



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BRECKENRIDGE CREATIVE ARTS ANNOUNCES THE INAUGURAL BRECKENRIDGE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS**

**Multi-arts celebration debuts August 14–23, 2015**

**Highlights include The Blue Trees, Ira Glass, Australia’s The Fruits, ETHEL, Los Lobos, VOLO by Diavolo, Benoît Charest + Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville, Michael Ward-Bergeman + Groanbox, ARTCRANK BRK, Austin Bike Zoo, and more**

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (May 1, 2015) – Breckenridge Creative Arts is proud to announce the inaugural **Breckenridge International Festival of Arts (BIFA)**, a celebration of adventure, play and creativity, which runs **August 14–23, 2015**. From public radio icons and Chicano rock legends to acrobats on poles and blue-colored trees, BIFA offers an exhilarating program of extraordinary events in spectacular places and spaces across Breckenridge, Colorado.

“We are thrilled to introduce BIFA, one of the newest multidisciplinary arts festivals in the U.S.,” said Robb Woulfe, President and CEO of Breckenridge Creative Arts, the festival’s producer. “Our debut season offers an exciting lineup of local, national and global talent, including a number of Colorado premieres and Breckenridge exclusives. We look forward to BIFA becoming a significant addition to the state’s festival landscape and a premier destination event.”

Inspired by themes of environment and mountain culture, the 10-day festival brings together a variety of performances, exhibitions, screenings, workshops, talks and surprise collaborations, with an eclectic mix of music, dance, film, visual arts, open-air spectacle and family entertainment. Dozens of scheduled events, indoors and outdoors, ticketed and free, will be showcased at venues and sites throughout town.

Tickets for festival events go on sale on **Monday, June 1** and may be purchased in person at the Riverwalk Center Ticket Office at 150 W. Adams Avenue, by phone at (970) 547-3100, or online at [breckcreate.org](http://breckcreate.org).

Featured BIFA artists and projects include: a temporary public art installation about global deforestation entitled **“The Blue Trees” by Konstantin Dimopoulos**; famed NPR host **Ira Glass** in **“Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass”**; Australian aerial performance troupe **The Fruits in “Swoon”**; avant-chamber quartet **ETHEL** and their nature-themed multimedia concert **“Documerica”**; East L.A.-bred rockers **Los Lobos**; the gravity-defying choreography and extreme-sport dance of **VOLO by Diavolo**; and a screening of the animated cult classic **“The Triplets of Belleville”** with live musical accompaniment by **Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville** and composer **Benoît Charest**.

Additional festival highlights include hyper-accordionist **Michael Ward-Bergeman** and his roots trio **Groanbox** onstage with the **Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra**; mixed-media installation artist **Julie Hughes**; environmental sculptors **Steuart Bremner** and **Terry Talty**; and a variety of local and regional artists of various disciplines and mediums.

As Breckenridge is a host city for the 2015 USA Pro Challenge, which rolls through town during the final week of BIFA, the festival will also present **ARTCRANK BRK**, an exhibit featuring hand-made, bicycle-themed posters created by local artists and Colorado-based designers. Also in support of the cycling culture, the festival will present the bike-powered creatures of **Austin Bike Zoo**, a Texas collective that combines the beauty and strength of human movement with the artistry and theater of puppets.

In addition to the core events listed above, BIFA will feature a number of free outdoor musical performances on the new Breckenridge Arts District campus as well as a program entitled **Trail Mix**, which combines hiking, biking, music and art along the trails of Breckenridge through “pop-up” concerts and environmental installations.

Recognized as one of the top mountain resort destinations in the world, Breckenridge is a beautiful and historic Colorado town that attracts over a million visitors yearly. Nestled in the heart of the Central Rocky Mountains, the town offers year-round activities to please outdoor enthusiasts, vacationing families and cultural travelers. As an umbrella organization that promotes arts, culture and creative experiences, Breckenridge Creative Arts is responsible for the successful management of a series of programs, properties, and partnerships that collectively animate and populate a cultural corridor in the heart of downtown Breckenridge. From quality performing and visual arts to the development of one of the region’s newest arts districts, Breckenridge Creative Arts is a transformative force for Breckenridge and the greater Summit County community.

The Breckenridge International Festival of Arts is made possible with the support from the Town of Breckenridge. Media partners for the 2015 festival season include 5280, 5280 Home, and KUNC.

A detailed schedule of featured BIFA events follows. The remainder of the festival’s lineup, including the free musical entertainment and workshop schedule at the Arts District along with other supporting events, will be announced in early June. For the most up to date information, please visit: [breckcreate.org/bifa](http://breckcreate.org/bifa).

**For detailed information on specific attractions, please visit these links:**

<http://www.kondimopoulos.com/thebluetrees/about/>

<http://www.strangefruit.net.au/>

<http://artcrank.com/>

<http://www.ethelcentral.org/experience/documerica/>

<http://www.diavolo.org/>

<http://www.groanboxboys.com/>

<http://www.dartists.com/TheTripletsOfBelleville>

**Featured BIFA Artists + Projects (asterisk denotes a Colorado premiere)**

**The Blue Trees by Konstantin Dimopoulos\***

**Aug 14–Sep 14, On View Daily**

**Blue River Plaza & Tiger Dredge Lot**

**FREE**

The Blue Trees is a project by New Zealand-born artist Konstantin Dimopoulos, which brings environmental consciousness and social action together in a uniquely beautiful and captivating installation. In this internationally renowned event, a series of trees are colored with a water-based, environmentally safe, blue pigment, transforming the trees into sculpture. What was once taken for granted and unseen suddenly comes to the forefront of our attention and is the impetus for dialogue about global deforestation and its impact on world ecology, and how we individually and collectively shape the natural world around us. An ephemeral work, the striking ultramarine trees will gradually revert back to their natural state over a four-week period.

During Dimopoulos' visit to Breckenridge from August 10–16, the artist will engage in free public discussions about the importance of trees to the ecosystem. The week will culminate with Dimopoulos and a team of community volunteers coloring trees at several sites in downtown Breckenridge; in the Blue River Plaza, just off Washington and Main Street, up through the Tiger Dredge Lot, immediately next to the Riverwalk Center.

The Blue Trees is ultimately a worldwide effort. The Breckenridge installation extends and reinterprets the original project launched in 2011 at the Vancouver Biennale.

**Australia's The Fruits**

**Aug 13–16, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm**

**Riverwalk Center Lawn**

**FREE**

Australia's The Fruits is a Melbourne-based, open-air performing arts company that produces and performs a remarkable style of work that fuses theater, dance and circus, using the unique elevated medium of sway poles. Perched atop 15-foot-high flexible poles of original design, the troupe delivers a sublime performance, bending and swaying in the air, captivating, and engaging the audience in absolute fascination.

Since it began, this ingenious company has created an extensive repertoire that appeals to all cultures and ages, and has thrilled audiences in 50 countries at over 450 international festivals. The company will present their signature work Swoon!, a 20-minute performance where four daredevils tell a spectacular story of love, loss, joy, and freedom against a breathtaking backdrop of the Ten Mile Range of the Rocky Mountains.

*\*Denotes a Colorado premiere at BIFA.*

**Abound by Julie Hughes\***  
**Aug 14–23, On View Daily**  
**Old Masonic Hall**  
**FREE**

Abound is an installation by San Francisco Bay Area artist, Julie Hughes. For this work, Hughes constructs a “forest” of cast paper tree skins and adorns them with handmade decorative forms, evocative of swarms.

Hughes’ work reflects on the fragile and sometimes fraught dynamic of our relationship with nature. Part theater and part blanket fort, her dream-like environments poke at the truth of our being in-the-world; the way we work things out for ourselves, navigate our experiences and construct our own realities.

**Michael Ward-Bergeman and Groanbox\***  
**With the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra**  
**Aug 15, 7:30pm**  
**Riverwalk Center**  
**\$40–\$25**

Groanbox is the trio of accordionist Michael Ward-Bergeman, Canadian percussionist Paul Clifford and Franco-American guitarist and banjo player Cory Seznec. Their music is a melting pot of styles from Nashville to New Orleans, Mali to Romania, anchored by the "Freedom Boot" – a shamanistic six-foot stomping stick carrying bells, nails, rings and over 400 beer bottle tops picked up on their travels.

Joined onstage by the Breckenridge Music Festival as part of an evening of artistic adventure, the always-eclectic Groanbox will mix their deep southern blues with Cajun music, European gypsy reels and woolly mountain folk, performing their unique blend of global roots music on accordion, acoustic guitar, banjo, harmonica and myriad pieces of percussion, including a calabash and yew tree log.

**ETHEL's Documerica\***  
**Aug 16, 7:30pm**  
**Riverwalk Center**  
**\$45–\$25**

Acclaimed nationwide for eclectic programming and virtuoso performances, string quartet ETHEL visits Breckenridge for the Colorado premiere of Documerica, a multimedia performance event and a moving meditation on America’s relationship to our land, our resources and ourselves.

Inspired by the Environmental Protection Agency’s Project Documerica—a massive snapshot of America showcased in an astonishing visual trove of images from the EPA archive captured during the recession-plagued tumultuous 1970s—this piece is a musical meditation accompanied by big sky vistas, ghost towns, mountains and slices of urban environments, capturing America’s complicated relationship to its natural landscape.

Featuring new music by acclaimed composers Mary Ellen Childs, Grammy Award-winning jazz drummer Ulysses Owens, Jr., Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, and blues man James Kimo Williams, ETHEL is also paired with stunning projections by renowned artist Deborah Johnson.

*\*Denotes a Colorado premiere at BIFA.*

**VOLO by Diavolo**  
**Aug 18–19, 7:30pm**  
**Riverwalk Center**  
**\$45–\$25, \$10 Kids**

The thrill and high-risk athleticism of extreme sports meets the grace and beauty of dance when members of Diavolo leap, fly and twirl from surrealistic sets and oversized structures. Led by former Cirque du Soleil choreographer Jacques Heim, this company pushes the limits of contemporary dance with their gravity-defying choreography and heart-stopping aerobatics.

Part sideshow spectacle, part physical dance theater, VOLO features an ensemble of dancers, gymnasts, rock climbers and athletes who create imaginative and innovative works that thrill audiences of all ages.

**ARTCRANK BRK**  
**Aug 19–31, On View Daily**  
**Old Masonic Hall**  
**FREE**

An international pop-up show of bicycle-inspired posters, ARTCRANK makes its Breckenridge debut with a multi-week exhibition celebrating bikes with top local design and illustration talent. The show coincides with USA Pro Challenge's stopover in Breckenridge.

Billed as "A Poster Party for Bike People," ARTCRANK BRK will feature hand-made, bicycle-themed posters created by 25 Colorado artists. Admission to the exhibit is free, and limited edition, signed and numbered copies of all posters will be available for \$40 each. The opening night party on August 19 will also feature local craft beverages, live screen-printing, bike-inspired short films shown on an outdoor screen, DJ music and more.

ARTCRANK made its debut in Minneapolis in 2007 and has held shows in bike-friendly cities in the US, UK and France— including Portland, San Francisco, Denver, London and Paris. From the start, the show's formula has been simple: Throw a party featuring affordable posters designed by talented local artists, celebrating bicycles and the people who ride them.

**Austin Bike Zoo\***  
**Aug 20–21, On View Daily**  
**Various Downtown Locations**  
**FREE**

The Austin Bike Zoo is dedicated to creating human-powered performances that enliven urban green-spaces and celebrate the most energy-efficient mode of transportation ever invented. Featuring larger-than-life creatures powered by pedals, Austin Bike Zoo is a one-of-a-kind blend of puppetry and cycling. Their work was born out of a passion to combine the beauty and strength of human movement with the artistry and theater of puppets, and a dedication to creating interactive works.

Explore the pedal-powered art of the Austin Bike Zoo as they bring their fleet of colorful Monarch butterflies to Breckenridge during BIFA and USA Pro Challenge.

*\*Denotes a Colorado premiere at BIFA.*

**Los Lobos**  
**Aug 21, 7:30pm**  
**Riverwalk Center and Lawn**  
**FREE**

Since 1974, East L.A.'s Los Lobos have been exploring the artistic and commercial possibilities of American biculturalism, moving back and forth between their Chicano roots and their love of American rock and roll. Although the band first gained fame as part of the roots-rock revival in the early 1980s, they did not so much strip music down as mix it up, playing Tex-Mex, country, folk, R&B, blues, and traditional Spanish and Mexican music such as boleros and norteños. Over forty years later, this award-winning band continues to be adored by fans and hailed by critics for their extensive range and enduring influence.

Presented in conjunction with the Breckenridge stage of the USA Pro Challenge.

**Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass**  
**Aug 22, 7:30pm**  
**Riverwalk Center**  
**\$70-\$45**

As the host and producer of NPR's award winning show "This American Life", Ira Glass has reinvented radio, finding drama, poignancy and humor in everyday places. Named by Time magazine in 2001 as the "Best Radio Host in America," Mr. Glass is heard on more than 500 public radio stations each week by over 1.7 million listeners. Glass will explore the art of storytelling and offer humorous slices of real life, culled from public radio's most original program.

Premium seats include a pre-show meet-and-greet with special guest Ira Glass.

**The Triplets of Belleville\***  
**Featuring Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville and composer Benoît Charest**  
**Aug 23, 7:30pm**  
**Riverwalk Center**  
**\$45-\$25, \$10 Kids**

Kidnapped by mysterious, square-shouldered henchmen, a Tour de France cyclist named Champion is spirited across the ocean to the teeming metropolis of Belleville. His near-sighted grandmother and faithful dog follow his trail and are taken in by a trio of eccentric jazz-era divas. The motley sleuths follow the clues to an underground speakeasy, where they entertain the crowd and now the chase is on!

This much beloved animated film is screened as composer Benoît Charest leads Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in the live performance of his original score for the film, including his Academy Award nominated best song. In the spirit of the film, this performance immediately transports audiences to the exciting streets of 1920's Paris and Le Jazz Hot.

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