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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Mindie Barnett, MB and Associates Public Relations 856.452.5636, office 609.923.1639, cell

Diners Across New Jersey to Host Live Theatre

New Jersey – "Diner Theatre" is taking center stage in the Garden State – debuting on May 20th at Mastoris Diner in Bordentown. The "pop-up" style theatre performances will showcase in three area diners: Mastoris Diner in Bordentown, The Broadway Diner in Summit and The Alley Bar & Grille in Hammonton. At each event, local theatre companies will present mini plays and entertain guests while they enjoy delicious diner cuisine. There is no additional cost to view the performances, but reservations are recommended as the performances will be in designated viewing areas and not available throughout the diner's space.

Coined as the "Diner Capital of the World," New Jersey is famous for its 525 diners, which are scattered all throughout the state. As diners are historically synonymous with American optimism, it was a perfect stage to share some of the state's incredible local talent. "Diners are iconic for people who live in New Jersey," says Robert Carr, Jersey Arts Diner Theatre producer. "It's a community gathering for everyone: families, friends, young and old, similar to a theatre or museum."

In addition to their cherished history, diners were selected as the setting for these performances to attract local neighbors and expose them to the performing arts – specifically those who otherwise may not have the ability to attend. "What we love about Diner Theatre is how it brings the arts to people instead of always trying to bring people to the arts," says Jim Atkinson, Director of Programs & Services at the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation. "ArtPride, along with our partners at the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, is committed to building new audiences and Diner Theatre is just one example of how we work toward that goal. Besides, it's just plain fun – and quintessentially New Jersey – to host live theatre in a diner!"

The performances will consist of a series of mini-plays depicting real life in a comedic and light-hearted form. The full list of performance locations and dates include:

Monday, May 20th 7PM- Mastoris Diner: 144 US 130, Bordentown, NJ 08505

Pegasus Theatre

<u>Entrée</u> by David Lee White, <u>Crisp Sky</u> by Tyler Cramer, <u>Mild Mile Life</u> by Peter Bisgaier and <u>Our</u> <u>Diner</u> by Peter Bisgaier

Tuesday, May 21st 7PM – The Broadway Diner: 55 River Road, Summit, NJ 07901

Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre

<u>What I Wouldn't Tell Anyone</u> by Pandora Scooter, <u>Window of Opportunity</u> by John Augustine and <u>Poof</u> by Chip Bolchik

Wednesday, May 22nd 7PM – The Alley Bar & Grille (Inside DiDonato's Family Fun Center) 1151 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ 08037

Eagle Theatre

<u>The Ask</u> by David Lee White, <u>Nicole and Jane</u> by John Augustine, <u>Entrée</u> by David Lee and <u>Good</u> <u>Comedy</u> by Greg Nanni

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About Discover Jersey Arts

Discover Jersey Arts is a cosponsored project of the <u>New Jersey State Council on the Arts</u> and the <u>ArtPride New Jersey</u> <u>Foundation</u> dedicated to increasing the awareness of and participation in the arts in New Jersey. Its website, <u>JerseyArts.com</u>, features a comprehensive cultural event calendar and arts directory; feature stories, videos and podcasts; details on Jersey Arts Membership, including discounts and exclusive member events; and other content about the state's cultural community.

About the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, created in 1966, is a division of the NJ Department of State. The Council was established to encourage and foster public interest in the arts; enlarge public and private resources devoted to the arts; promote freedom of expression in the arts; and facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey. The Council receives direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated, renewable Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee, as well as competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. To learn more about the Council, please visit <u>www.artscouncil.nj.gov</u>.

About the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation

The ArtPride New Jersey Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization that promotes the value of the arts to New Jersey's quality of life, education and economic vitality through research and a variety of programs and services. For more information about ArtPride, visit <u>ArtPrideNJ.com</u>.