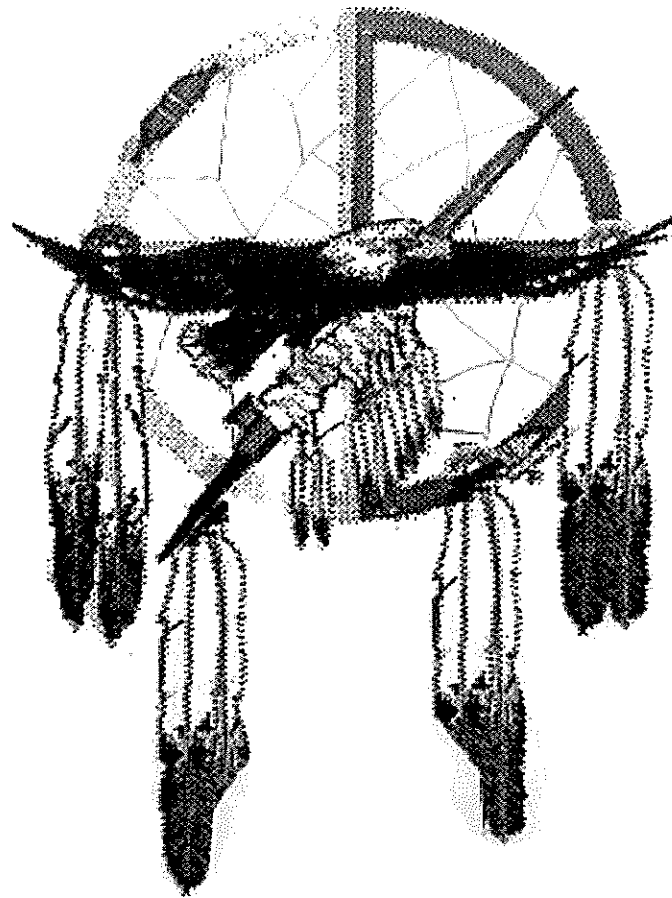


The **DREAM CATCHER**

by Denny Hamann

**An emotion charged musical
about a boy and his search for a dream
in a world that says he has none.**



SYNOPSIS

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SYNOPSIS, DREAM CATCHER

This is a work in progress which may change as new songs and ideas are added.

Act 1

Musical opens with the dream catcher (An Indian Shaman, wearing full Indian head dress & feather train) entering the theater as the **"Overture"** begins. The actors rise from the audience, responding to the indian flute, as a Pied Piper, taking their places on stage to play the roles of their life. Hank (A freshman medical student) is greeted by Charlie (bartender) and cast, singing **"Welcome"**. Jo (a promiscuous i.v. drug user and owner of a Georgia country western bar), enters and sings **"Honkey Tonk Woman"**, dancing with the medical students who frequent her bar. Gilly (a 7 year old boy) awakens to meet The Dream Catcher in his bedroom who sings **"The Dream Catcher"**. Gilly talks about his nightmares and is given his own Dream Catcher to soothe his fears and catch the nightmares in its web. Gilly calls his mother to share this new vision with her. She berates him for his childhood nonsense, destroys his Dream Catcher, and returns to the bar.

Brett, a medical resident laments his long ago affair with Jo when she stole his "virginity" as a college freshman. He shows the old undershorts he wears, a gift from Jo, and sings **"These Are The Shorts That Bind Me."** Jo laughs at Brett's unrequited love, singing her seductive **"These Are The Shorts That Bind Me"**, asking who else has undershorts from Jo. The men drop their pants revealing their shorts, a gift from Jo, as they join the chorus. Gilly watches his mother flirt, with the men. Brenda, a nurse, sings **"Ev'rybody Texas Two Step"**, as the cast learns and dances the two step. Jo grabs Hank, a medical student, to dance and seduce. She shoos Gilly off to bed, wanting to party with the students, singing, **"Chug -A-Lugga"**. She angrily grabs a pipe from a freshman who wants to get high, saying "That's the only thing I have from Daddy. He ran off with that drunken whore he met in a bar, leaving me when I was only 8 years old. My Daddy loved me. Why did he have to leave me . .for her?"

Gilly returns crying about the monsters in his dark room. The angry Jo abuses Gilly because he interrupted her love making. Disturbed by her angry behavior, the others leave the bar, leaving Gilly alone with his mother. Gilly standing unwanted and alone at one end of the bar sings **"Does Anybody Want Me?"** Jo, lost in her own world stands at the other end of the bar and also sings **"Does Anybody Want Me?"** The two voices echo in a touching duet. Each looking for love, and someone to want them.

Scene two (next day)

Brett befriends Gilly, visiting him in the bar. Brett discovers Gilly has no dreams. Jo has convinced him no one has a future. Brett believes dreams are the most important thing in life, and sings, **"You've Gotta' Have A Dream"**, and gives Gilly a new Dream Catcher that Brett made to catch the nightmares. Gilly's does have one dream. To find his unknown Dad, and sings **"All Of My Life"**, a song about this unknown father. Jo, in her bedroom, lighting the pipe, gets high and sings **"All Of Jo's Life"**, about her lost father.

Scene 3 (next week)

Hank confides in Brett that he is gay and has the AIDS virus. Terrified, Brett removes himself as Hanks' Medical "big brother". Angry, Hank sings "**Damned You, Anyhow**". Brett responds in a duet, singing "**I'm A Doctor**", rejecting Hank's plea for help.

Scene 4

Brett expresses his fondness for Gilly, chastising Jo for not being a better mother, for being an alcoholic and drug user. "If he were my child, I'd love him and care for him." "But, *he is your child*" Jo tells him. "The night you lost your virginity was the night Gilly was conceived. You want him? Take him, he's yours". Shocked and surprised, Brett sings "**My Son!**", reflecting his thoughts and fears of Fatherhood as the Dream Catcher appears. He commits himself to being a Father. Jo adds, "One more thing you should know. Your son is H.I.V. You want to have a kid with *AIDS*?"

They fight over an unwanted pregnancy, an unknown son, and Brett's fears that he may have contracted the virus from his unsafe sexual practices with Jo, blaming her for his not using a rubber. Frightened, Brett sings the dissonant, "**My Son, AIDS???**", and recommits to being a father. Brett and Gilly approach one another and sing the duets of **All Of My Life** and "**My Son!**", meeting center stage in a joyous celebration.

Act 2 Scene 1 (Christmas at the Mall)

Brett and Gilly are at the mall, awaiting Santa's arrival. Unable to see over the crowd, Brett carries Gilly on his shoulders for a better view. Gilly sings "**When Santa Claus Comes**". Drunk and hiding in the crowd drunk, Jo is touched by the scene and sings "**Child Of Mine**", reflecting her own love and pain. The Dreamcatcher appears, offering Jo the dream of Brett's love and a family. Her father appears, telling her not to abandon her son and warns Jo of the tragic end she will face, dying as he died. Alone, overdosed on drugs. She rejects the dream for her new drinking partner. Santa, seeing Gilly, invites him to sit on his lap. Gilly asks for his own Drum Major Hat and Baton to lead the marching band at half-time for the Green Bay Packers. When Santa asks, "What else?" Gilly replies "To be cured of AIDS". The shocked Santa pushes Gilly from his lap, saying, "You shouldn't be here on Santa's lap, little boy." Brett and Santa have a loud argument, exposing Gilly and his illness to the crowd, which disappears leaving Brett and Gilly alone. Gilly laments his future and Brett sings a reprise of "**You Gotta Have A Dream**".

Scene 2 (Collage of Offices for Help)

Brett seeks help from 5 groups for Gilly singing "**Help Me**". First asking "the church" who rejects on sin and moral grounds. Then the "Medical Establishment", who rejects on fear and ignorance. Then his family, rejects. Then "Social Security" who rejects because his i's and t's are not crossed properly. A Verde style quintet. Shocked, the last person he asks is the local AIDS task force, who's leader is Hank, who gives Brett help and support.

Scene 3 (That Night in Gilly's Bedroom)

Brett and Gilly sing their evening prayer "**Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep**", a moving duet between father and son. Gilly falls asleep as the monsters appear pulling him from his bed, threatening his life as they sing "**Horsemen of Apocalypse**". Jo, having her worst

The Dream Catcher appears, waving his web, chasing the monsters away. The frightened Gilly awakes, fearing the darkness as Brett sings, "**You Gotta Have A Dream**" and reminds Gilly of the power of "The Dream Catcher" above his bed. (lights fade).

Scene 4

Jo awakens, looking into the mirror, now sees the bottom of her life and sings, "**Dark Night Of The Soul**", crying and asking the Universe for help. Feeling unwanted, she methodically prepares to end her life with a drug overdose and sings, "**Does Anybody Want Me**". The Dream Catcher appears. "I do. I've always wanted you. I hold the finest dream you'll ever have. Come join me." Jo leaves with The Dream Catcher.

Scene 5 (*Christmas Eve*)

Hearing bells, Santa enters along with the cast. Gilly on I.V.'s, easily recognizes Hank as Santa and laments Santa as a fraud and no band to lead. Brenda shares the importance of Santa, Gilly's dream and the extended loving family he now has and sings, "**Family**". Gilly opens his presents finding the Drum Major's Hat and Baton. Brenda explains that life is a parade, and placing the hat on Gilly's head sings "**Hep, Hep Hooray!**" Gilly begins to believe the truth in the song as members of the cast join in the singing and all march around the room as the transformed Gilly leads his parade, pulling his I.V. stand.

Scene 6 (*Spring*)

Seriously ill, Gilly is in bed, hooked up to I.V.'s. The cast surrounds his bed. Gilly asks questions about God, life and death. Jo, now in recovery, returns to Gilly, expressing her remorse as a failed mother and wants to make amends to those she's harmed and be the mom Gilly never had. Gilly's dream is now complete. He now has a Mom, Dad, a family.

The Dream Catcher appears to Gilly, Brett and Jo, saying, "Come to me Gilly. For the greatest dream ever". As Gilly rides on the shoulders of The Dream Catcher leaving the theater, he calls back, "Mom! Dad! You otta' see this. You won't believe what I can see from up here. This is cool! This is the best dream ever!" Saddened at their loss, Brett and Jo sing "**When It Gets Dark Enough**" as Brenda frantically works to revive Gilly.

Gilly looks back and asks, "What's going on". "Your heart has stopped", replies the Dreamcatcher. Gilly wants to return and runs down the center aisle of the theater calling, "Mom! Dad! Wait. I'm coming back", as Brenda cries out. "We've got him. We've got Gilly back". The Dream Catcher reappears, saying, "There is much more to Gilly's dream than any of you will ever comprehend." He gives Brett a "Dream Catcher", saying "This will catch the best dream you will ever have." Brett asks, "What Dream?" The Dream catcher responds, "The cure. You now hold the cure. It is now within your hands." Brett laments, saying, "But, I'm only one". The Dream catcher replies, "But, you are one. Every dream begins with one." He touches Jo and the cast members, and to the audience, "Each one of you is a one. Together, you are much more than any one of you could ever be alone. Together, you hold the dream in your hands. Follow the dream Believe in it. Live your dream" The Dream Catcher sings "**The Dream's In Your Hands**". Gilly puts on his hat and begins "**Hep, Hep Hoo-ray**", and is joined by the cast and crew to sing "**The Finale**".

End Of Musical