

# New Company Expands Redwood City's Theatre District

Redwood City welcomes the Dragon Production Theatre into the city's already acclaimed theatre district.

Dragons are courageous. They are interesting, magical and embody fantasy.

"All of these qualities coincide with the type of theatre we want to do," said Meredith Hagedorn, the founder of the Dragon Production Theatre Company. "Rare and off the beaten path."

The Dragon Production Theatre Company was established 12 years ago by the theatre's executive artistic director, Meredith Hagedorn. This professional nonprofit live theatre company came to Palo Alto in 2006, but has recently leased 2120 Broadway in Redwood City to expand.

"We have grown our staff, we have grown our audience, and we have maxed out our revenue," said Hagedorn.

This new venue includes a stage that will accompany a 70 person audience, as opposed to the company's current 42 seat theatre in Palo Alto. The new location will also have a rehearsal studio and a classroom.

"Dragon's pretty busy," said Hagedorn. "We use our space a lot."

The Dragon Production Theatre puts on contemporary less known works from well-known playwrights.

"We have a wide variety of shows," said Hagedorn. "There's something for everybody." While the Dragon Theatre appeals to a varied audience, it also holds open auditions for all ages to appeal to a varied cast as well.

"We wanted to provide more theatre for people, and continue to create opportunities," said Hagedorn.

The small theatre provides an intimate viewing experience for the audience.

"It's like a production in your living room, you are a part of it," said Hagedorn. "That's what makes us a little different."

Hagedorn, who has been acting since age 3, recalls an easy transition into producing and teaching because of her background and early exposure to the world of show business. Another easy transition was the production company's move to Redwood City, an already established theatre district.

"We love Redwood City," said Hagedorn. "We're excited to be here."

The Dragon Production Theatre Company hosted a free open house the evening of Sat. July 7 which debuted the theatre company's upcoming 2013 season.

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