



## Today's News

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### Daniels Sings Toronto Blues

Michigan refugee Jeff Daniels heads north to the Toronto Film Festival to hawk his latest film and a grassroots CD of ditties such as "Dirty Harry Blues."

By Pam Grady

Jeff Daniels wants you to buy his record. The actor who, after first becoming a star with indelible turns in such films as Jonathan Demme's *Something Wild* and Woody Allen's *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, entrenched himself as an icon to teenage boys everywhere as one of the affable idiots in *Dumb and Dumber*, is in Toronto to promote 25-year-old *X-Men 2* scribe Dan Harris' directorial debut, *Imaginary Heroes*.

Daniels plays the father in a family that includes Sigourney Weaver as his wife and Emile Hirsch and Michelle Williams as their children, all reeling from the suicide of the eldest son. The role intrigued him, he says, because it required him to go through a whole range of emotions. "But there wasn't a lot of dialogue and I wasn't sure how I was going to do that," he adds.

But enough about the movie, pleads the actor; buy the record – really – available via [jeffdaniels.com](http://jeffdaniels.com). As Daniels sees it, the Toronto International Film Festival is a market and he has something to sell.

He believes in the new film enough to drive the 300 miles from his home in Chelsea, Michigan in order to attend the premiere and attend to his promotional duties, but Daniels, who famously abandoned Hollywood to live a more normal existence in his hometown, has a life outside the movies. Part of that is Chelsea's Purple Rose Theatre Company, which Daniels founded, manages and occasionally writes plays for (his latest, *Norma & Wanda*, premieres in January).

One of Daniels' chief duties is fundraising and that's where the new CD, *Jeff Daniels: Live & Unplugged* comes in. He explains, "At the end of December and January, I go out there with my guitar – I've been playing for 25 years and I write these songs. You roll a celebrity out and people buy tickets, and I raise money."

"So we recorded every song at every show, and for the last six months, we've been putting a CD together."

All proceeds from the CD sales, Daniels notes, will go straight into the theater's coffers. "It's fun. The songs are fun. They're original stuff," the good-natured actor promises, adding, "William Shatner's the most famous actor-singer, so I've got this song called "If William Shatner Can, I Can, Too.""

"I rip on Billy Bob and Russell Crowe and Paris Hilton and Adam Sandler and Jennifer Love Hewitt," he continues. "There's a song called "Dirty Harry Blues," which is about shooting *Blood Work* with Clint Eastwood, and it's all about getting shot by Clint and what an honor that is. It's great fun."



Jeff Vespa/Wireimage.com

Actor, singer Daniels

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