

MOVIES

'Dalmatians' premiere benefits Jeff Daniels' pet project

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Audiences who attend the Friday, Nov. 22 premiere of Disney's "101 Dalmatians" at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty in Ann Arbor will not only see the holiday blockbuster a week before it opens at metro Detroit movie theaters on Nov. 27, they'll also benefit the Purple Rose Theatre Company in Chelsea.

When Daniels agrees to act in a new movie, his contract stipulates that he be given a print for a benefit screening.

Tickets for the Nov. 22 screening are \$250 per person, which includes VIP seating, supper party, and cocktails with Jeff Daniels, call (313) 475-5817.

Doors open 6:30 p.m. with a pre-show featuring Daniels, followed by the film at 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating tickets at \$45 and \$30 per person are also available for the Nov. 22 screening, call (313) 475-7902, (313) 994-8031, or Ticketmaster (810) 645-6666.

Daniels will introduce a special children's matinee 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. The film begins at 2 p.m. Tickets for the matinee are \$10 per person. Call (313) 475-7902, (313) 994-8031, or Ticketmaster (810) 645-6666.

"101 Dalmatians" will be Daniels' fifth film benefit, and the second at Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, which just weeks ago premiered "Fly Away Home." The others — "The Butcher's

Wife," "Gettysburg," and "Dumb and Dumber" — have been at the Fox Theatre in Detroit.

Daniels, who lives in Chelsea, founded the Purple Rose in 1990 to showcase the talents of Michigan actors and playwrights. Daniels has also premiered six of his own plays there including the current "Apartment 3A."

The screenings clear a large part of the Purple Rose's \$300,000 operating budget. The Fox screenings, with 1,700 paying audience members, have earned close to a third of that in a single night.

"101 Dalmatians" is a live-action remake of the 1961 Disney animated feature about a

couple (Daniels and Joely Richardson) trying to keep its puppies out of the clutches of evil Cruella De Vil (Glenn Close). She wants to make them into fur coats.

Daniels doesn't remember seeing "101 Dalmatians" as a kid. "I remember 'Fantasia,' and then I segued into 'Goldfinger,'" he said. "I didn't have the usual Disney movie childhood."

Daniels was apprehensive at first about updating his character from songwriter in the original to video game designer in the

remake. "I've seen it with an audience and it plays great with the kids because it's something they can relate to," he said. "In hindsight it was a good movie."

"101 Dalmatians" was filmed in London, which gave the actor time to write "Apartment 3A."

"On movies you have a lot of down time," said Daniels. "You're sitting there, or you're stuck in a hotel or on the set. You're there at 7 a.m. and there's three hours from 9 a.m. to noon where they're shooting the dogs or something. It's a message to playwrights. If I can find time to write, then so can you."



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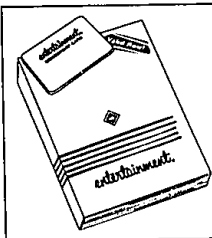
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THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES is a comedy-romance film directed by Barbra Streisand. It stars Streisand and Jeff Bridges. The film is a remake of the 1936 film "The Mirror Has Two Faces" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

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