

# Jeff Daniels

As an actor, director, and playwright, **Jeff Daniels** is committed to the arts. But unless you've been in the audience of one of his few "unplugged" concerts in Michigan, you probably didn't know that **Jeff Daniels** also sings and plays guitar.

The truth is, **Daniels** has been writing songs & playing guitar for the past 30 years. It began as a hobby and a reason to relax, "*When you're in New York and starving, this (music) is how you fill your day,*" says **Daniels**. Now with over 30 films on his resume and a handful of award-winning theater plays to his credit, **Jeff Daniels** has no problem filling his days.

Early in his career he abandoned Hollywood to return home to Michigan and create a more normal existence for his young family. Today, three kids and 25 years of marriage later, **Daniels'** resume reflects a widened passion for the projects he believes in, one of which is The Purple Rose Theatre.

In 1991 **Daniels** founded the nonprofit equity Purple Rose Theatre in his small hometown of Chelsea. Conceived as a greenhouse for actors, writers and directors, the Purple Rose (named after Woody Allen's 1985 movie "The Purple Rose of Cairo," in which **Daniels** starred) continues to provide a venue for heartland playwrights and actors producing four main stage shows per year – many of which are original plays by Midwestern writers.

A few years back, someone suggested **Daniels** might be able to raise funds for the Purple Rose by going out on stage and singing some of his songs. A reluctant performer at first ("*I make my living as an actor – not an actor who sings*") **Daniels'** initial hesitancy was summed up when he said to a good friend, "*If I put out a CD, there's a very good chance that I'd be compared to William Shatner.*"  
His friend's response: "Sounds like a song to me."

The result: **Daniels'** debut CD, "Live & Unplugged – To Benefit the Purple Rose Theatre." From the first song, "***If William Shatner Can, I Can Too,***" **Jeff Daniels** lets us know no one's having more fun with this than he is. With no shortage of fodder for his writing, "Live & Unplugged" also contains a tribute to his first car and self described "*girl of my dreams*", "**Blue Valiant**"; and the one that surprised us all with its cult like following, the ever so popular Texas love song, "**You Can Drink An Ugly Girl Pretty.**"

The rest of **Daniels'** 68-minute CD includes songs – some funny, some poignant, some patriotic – all slices of life. Performed as someone obviously comfortable with being on stage, celebrity aside "Live & Unplugged" is a winner for the same reason any good songwriter's CD would be: it's musical, funny, honest and true. Each song and story takes a page from (and, in some cases, a jab at) the life and career of **Jeff Daniels**.

And the proceeds from the sales of "Live & Unplugged?"  
Well, they go straight to **Daniels'** beloved Purple Rose Theatre.

It seems if the acting thing doesn't pan out, **Daniels** may just have something to fall back on.