDNEY DILLEN (*Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager*) is super thrilled to join the production process in this capacity! Coming from Spring Lake, Michigan, she started working backstage for her high school's theatre department (Thanks, Mom!) in 2014. Fast forwarding to 2020, she graduated from Albion College with a BA in Theatre. While at Albion, she worked on a variety of shows such as *Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind, Intimate Apparel,* and *Ordinary Days*. She began working at The Purple Rose in the Summer of 2022 as a temporary Sound Production Associate for *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine*. For *Pickleball* and beyond, she was officially added to the Production Associate team as the Swing PA. As time went on, she was asked to also be the Safety Liaison for the company. Sydney is extremely grateful for all of the love and support from her mom, grandparents, family members, friends, and fur babies. Thank you for everything!

## STAGE MANAGEMENT

DANA GAMARRA (Production Stage Manager) has stage managed in the Detroit Metropolitan area for over thirty years. He has worked with the Gem/Century Theatre on such productions as Forbidden Broadway, The All Night Strut, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, and Beehive. Dana has worked here at The Purple Rose Theatre from the first production, *Blush at Nothing*, to more recently, Jeff Daniels Live & Unplugged. He also toured with Jeff around the country for live performances. For the past 20 years, Dana had been teaching at Wayne State University where he had the opportunity to mentor and teach Graduate and Undergraduates stage managers. He currently holds the position of Building Coordinator at the new Hilberry Gateway Theatres on the Wayne State University campus. Dana has had the awesome opportunity to teach (part time) his introduction to stage management class at Oakland University for the past nine years. He is pleased to bring his expertise to the Varner, Hilberry, Bonstelle, Studio and Maggie Allesee Dance Studio Theatres, and is thrilled to be working with The Purple Rose Theatre Company once again to continue the tradition of working with artists on creating great theatre and dance in southeastern Michigan. Dana is a very proud member of Actors' Equity Association where he had been the Liaison Chair for over twenty years. Lastly, he cannot express enough words for the love he has for his wife Karen, and his girls Katalyn, Natalie, and Rosalie!!!

JENNIFER LOWE (she/her) (*Production Assistant Stage Manager*) is a Michigan native Stage Manager who graduated from Michigan State University with a BFA in Stage Management. Professional stage management experience includes, *Three Little Birds* and *Natural Shocks* at Hope Repertory Theatre, *The Little Match Girl* workshop and summer camp, produced by Yaya Theatre Company in NYC. Jennifer also works closely with The Possibly Project, a non-profit in NYC and has stage managed the following shows for them-*Realize*, *What Do They Know*, and *By Any Means*. Most recently she was the stage manager for Michigan State University's New Musical Lab Program, *In Pieces: A New Musical* by Joey Contreras. Jennifer is very excited to be working with everyone at The Purple Rose Theatre Company! Thank you to everyone who has made this show possible and thank you for coming to support us all!

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Rehearsal Assistant Stage ManagerSydney Dillen*Production Assistant Stage ManagerJennifer Lowe*Director of Technical ProductionBrian D. DambacherVideo Content CreationSarah PearlineVideo EngineeringBrian D. DambacherArtistic AssociateLucas DanielsArtistic AssociateRhiannon RaglandHead Stage TechnicianCaleb WimbrowProduction AssociateSydney DillenProduction AssociateRobert W. HubbardSafety LiaisonSydney DillenPatron Services ManagerKate VoigtHouse ManagerKatly FielderBox Office AssociateKathryn HermannBox Office AssociateSean CarterArchival PhotographerDanna SegrestProduction Graphic DesignDaryl L. FazioProduction Graphic DesignDaryl L. Fazio	ant Stage Mar cal Production ation incian ate ate lanager ate ate ate prapher c Design	roduction Assi irector of Tech ideo Content C ideo Engineeri rtistic Associat ead Stage Tec roduction Asso roduction Asso afety Liaison atron Services ouse Manager ouse Manager ouse Manager ox Office Asso roduction Photog roduction Grap	
Program Coordinator Lexi Teuscher Program Printer Foresight Group	tor	rogram Coordi	
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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS\*\*

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\*\*Please see program insert for additional acknowledgments.

# FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

JEFF DANIELS has been the Artistic Director of his career for forty eight years. Stepping into the role at The Purple Rose, he is giving his decades worth of experience to the talented artists who call The Purple Rose their creative home. Aside from his twenty one plays, all of which premiered here, Jeff directed the PRTC production of Lanford Wilson's The Hot L Baltimore (1997) and two of his own plays; Boom Town (1998) and Diva Royale (2023). On film, he wrote, directed, and starred in two independent features: "Escanaba in da Moonlight" (2001) and "Super Sucker" (2002), both shot in Michigan. In 1976, Jeff became a member of New York's Circle Repertory Company and over the decades appeared on Broadway in Fifth Of July (1980), The Golden Age (1984), Redwood Curtain (1993), God Of Carnage (2009), Blackbird (2016), and To Kill A Mockingbird (2018). He has been nominated for five Golden Globes, five Emmys (winning for "Newsroom" and "Godless") and three Tonys. "Alive And Well Enough", his audio memoir is available on Audible.com.

# MANAGING DIRECTOR

KATIE HUBBARD is so pleased to be managing the business of The Purple Rose for the last 11 years. She was previously the General Manager of First Stage Milwaukee, a professional children's theater that also houses the largest theater training program of its kind in the nation, as well as being Wisconsin's leader in arts-in-education programming. Katie hails from Rochester, Michigan and received her Bachelor of Arts in Theater from Albion College in 2002. She is also a graduate of The Purple Rose Apprentice Program and former AEA Stage Manager. Katie could not do what she does without the love and support of her husband Rob and two amazing children. She is proud to be PURPLE.

# ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES

LUCAS DANIELS celebrated three years in September as an Artistic Associate here at The Purple Rose Theatre Company! The 2024/2025 season is all about comedy and this is the Artistic Directing team's *third* year together. Lucas is thrilled about the season, which includes three World Premieres and a Michigan Premiere. First up, the World Premiere comedy, *OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH POLICE CALLED* by Jeff Daniels! Lucas is a graduate of Michigan State University, 2011 (Go Green!) and a graduate of The Purple Rose Apprenticeship Program, 2011-12. He is part of the Actors' Equity Association and received his card in 2012, here at The Purple Rose. Lucas couldn't do this job without the love and support of his family. Love you so much, Shannon, Daphne, and Delaney.

RHIANNON RAGLAND has worn many hats at The Purple Rose over the years and is honored to be part of the Artistic Directing Team as Artistic Associate. A Flint, MI, native and proud member of Actors' Equity Association, she made her professional acting debut at 8 years old at the New Vic Dinner Theatre and then revived it as an adult right here at the PRTC in 2007. She then continued her artistic education by becoming a Purple Rose Resident Artist and a Teaching Artist for various theatres, schools, and producing organizations throughout Michigan. Rhiannon has worked as an actor in over 25 productions, and as a choreographer and a director helping stage more than 17 productions and winning Wilde Awards for her direction of A Stone Carver and Pickleball (Best Play). Special thanks to her family, WokeD, Punk, ODawg and Nugget. "Thank you for continually building a life full of creativity and love. And to our audiences, Welcome Back, we hope you enjoy our story!"

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF & ARTISTS

Founder and Artistic Director
Artistic Associate Lucas Daniels Artistic Associate Rhiannon Ragland Chief Diversity Enrichment Officer Lynch R. Travis Donor Services Associate Cyndi Bertsos
Head Stage Technician       Caleb Wimbrow         Production Associate       Sydney Dillen         Production Associate       Eric Hohnke
Production Associate
House Manager
Marketing Communications Specialist Caitlin Cavannaugh Marketing AssociateLexi Teuscher BookkeeperSharon Pedersen
Handyman Jon Bennett Janitorial Services Jon Bennett Playmakers Playwrights Jeffry Chastang • Carey Crim • Jeff Daniels Jeff Duncan • Quinn D. Eli • Rachel Keown • Brian Letscher • Matt Letscher
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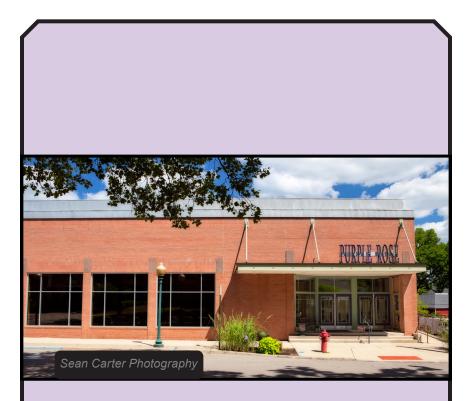
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#### by Jeff Daniels

#### **Additional Program Information**

Assistant Stage Manager	 Mary Toth*
Lighting Programmer	 Phill Hall
News Voiceover	 . Devin Scillian
Organist	 Jim Merte

#### **Understudies**

Understudies never substitute for listed characters unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance.

Wally Wilkins Jr.	Jon Bennett*
Jerry Cornicelli	William Fowle*
Lamar Johnson	Jonathan West*
Bernice Wilkins	Morgan Price
Madge Milbury/additional roles	

\*Member Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

This performance of OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH POLICE CALLED contains moving colored lights that may affect patrons with photosensitive or sensory processing conditions. Viewer discretion is advised.

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#### **Additional Acknowledgments**

Cynthia Avery Chelsea Area Players Jackson Candy & Fudge Factory Waterloo Upholstery



by Jeff Daniels

At this performance, the role of *Wally Wilkins Jr.* will be played by Jon Bennett\*.



JON BENNETT is humbled to be a part of the debut run of, *OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH POLICE CALLED* by Jeff Daniels. Jon has appeared in several Ann Arbor area plays over the years including, Performance Network's productions of *The Clean House*, as Charles; in *Doubt a Parable*, winning a Wilde Award for Best Actor for Father Flynn; in *Sonya Flew*, as Daniel; and in *Burn This*, as Burton. Jon has also appeared as a guest star in several television shows including, "Chicago Fire", "Chicago Med", "In An Instant", "Detroiters", and "Outsiders", and he can be seen presently in the award-winning film, "Thorns". Jon would like to thank Rhiannon Ragland, Lucas Daniels, and Jeff Daniels for this opportunity.

\*Member, Actors' Equity Association



by Jeff Daniels

At this performance, the role of *Jerry Cornicelli* will be played by William Fowle\*.



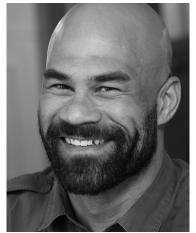
WILLIAM FOWLE is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA and has relocated back-home to Michigan, where he resides in an old school house in Tecumseh, with a couple rescues: "Gigolo"/cat & "Bravo"/dog! The Show Biz "bug" was born early, performing in shows at The Croswell Opera House in Adrian. What followed was a life in NYC, Hollywood and travelling-the-world modeling and performing! Some may recognize "Will" from films: "The Hoax", "Greta" and numerous others. Television: Core/ensemble on the Emmy Award winning "30 Rock" (7 seasons), "Boardwalk Empire"/HBO, "Jimmy Fallon", "Colbert Report" and multiple sketch appearances on "SNL", "L&O's", "Sex and the City" and as Chet McMullen on the long-running soap, "The Guiding Light". Favorite theatre roles include, *OLIVER!* (Sowerberry), *Guys and Dolls* (Sky), *Queen of Bingo* (Father Mac), *Wizard of Oz* (Tinman), and originating the role of Mal Peters in *Lady Swims Today* at The Richmond Shephard Theatre, NYC. "Will" thanks GOD for the opportunity to be part of this PRTC production surrounded by an amazingly talented Staff, Cast & Crew!

\*Member, Actors' Equity Association



by Jeff Daniels

At this performance, the role of *Lamar Johnson* will be played by Jonathan West\*.



JONATHAN WEST (he/him) was last up as 'Carolinensis' in Robert Askins' *The Squirrels*, directed by Julia Glander, at Tipping Point Theatre in Northville, MI and recently debuted with Shakespeare-in-Detroit as 'Prospero' in William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, directed by Sam White at Campus Martius Park, in Detroit, MI. Recent regional work includes performing as 'Spike' in Jeff Daniels' *Pickleball*, directed by Rhiannon Ragland, here at The Purple Rose and performing as 'King Arthur' in Melody Bates' immersive, site-specific *Avalon*, directed by Joan Jubett, on Deer Isle in Maine. He was most recently on film in Detroit, MI for Victoria Rowell's "Catfish Christmas" and in Grand Rapids, MI for Geert Heetebrij's "The Manifestation." Having provided voice work for the "Film Reroll" and "Chilling Tales for Dark Nights" podcasts, Jonathan has also worked with Ozone Music and Sound on various commercial and video game productions. He is the Company Manager for The Players at the University of Michigan's Center for Research on Learning and Teaching and lives with his family in South-Eastern Michigan.

\*Member, Actors' Equity Association



by Jeff Daniels

At this performance, the role of *Bernice Wilkins* will be played by Morgan Price.



MORGAN PRICE is thrilled to be understudying the role of BERNICE in OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH POLICE CALLED by Jeff Daniels. Originally from Northville, Michigan, she received her BFA in acting from Syracuse University, and studied classical theatre at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Her past credits include, OFF-OFF BROADWAY *Macbeth* (BANK STREET THEATER) and *Crave* (ACCESS THEATER). In her free time Morgan loves to write and produce short films with friends and collaborators and is a burgeoning metalsmith. She'd like to thank her amazing parents Andrew and Jennifer Price, her Papa and Mimi, George and Karen Davis, and her cat Fluffy for their immense support and love.



by Jeff Daniels

At this performance, the role of *Madge Milbury/additional roles* will be played by Maria Ru-djen\*.



MARIA RU-DJEN is a very proud member of Team Understudy and is delighted to be working with The Purple Rose for her seventh production. Beginning with *Mornings at Seven* in 2016, Maria has understudied for *Vino Veritas, All My Sons, Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine, A Jukebox for The Algonquin,* and *What Springs Forth.* She has been an appreciative participant in Box Fest Detroit, and in the Snapshots Storytelling events sponsored by PencilPoint Theatre. Recently, she played Mama in the Lakeside Theatre's production of *I Remember Mama* in Toledo and was also in their inaugural production of *The Heiress.* Many, many thanks to the entire production team and staff at the Rose, and to her family for their unending support.

\*Member, Actors' Equity Association





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\*designates past Board Chairpersons; \*deceased

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From the beginning, The Purple Rose Theatre Company has aspired to be the beacon of American theatre. Founded in 1991 by Jeff Daniels, our mission has been to develop opportunities for theatre professionals while entertaining, enriching and building a loyal following. Audience commitment to the company has resulted in a fiscally solvent and highly respected arts and community partnership.

The PRTC envisions an even brighter future with increased national visibility and enriched economic and artistic health. Well-established and critically acclaimed, The Purple Rose Theatre Company will continue to be the home of world-class, original American theatre.

The Purple Rose Theatre Company is a member of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber, Arts Alliance, Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce, Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce, Culture Source, Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce, Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce, and Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.

Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production.

AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Purple Rose Theatre Company is taking actionable steps to provide and increase opportunities for marginalized artists and theatre makers. We are working with our staff, artists and patrons to create, live, and behave in ways that will respect and represent the wide diversity of souls who call the Midwest home.

The Purple Rose Theatre cares about the well-being of our artists, staff, patrons, and volunteers and is committed to diversity, inclusion, equity, and anti-racism. We can do more. And we are.

We are committed to leading with positive action and want everyone committed to our organization to join us.

Visit www.purplerosetheatre.org/dei/ for more information.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

#### THEATRE USHERS

As a non-profit theatre, we rely on the generosity of others to help us carry out our efforts. The Purple Rose welcomes volunteer ushers throughout the season. This is a wonderful way to help the theatre and also see a show for free!

Please call the Box Office at 734.433.7673 or email Tickets@PurpleRoseTheatre.org and we will send you our Volunteer Usher Inquiry Form.

# A SPOTLIGHT ON DEVELOPMENT THE PURPLE ROSE GANG



The Purple Rose Gang is our multi-year giving club at the PRTC. This special "Gang" is comprised of donors who have made a minimum three-year pledge of \$10,000/year.

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#### YOUR GIFTS AT WORK!

≥ ------ €

\$100 a playwright fee for one workshop
\$250 special effects for a single show
\$500 cost for set, prop or costume maintenance for a play
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\$10,000+ Purple Rose Gang sustainers

Annual donations of \$250+ qualify for Priority Booking, where donors can purchase tickets two weeks before the general public.

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# Thank You For Your Support!

Annual Gifts/Pledges reflected below were received between: August 19, 2023 - August 19, 2024

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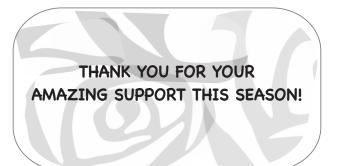
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To reserve program ad space in our 2024-2025 season playbills, please send an email to our Marketing Associate, Lexi Teuscher at lexi@purplerosetheatre.org.

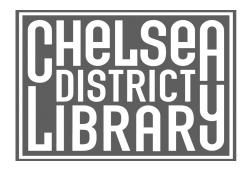
Visit www.purplerosetheatre.org/2024-25/ for complete season production information.

Program Advertising Deadline For Winter Production--- Dec. 23, 2024

#### Fourteen Funerals a Michigan Premiere by Eric Pfeffinger

Ad Size	3 Show	2 Show	1 Show
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<b>Inside Covers</b>	<b>\$4275</b>	<b>\$3050</b>	\$1575
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## LIBRARY READINGS



The Purple Rose has a long standing partnership with the Chelsea District Library. Together we share live play readings by established and rising playwrights, to promote and develop new work for our stage and theatre communities as far as our Zoom webinar can reach. Our play readings have connected us with people all across the United States, from Chicago and New York, to Los Angeles and the US Virgin Islands. During our September 10, 2022 play reading, we had international attendance from west Africa, more specifically, Nigeria.

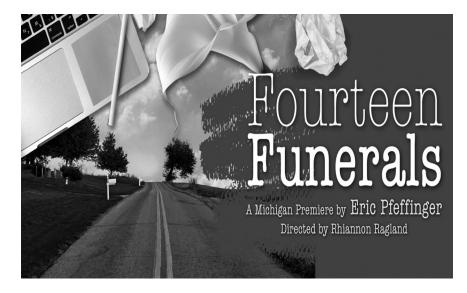
Play readings are free to all and take place on Saturday mornings at 10:30am, EST. Virtual attendees are able to view a live play reading and offer feedback in a group chat with the cast, director and playwright.

To join us, visit our website at PurpleRoseTheatre.org or go to ChelseaDistrictLibrary.org for more information and how to register.

Upcoming Play Readings via Zoom: Saturdays at 10:30am EST

November 2 | January 11 | March 1

## UP NEXT



#### Fourteen Funerals A Michigan Premiere by Eric Pfeffinger February 6 - March 9, 2025

It's weird when city girl Sienna gets a cryptic phone call about the untimely deaths of some distant family members in small-town Blissfield, Indiana. Weirder yet is the way they expect her to deliver eulogies for relatives she's never met. But weirdest of all: Sienna goes there. Maybe she's hoping for a big inheritance. Maybe she just really needs to get away from her dead-end life in Chicago. But what she never expected was the tumultuous and rewarding relationship that she develops with Millie, the peculiarly sunny employee of the Blissfield funeral home.

\*Contains adult language and subject matter.

Group Sales Begin: Tues. July 2, 2024 Donor Sales Begin: Tues. July 30, 2024 General Sales Begin: Tues. Aug. 13, 2024

# PATRON INFORMATION

#### Contact

Address: 137 Park Street Chelsea, MI 48118

#### Box Office: 734.433.7673

tickets@purplerosetheatre.org Administration: 734.433.7782 info@purplerosetheatre.org Fax: 734.475.0802

#### **Box Office Hours:**

Monday thru Friday: 1:00 РМ - 6:00 РМ

#### **Box Office Performance Hours:**

 Monday
 CLOSED

 Tues. & Wed.
 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

 Thurs. & Fri.
 1:00 PM - 9:30 PM

 Saturday
 1:00 PM - 9:30 PM

 Sunday
 12 Noon - 5:00 PM

#### **Performance Times**

Wednesday at 3:00 PM Thursday at 3:00 PM & 7:30 PM Friday at 8:00 PM Saturday at 3:00 PM & 8:00 PM Sunday at 2:00 PM

Visit PurpleRoseTheatre.org for complete schedules and added performance dates.

#### Tickets

Photo ID must be presented at the box office to see the show.

Tickets may be purchased by phone or online at PurpleRoseTheatre.org with Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

Full payment is due at time of reservation. Patrons may exchange or cancel tickets up to 24 hours prior to performance without penalty. Web and phone sales fees are nonrefundable.

Group reservations for 12 or more are available at a discount of \$6 per ticket. Tickets must be pre-paid three weeks prior to performance.

#### **Gift Cards**

Gift Cards are available in any amount! See the Box Office for more details.

#### Accessibility

The PRTC complies with all current ADA Standards. Assisted listening devices and large print programs are available upon request at our Box Office for all performances.

#### Hearing Loop Technology-Switch Hearing Aid to T-Coil

Activate the telecoil (t-coil) in your hearing device to hear sound with less background noise -- directly into your device. If you do not have a t-coil enabled device, request a headset and receiver at our Box Office.

#### Refreshments

Please do not bring anything to eat or drink into the theatre.

#### No Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted inside the building.

#### **Cameras and Recording Devices**

The making of photographs and/or recordings is strictly prohibited inside the theatre.

#### **Electronic Devices**

During performances, please turn off or silence cellular phones, watch alarms and other electronic devices.

#### **Babes-in-arms**

Out of consideration for our patrons and performers, babes-in-arms are not allowed in our theatre during performances.

#### **Complimentary Cough Tablets**

These are available at the Box Office. To avoid performance distractions, please unwrap them prior to the performance, at intermission or during the break between scenes.

#### **Please Remain Seated**

Actors may be using the aisles for entrances and exits during the show.

#### Late Seating

Once the performance has begun, seating is at the discretion of the House Manager.

# **RICK TAYLOR**

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#### Proud Sponsor of Purple Rose for Over 20 Years

I am deeply committed to supporting the Arts, and for the past 20 years, I have proudly championed the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea. The impact of this esteemed institution extends far beyond its stage, as it serves as a cultural cornerstone enriching our community. Each year, the Purple Rose Theatre contributes millions of dollars to the local economy, a testament to its significance in making Chelsea a vibrant and desirable place to live. I am honored to have played a small role in fostering the growth and success of this remarkable organization, and I remain dedicated to ensuring its continued prosperity for years to come.



RICK TAYLOR REALTOR® 734-223-5656 www.RickTaylorRealEstate.com



Sean Carter Photography Kristin Shields & Kate Thomsen

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