



The Purple Rose Theatre Company
137 Park Street
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September 20, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PURPLE ROSE THEATRE COMPANY OPENS 05 / 06 SEASON WITH AMERICAN CLASSIC
*Associate Artist Makes Professional Directing Debut With **The Glass Menagerie***

The Purple Rose Theatre Company's 2005 - 2006 season opens with the "purple" version of the powerful American classic **The Glass Menagerie** by Tennessee Williams. The fall production will run from Thursday, October 20 through Saturday, December 17, 2005.

Seven previews of **The Glass Menagerie** will be performed from Thursday, October 20, through Thursday, October 27, with Press Opening Night on Friday, October 28, 2005. Regular performances for the duration of the engagement are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00 PM with Saturday matinees at 3:00 PM and Sunday matinees at 2:00 PM. (*Editor's Note: Please find a daily performance calendar, including ticket prices and added performance dates, on page 3*). All performances are held at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park Street, Chelsea, Michigan.

As revealed in the opening lines of the play, **The Glass Menagerie** is told through the memory of Tom Wingfield, a restless soul trapped in a stifling factory job as the reluctant breadwinner for a family abandoned by his father. His mother Amanda, once a grand Southern socialite, struggles to regain her former glory through her children, while her painfully shy daughter Laura retreats from the world's harsh realities into her collection of little glass animals. The arrival of a "gentleman caller" could be a sign of hope or a disturbance that will shatter their fragile home.

This poetic and complex drama, revered as a masterwork of modern theatre, is Tennessee Williams' most autobiographical work and one of his greatest plays. **The Glass Menagerie** was Williams' first critical success when it opened in Chicago in 1944 and premiered on Broadway in 1945. Following its Broadway premiere, the play won the New York Drama Critics' Circle and was revived on Broadway in 1965 and again in 1983. In 1950, the film adaptation of **The Glass Menagerie**, starring Jane Wyman and Kirk Douglas, received the New York Film Critics' Circle Award despite the playwright's dissatisfaction with the screenplay's departure from the original script.

Making her professional directing debut with **The Glass Menagerie** is PRTC Associate Artist Michelle DiDomenico. "Michelle is more than ready to take this next step in her theatrical career," PRTC Artistic Director Guy Sanville comments. "She is what the Purple Rose is all about, developing talent. She started here as an apprentice, then became one of our top stage managers. She is a

(Glass)

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fine actor, a talented designer and a strong leader. We are thrilled to have her make her professional directing debut at the Purple Rose.”

The cast of **The Glass Menagerie** features Tom Whalen (**The Good Doctor**) as Tom Wingfield, Michelle Mountain (**Norma & Wanda**) as Amanda, Molly Thomas (**Bus Stop**) as Laura and Ryan Carlson (**Duck Hunter Shoots Angel**) as The Gentleman Caller. (*Editors' Note: Cast biographies or interviews are available for hometown stories by calling 734.433.PRTC*).

This production of **The Glass Menagerie** includes set design by Dennis G. Crawley, lighting design by Reid G. Johnson, costume design by Darcy Elora Hofer, prop design by Danna Segrest and sound design by Quintessa Gallinat. The stage manager is Amy Hickman, with Brian Papendick as Assistant Stage Manager.

The Glass Menagerie is generously underwritten by Joseph and Peggy Sullivan.

Ticket reservations can be made by calling The Purple Rose Theatre Company Box Office at 734-433-ROSE (7673). The PRTC Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

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Meet the Playwright Tennessee Williams

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) was one of America's most prolific and important playwrights. His prodigious output included **The Glass Menagerie** (NY Drama Critics Award 1944), **A Streetcar**

Named Desire (NY Drama Critics Award, Pulitzer Prize 1947), **Summer And Smoke** (1948), **The Rose Tattoo** (1951), **Camino Real** (1953), **Cat On A Hot Tin Roof** (NY Drama Critics Award, Pulitzer Prize 1955), **Orpheus Descending** (1957), **Sweet Bird Of Youth** (1959), **Night Of The Iguana** (1961), **The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore** (1963), **Out Cry** (1973), **Vieux Carre** (1977), **A Lovely Sunday For Creve Coeur** (1979), and **Something Cloudy, Something Clear** (1981). **Not About Nightingales** (1947) was produced at the Royal National Theatre in London and at the Alley Theatre in Houston in 1998 with great success.

courtesy of Dramatists Play Service



Meet the Director Michelle DiDomenico

Michelle DiDomenico is honored to have this opportunity to make her professional directing debut with The Purple Rose Theatre Company. Michelle served as the stage manager for **Let It Be, Stand,**

Blithe Spirit, Leaving Iowa, Duck Hunter Shoots Angel, and **And the Winner Is** and the assistant stage manager for **Months On End, Born Yesterday, Across The Way, Hope for Corky,** and **The Good Doctor** for the PRTC. She also stage managed **She Loves Me** at The Performance Network and **Duck Hunter Shoots Angel** at City Theatre in Detroit. She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and the PRTC Apprentice Program. Michelle would especially like to thank Jeff and Guy for giving her this chance. She would also like to thank her family, friends, Amy, Callie, Sandy, Michelle, Katie, Tessa and especially Tommy for their constant love and support. Michelle would like to dedicate this show to Mark. “Keep Believing, Keep Pretending.”

The Glass Menagerie



"I am the opposite of a stage magician.

He gives you illusion that has the appearance of truth. I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion."

Added Performances

Wednesday Matinees

3:00 PM \$25.00
November 9
November 30
December 14

Friday Matinee
3:00 PM \$25.00
November 30

No performance Thanksgiving Day

PREVIEW PERFORMANCES

Thursday, October 20	8:00 PM	\$20.00	
Friday, October 21	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Saturday, October 22	3:00 PM	\$20.00	
Saturday, October 22	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Sunday, October 23	2:00 PM	\$20.00	
(Talk backs following performances listed above)			
Wednesday, October 26	8:00 PM	\$20.00	
Thursday, October 27	8:00 PM	\$20.00	

REGULAR PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, October 28	8:00 PM	\$35.00	Press Opening Night
Saturday, October 29	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, October 29	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Sunday, October 30	2:00 PM	\$30.00	
Wednesday, November 2	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Thursday, November 3	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Friday, November 4	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Saturday, November 5	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, November 5	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Sunday, November 6	2:00 PM	\$30.00	
Wednesday, November 9	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Thursday, November 10	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Friday, November 11	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Saturday, November 12	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, November 12	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Sunday, November 13	2:00 PM	\$30.00	
Wednesday, November 16	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Thursday, November 17	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Friday, November 18	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Saturday, November 19	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, November 19	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Sunday, November 20	2:00 PM	\$30.00	
Wednesday, November 23	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Thursday, November 24	CANCELLED		Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 25	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Saturday, November 26	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, November 26	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Sunday, November 27	2:00 PM	\$30.00	
Wednesday, November 30	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Thursday, December 1	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Friday, December 2	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Saturday, December 3	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, December 3	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Sunday, December 4	2:00 PM	\$30.00	
Wednesday, December 7	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Thursday, December 8	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Friday, December 9	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Saturday, December 10	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, December 10	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Sunday, December 11	2:00 PM	\$30.00	
Wednesday, December 14	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Thursday, December 15	8:00 PM	\$25.00	
Friday, December 16	8:00 PM	\$35.00	
Saturday, December 17	3:00 PM	\$30.00	
Saturday, December 17	8:00 PM	\$35.00	Closing Night

COMING SOON!



the World Premiere production of

Guest Artist

by Jeff Daniels

Directed by Guy Sanville

January 19 ~ March 18, 2006

From the playwright who brought you
Across The Way, comes a new play about
taking risks and playing it safe.

In his most autobiographical work yet,
Daniels weaves a funny and poignant story about
a young man facing his hero and explores the
relationship between the dreams of youth
and the wisdom of age.

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GIVES

Advance donor sales begin November 21, 2005

General ticket sales begin December 12, 2005

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE A COMPLIMENTARY PRESS PACKAGE

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