



**Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre**  
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*Photos: Oakes Center at 120 Morris Avenue in Summit, NJ (credit: Steve McIntyre)*

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**For Immediate Release**

## **DREAMCATCHER FINDS A NEW HOME AT THE OAKES CENTER IN SUMMIT**

DREAMCATCHER REPERTORY THEATRE, a seventeen-year-old professional theatre ensemble that for the last nine years has been in residence at the Baird Center in South Orange, will relocate in September 2012 to The Oakes Center in Summit.

Over the last several years, Dreamcatcher's mainstage productions have been filling the 72-seat theatre at The Baird to capacity, and have been chosen by Peter Filichia of The Star-Ledger as among the best in the state. Recently, artistic director Laura Ekstrand and managing director Steve McIntyre, along with the Dreamcatcher board of trustees, decided that to support this exciting growth it was time to search for a slightly larger space. Dreamcatcher's mission is building community with the audience by sharing life-affirming stories in an intimate environment, so any new space would have to allow for this kind of unique experience. After searching extensively in Essex and Union counties, Dreamcatcher has decided to make its new home at The Oakes Center.

"We are so grateful to the Village of South Orange and the staff of The Baird for allowing us to make our home there for the past nine years," said Ekstrand. "Being there has given us the stability to grow stronger and to develop our identity and our audience. We're sad to give up our cozy home there, but look forward to welcoming our friends to Oakes in the fall!"

The Oakes Center is a beautifully restored historic building at 120 Morris Avenue in Summit, formerly a church, and owned by the Tiger Baron Foundation of New York. The Foundation's goal is to provide a home for non-profit organizations such as Bridges and Kiwanis, both of whom have offices in the facility. The theatre is currently the home of the Stony Hill Players, a 66-year-old community theatre whose season includes plays, operas and youth productions. Dreamcatcher and Stony Hill will share resources and the theatre, with shows that alternate in the same performance space.





The theatre has seating that will accommodate up to 120 adults, so that Dreamcatcher can expand its audience while still maintaining an intimate connection with those who come to participate in its programs. There is ample free parking in two lots, a spacious lobby and wheelchair access on the side entrance of the building. The Oakes Center is walking distance from both the train and bus from New York City, and easily accessible from The Garden State Parkway, Routes 78 and 24, and JFK Parkway. The Dreamcatcher company believes that this location, only 15-20 minutes away from their former

home, will be convenient and comfortable for both current and new audiences.

Dreamcatcher Board of Trustees President Diane Gallo said, “We hope to deepen our connection with the Summit community—many of our board members and volunteers live in Summit, and we already do several educational and outreach programs there. The move will be an opportunity to solidify those relationships and build new ones.”

Dreamcatcher’s season includes three mainstage productions, a holiday special, improv comedy shows, cabarets, new play readings, outreach performances for young people and seniors, and a Summer Theatre Conservatory for ‘twens and teens. Members of Dreamcatcher’s professional Resident Acting Company include Nicole Callender (West Orange), Clark Carmichael (Montclair), Harry Patrick Christian (Montclair), Laura Ekstrand (Livingston), Noreen Farley (Clinton), Dave Maulbeck (Summit), Scott McGowan (Maplewood), David Miceli (Little Falls), Jessica O’Hara-Baker (New York), Janet Sales (Montclair) and Harriett Trangucci (Summit).

To purchase tickets or for information on any of Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre's programs, visit [www.dreamcatcherrep.org](http://www.dreamcatcherrep.org). Until August 2012, contact Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre at The Baird, 5 Mead Street, South Orange, NJ 07079, 973-378-7754, ext. 2228.

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