

Jeff Daniels

three decades and some 400 songs later, a collection of pointedly funny and pointedly poignant songs



"The man can sing, the man can play the guitar, the man can write a song."

— *Detroit Free Press*

"Daniels' regular-guy attitude and homespun delivery always hit the mark. He's a pretty fair singer, sounding something like Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary) or a younger Tom Paxton. And he certainly knows how to write an entertaining song. He's also a darned good guitarist, whether he was flashing some fancy fingerpicking or slashing through some slide guitar blues."

— *Times Union, Albany, NY*

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When you think of "grassroots" and "down to Earth," you don't normally think of a movie star. You especially don't think of a movie star the caliber of **Jeff Daniels**. Yet that is exactly what **Jeff** has accomplished with his second CD *Grandfather's Hat*.

With the follow-up album to *Live and Unplugged*, **Daniels** has proven that he is not an actor who sings, but an accomplished singer/songwriter whose musical talent does not require the support of his acting. Further proof of his talent is supported by the musicians **Daniels** has performed with over the last couple of years. Although it took him some time to feel comfortable on stage behind his guitar, **Daniels'** confidence has matured with his songwriter, being invited on stage to perform a few songs with legends **Lyle Lovett**, **John Haitt**, and **Guy Clark** during their rare "Songwriters" tour. Having his pal **Keb Mo'** join **Jeff** on stage was equally rewarding (**Jeff** calls it a "free guitar lesson"). From time to time he's also been fortunate to expand his shows to sold out venues outside of the Midwest.

Grandfather's Hat showcases **Daniels'** range as a songwriter, from the laugh-out-loud humor of "Have a Good Life (Then Die)" to the quiet and poignant lyrics of "Middle of the Night." His honest, sincere, and relatable approach to the songs on the CD remind us of our own lives, hopes, and dreams.

A Michigan-native, **Daniels** never forgets his roots. The rowdy rendition of "Detroit Train" with guest artist **Alto Reed**; saxophonist with **Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band**, is a fun, energetic, rock and roll tribute to the city that bares its name. On *Live and Unplugged*, "The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues" was a lament to the team with the second worst season in baseball history. On *Grandfather's Hat*, **Jeff** had the rare opportunity to rewrite the lyrics ("The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues, Revisited") as an ode to the almost-World-Series-Champion team, reinforcing again his love of all things Michigan.

Fans of **Jeff's** popular original stage play and independent feature film *Escanaba in da Moonlight* have eagerly awaited the musical tribute to the subject, and he delivers, with "The Ballad of the Buckless Yooper." Teaming up with the energetic foursome **Step-pin' In It**, he spins the folk tale of **Ruben Soady**, the only man in Michigan's Upper Peninsula never to bag a buck.

Grandfather's Hat is an evolution of a career in motion. What started out as a means of raising money for the equity theatre he founded (The Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan) has become a back road journey that taps into the storyteller's head. But now it has a melody, as well as a story to tell. And if you happen to find your foot tapping along, then that would be just fine.



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