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BRECKENRIDGE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS RETURNS AUGUST 12–21, 2016

Highlights include L'Homme Cirque, Maya Beiser, Calexico, and The Moth Mainstage with Colorado premieres by John Luther Adams, Elizabeth Streb, Close-Act Theatre, Tasha Lewis, and more

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (May 17, 2016) – Following its debut season last year, the **Breckenridge International Festival of Arts (BIFA)** returns with a celebration of adventure, play and creativity from **August 12–21, 2016**. From a human cannonball and 18-foot stilt-walking dinosaurs to public radio storytellers and swarms of colorful butterflies, BIFA offers an exhilarating program of extraordinary events in spectacular places and spaces across Breckenridge, Colorado.

“We are thrilled to bring back our multi-arts celebration and to showcase a bounty of local, national and international artists,” said Robb Woulfe, President and CEO of Breckenridge Creative Arts, the festival’s producer. “Our second season continues the tradition started last year of featuring a number of Colorado premieres and Breckenridge exclusives. With BIFA, we look forward to gathering people together, creating conversation and engagement, and introducing audiences to artistic visionaries from around the world.”

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 and family entertainment. Dozens of scheduled events, indoors and outdoors, ticketed and free, are showcased at venues and sites throughout town.

Tickets for festival events go on sale on **Monday, June 13** 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.

Featured 2016 BIFA artists and projects include: high-flying Swiss acrobat **David Dimitri** in his one-man show, **L'Homme Cirque**; the Rocky Mountain premiere of **Sila: The Breath of the World** by Pulitzer Prize winner **John Luther Adams**; Israeli-American cellist **Maya Beiser** and master percussionist **Steven Schick** in concert with the **Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra**; an evening of bicycle-themed film shorts entitled **Cycle In' Cinema** presented with the **Breckenridge Film Festival**; artist **Tasha Lewis** and her cyanotype sculptures of butterflies and hoofed herbivores; cult Tex-Mex indie rockers **Calexico**; the large-scale, mobile puppetry installations of The Netherland's **Close-Act Theatre** with their street theater spectacle of **Saurus and STX**; New York City's most exciting troupe of storytellers, **The Moth Mainstage**; and the West Coast premiere of **SEA (Singular Extreme Actions)** by daredevil choreographer **Elizabeth Streb** and featuring **STREB Extreme Action Company**.

In addition to the core festival events listed above, BIFA will bring back its popular **Trail Mix** series, which combines art, music, hiking and biking along the trails of Breckenridge through free outdoor concerts and environmental installations. This year's series, presented on Illinois Creek, Iowa Hill and Moonstone trails, features 24 pop-up musical performances over the 10 days of BIFA with artworks by **Konstantin Dimopoulos**, **Dina Sanchez** and others. Additionally, the **Breckenridge Arts District** campus will be animated throughout the festival with free workshops, artist talks, participatory street performance and hands-on activities for all ages.

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 2016 festival season include Mountain Living, KUNC and KYSL.

A detailed schedule of featured BIFA events follows. For the most up to date information, please visit: breckcreate.org/bifa. For more information on specific attractions, please visit these links:

<http://daviddimitri.ch>

<http://www.tashalewis.info/TheSwarm.html>

<http://johnlutheradams.net>

<http://www.mayabeiser.com>

<http://www.casadecalexico.com>

<http://www.closeact.nl/saurusNI.html>

<https://themoth.org>

<http://streb.org>

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

L'HOMME CIRQUE*

with David Dimitri

Aug 11, 5 pm; Aug 12-14, 11 am + 2 pm | South Gondola Lot

\$20 Adults, \$10 Kids

L'homme Cirque is a one-man circus featuring an innovative combination of acrobatics, music and dance, including everything from a human cannon ball to a climactic high-wire act, with our spectacular mountains as a

backdrop. Acclaimed Swiss circus artist David Dimitri will turn the South Gondola Lot into his own high-flying playground, as he pitches a tent and performs a breathtaking solo show.

THE SWARM*

by Tasha Lewis

Aug 12-21 | On View Daily | Downtown Breckenridge | FREE

Bridging boundaries between art, nature and everyday life, Tasha Lewis's ephemeral installations consist of thousands of cyanotype butterflies printed on fabric and embedded with magnets, invading metallic surfaces around town. A project that engages local volunteers to construct the butterflies, the artist will unleash her spectacular swarm and create swirling formations of colorful winged creatures throughout Breckenridge.

THE HERD*

by Tasha Lewis

Aug 12–21 | On View Daily | Old Masonic Hall | FREE

Tasha Lewis's installation, The Herd, consists of sculptures of antelopes, impalas and gazelles leaping high through the air. Many animals appear to emerge from, or disappear into, surrounding walls. The animals' unexpected placement, tumultuous movement and playful coloring will spark curiosity, engaging viewers with the beauty of both natural and artificial worlds. Complementary works by Andrew Dengate and Robert Wertz will be featured in the upstairs gallery.

SILA: THE BREATH OF THE WORLD*

by John Luther Adams

with Steven Schick and Breckenridge Music Festival Musicians

Aug 13 | 4 pm | Riverwalk Center Lawn | FREE

Stroll the Riverwalk Center lawn and experience the "ecological listening" that this unique composition by John Luther Adams celebrates. Orchestra musicians will be set loose from the conductor's baton and allowed to play at their own tempo, with just one condition: each sustained tone or rising phrase lasts the length of a full exhalation. Co-presented with Breckenridge Music Festival.

THE SAFEKEEPING OF MEMORY

with the Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra

featuring Steven Schick, conductor; Kathryn Hatmaker, violin; and Maya Beiser, cello

Aug 13 | 7:30 pm | Riverwalk Center | \$40, \$35, \$25

Reflect on the human connection to the natural and spiritual world in this special performance featuring a combination of video projections, written word and music. Maya Beiser performs World to Come and Kate Hatmaker follows with Rest These Hands, enhanced by Josh Dorman's stop-motion animations. Guest appearance by Lake Dillon Theatre Company. Co-presented with Breckenridge Music Festival.

YOGA WITH THE BIRDS

with Steven Schick and Breckenridge Music Festival Musicians

Aug 14 | 8 am | Riverwalk Center Lawn | FREE

Enjoy the music of nature and a gentle stretch with Meta Yoga Studios in the quiet mountain morning landscape. Starting during the Savasana of the class, the orchestra's flute and percussion section will perform songbirdsongs by environmental composer John Luther Adams. Adams's songful combination of piccolos and percussion will start your day with a connection between mind and body, self and surroundings. Co-presented with Breckenridge Music Festival.

CYCLE IN' CINEMA

Aug 14 | 6 pm | Riverwalk Center | \$15 Adults, \$5 Kids

Part party, part screening, this event invites cycling enthusiasts of all ages to trade four wheels for two and ride

their bikes to Riverwalk Center to enjoy a showcase of independent bicycle-themed films from around the world. Co-presented with Breckenridge Film Festival, in partnership with Filmed by Bike.

CALEXICO

Aug 17 | 7:30 pm | Riverwalk Center | \$30 Advance, \$35 Day of Show

Calexico is no stranger to negotiating borders. For the better part of two decades, nine albums and countless trips around the globe, Joey Burns and John Convertino have crossed musical barriers with their band, embracing a multitude of diverse styles. Their latest album, *Edge of the Sun*, continues to bring lonesome alt-country into collusion with Spanish horns, Portuguese fado, surf guitar and haunting strains of ambient jazz.

SAURUS + STX*

by Close-Act Theatre

Aug 17–21 | 11 am + 1 pm | Blue River Plaza | FREE

The biggest beasts that ever walked the earth will stomp their way through downtown Breckenridge, turning Blue River Plaza into a prehistoric landscape. Created by Dutch artists Close-Act Theatre, Saurus is a spectacular piece of street theater that features stilt-walkers outfitted in 18-foot-tall dinosaur-like costumes. On alternating days, the company will perform STX, a choreographed drumming show featuring percussionists moving synchronously on stilts through the streets of downtown. Saurus performs on Aug 17, 19 and 21; STX performs on Aug 18 and 20.

THE MOTH MAINSTAGE

Aug 18 | 7:30 pm | Riverwalk Center | \$35, \$25

The Moth is an acclaimed nonprofit organization dedicated to the art of storytelling. Each show is composed of simple, old-fashioned storytelling on thoroughly modern themes and every story is told live on stage, without notes. The Moth, a favorite of NPR listeners, makes its Breckenridge debut with an all-star lineup of favorite tellers and local gems, each with a ten-minute story of their own. Speaker lineup to be announced. Presented in partnership with KUNC.

BORN TO FLY: Elizabeth Streb vs. Gravity*

Aug 19 | 7:30 pm | Riverwalk Center | FREE

Propelled by Elizabeth Streb's edict that "anything too safe is not action," the STREB company challenges the assumptions of art, injury, gender, aging and human possibility. Revealing the passions behind the STREB dancers' bruises and broken noses, this documentary film inspires audiences that are hungry for a fiercer existence in the world. Elizabeth Streb and company members will conduct a post-screening Q & A with

ASCENSION + QUAKE*

by STREB Extreme Action Company

Aug 20 | 12 pm + 2 pm | Riverwalk Center Lawn | FREE

In Ascension, members of STREB Extreme Action Company scale a 21-foot long ladder while it rotates at varying speeds, showcasing the mental and physical strength of the performers. In Quake, the dancers hurl, tumble and perform feats of sleight of hand on a 2x16 foot sprung floor that acts as an explosive springboard.

SEA (Singular Extreme Actions)*

by STREB Extreme Action Company

Aug 21 | 7:30 pm | Riverwalk Center | \$35 Adults, \$10 Kids

Created by Elizabeth Streb, the Evel Knievel of Dance, this daredevil event nimbly weaves dance, extreme sports, circus arts and Hollywood-style stunt work into a must-see performance that explores the boundaries of force, gravity, action and reaction. Their cutting-edge, dangerous talent was featured at the 2012 London Olympics and is sure to take your breath away.

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