



## NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contacts

Robb Woulfe, Breckenridge Creative Arts

970 453 3187 ext 1 | [robb@breckcreate.org](mailto:robb@breckcreate.org)

Nancy Rebek, NRPR

303 941 2527 | [nancy@nrpr.com](mailto:nancy@nrpr.com)

### **BRECKENRIDGE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS RETURNS AUGUST 10–19, 2018**

**Featuring Colorado premieres, new commissions and Breckenridge exclusives**

**With works and performances by artists from around the world, including  
Andrew Bird, Vijay Iyer, Thomas Dambo, Anna Thorvaldsdóttir,  
Neyla Pekarek, Prashant Bhargava, Manual Cinema, Gravity & Other Myths,  
Edina Tokodi, Nicole Banowetz, Chimney Choir, The Other Black + more**

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (May 1, 2018) – The **Breckenridge International Festival of Arts (BIFA)** returns to the high country with its celebration of adventure, play and creativity from **August 10–19, 2018**. From skateboarding mashups and musicians in trees to trailside harmonies and a hidden giant in the woods, BIFA offers an exhilarating program of extraordinary events in spectacular places and spaces across Breckenridge, Colorado.

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. A special BIFA preview day is scheduled for **Thursday, August 9**, showcasing select performances and offering a sneak peek at featured installations.

“BIFA is a spectacular convergence of arts, ideas and people, bringing together the work of internationally renowned creatives with extraordinary regional talent,” said Robb Woulfe, President and CEO of Breckenridge Creative Arts, the festival’s producer. “Our fourth season will once again transform the town’s parks, plazas, trails and other public spaces into an artistic playground that is sure to ignite the imaginations of our guests.”

Tickets for select festival performances are on sale now with remaining shows on sale on **Monday, May 7**, 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 2018 BIFA performances and exhibitions include: Danish artist **Thomas Dambo** with a new commission of one of his large-scale giant sculptures made from recycled materials; singer-songwriter, fiddler and whistler extraordinaire **Andrew Bird** with special guest **Neyla Pekarek**; contemporary jazz ensemble **Vijay Iyer Trio**; a screening of the colorful **Radhe Radhe: Rites of Holi** accompanied by a chamber ensemble from the **Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra**; the live skateboarding and music celebration **Concrete Jams: Sk8 + Jazz** featuring pro skaters **Jordyn Barratt**, **Bucky Lasek** and **Andy Macdonald** along with music by Denver-based funk and hip-hop crew **The Other Black**; a tetralogy of new classical works entitled **In the Light of Air** by Icelandic composer **Anna Thorvaldsdottir**; an outdoor community film event called **Kick Push: A Roll-In Movie Night** featuring wheel-themed, adventure shorts curated by the **Breckenridge Film Festival**; performance collective **Manual Cinema** and their multimedia production of **Lula del Ray**, an epic story featuring live actors, shadow puppetry, music and projection; and the daring feats and athletic prowess of acclaimed Australian acrobatic troupe **Gravity & Other Myths** in their contemporary circus production of **A Simple Space**.

In addition to the core festival attractions listed above, BIFA's visual arts program will feature two separate eco-minded exhibitions—one on the interior of Old Masonic Hall entitled **Tempting Landscapes** by New York-based Hungarian artist **Edina Tokodi**, who fuses landscape art with real materials found in the outdoors, and another installation on the exterior of Old Masonic Hall entitled **Nature Will Not Miss Us** by Denver-based sculptor **Nicole Banowetz**, who creates large inflatables based on microscopic worlds.

For the 2018 season, BIFA brings 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 Iowa Hill, Moonstone and Wellington trails, features 33 pop-up musical performances with accompanying artworks by Banowetz, Dambo and Tokodi. Also returning to the lineup is both **Acoustic Flow**, a blissed-out mix of music and wellness featuring mini-concerts with free outdoor yoga, and **Tree-o**, a performance art installation in the forest featuring three musicians -- cellist **Russick Smith**, violinist **Karen Lauffer** and mandolinist **Kevin Larkin** – performing a series of free concerts with the trio perched aloft upon the trees. Adding to the outdoor festivities, performers from the circus ensemble Gravity & Other Myths will participate in trailside acrobatic demonstrations as free, open-air previews to their ticketed, indoor shows.

Another nature-inspired program new to the festival this year is **Chirp!**, an al fresco musical experience that features Denver-based performance ensemble **Chimney Choir** with guest singers **Natalie Tate** and **Evan McCandless**. Harmonizing their voices to create an ethereal atmosphere in the forest, each concert in this new series features a vocal soundscape performed along a wooded trail.

Additionally, the **Breckenridge Arts District** once again serves as the heart of BIFA, bringing together studios, galleries, performance spaces, public art and historic landmarks that animate and populate a vibrant cultural corridor in downtown Breckenridge. Throughout the festival, the Arts District's campus becomes an interactive hub of creativity, offering free workshops, demonstrations, artist talks 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 (BCA)—or BreckCreate for short—is responsible for the successful management of a series of programs, properties and partnerships which collectively animate and populate a cultural corridor in the heart of downtown Breckenridge. BCA’s signature events include WAVE: Light + Water + Sound, Street Arts, Breckenridge International Festival of Arts (BIFA) and the annual Día de los Muertos celebration. From quality performing and visual arts to the development of the Breckenridge Arts District, a Colorado-Certified Creative District, BCA is a transformative force for Breckenridge and the greater Summit County community.

Funding for BIFA is generously provided by the Town of Breckenridge and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional media support from Mountain Living.

A detailed schedule of featured BIFA events follows. For the most up to date information, please visit: [breckcreate.org/bifa](http://breckcreate.org/bifa). For more information on some of the signature attractions, please visit these links:

Thomas Dambo // [thomasdambo.com](http://thomasdambo.com)

Andrew Bird // [andrewbird.net](http://andrewbird.net)

Vijay Iyer // [vijay-iyer.com](http://vijay-iyer.com)

Manual Cinema // [manualcinema.com](http://manualcinema.com)

Gravity & Other Myths // [gravityandothermyths.com.au](http://gravityandothermyths.com.au)

Edina Tokodi // [mosstika.com](http://mosstika.com)

Nicole Banowetz // [nicolebanowetz.com](http://nicolebanowetz.com)

Chimney Choir // [chimneychoir.com](http://chimneychoir.com)

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

**PEEKING [NAME TBD]: A GIANT RECYCLE SCULPTURE\***

by Thomas Dambo

On View Daily Starting Aug 9

Wellington Trail | FREE

Discover one of Danish artist Thomas Dambo’s enchanting troll-like creatures along a scenic forest trail in the outskirts of town. Based on woodland myth, the artist’s newest work, commissioned by BIFA, will be a gentle giant perched high atop a rocky hillside, stacking stones. Made from recycled and reclaimed wood, the sculpture will be built with the help of local volunteers who will source scrap lumber for its construction. Specializing in building family-friendly installations from upcycled materials, this will be Dambo’s first exhibition in Colorado and a West Coast premiere of his one of his world-famous giants.

*Note: Thomas Dambo often, if not always, names his sculptures after one of the people who helps him build it. Upon completion and installation of his artwork in Breckenridge, a proper first name will be given to the giant in honor of a local volunteer.*

### **RADHE RADHE: RITES OF HOLI\***

Steven Schick, Conductor

Vijay Iyer, Piano

Film by Prashant Bhargava

with BMF Orchestra Members

Aug 9 | 6 pm

Riverwalk Center | FREE

Radhe Radhe: Rites of Holi is a vivid multimedia collaboration by composer-pianist Vijay Iyer with film by Prashant Bhargava. The two were inspired by the centennial of Stravinsky's beloved "Rite of Spring" to explore another rite of spring: the Hindu festival of Holi, famous for its revelry of color in celebration of Krishna and Radha. A chamber ensemble accompanies cinematic episodes compiled from footage of the eight days and nights of Holi festivities in Mathura, India. Co-presented with Breckenridge Music Festival.

### **VIJAY IYER TRIO**

Aug 9 | 8 pm

Riverwalk Center | \$25-\$40

The Vijay Iyer Trio has become one of the most pivotal jazz bands of the twenty-first century with composer, writer, pianist and Harvard professor, Vijay Iyer at the helm. Innovative in style and form, the trio fuses various jazz forms that are rooted in tradition. Co-presented with Breckenridge Music Festival.

### **TEMPTING LANDSCAPES\***

By Edina Tokodi

Aug 9-19 | On View Daily

Gallery@OMH, Old Masonic Hall | FREE

Edina Tokodi uses "green guerrilla" strategies to bring nature into the exhibition space. Tokodi's work is a seamless fusion of landscape art and real materials found in the outdoors. Using plants native to both the mountains and downtown Breckenridge, she reflects the cycle and the resilience of life, advocating sustainable living and participation in the metamorphosis of an evolving visual culture.

### **NATURE WILL NOT MISS US\***

by Nicole Banowetz

Aug 9-19 | On View Daily

Old Masonic Hall | FREE

Nicole Banowetz makes sewn inflatable sculptures and delicate assembled forms, which move freely between growth and decay blurring the distinction between decoration and disease. Inspired by the natural world, Banowetz's work addresses human qualities while using the imagery she finds in the animal, plant, mineral and bacterial worlds.

### **ACOUSTIC FLOW\***

Aug 10-19 | 8-9 am

Riverwalk Center Lawn | FREE

Acoustic Flow combines music, nature and wellness along the relaxing shores of the Blue River with free outdoor classes in yoga, meditation and healing arts, featuring sessions with live music throughout BIFA. Co-presented with Breckenridge Music Festival, in partnership with Meta Yoga Studios.

### **TREE-O\***

Aug 10, 6 pm; Aug 11, 12, 17, 18, 1pm + 6pm; Aug 19, 1 pm

Illinois Creek Trail | FREE

Elevating music to new heights, Tree-o features three musicians—cellist Russick Smith, violinist Karen Lauffer and mandolinist Kevin Larkin—in a series of free concerts held in the forest, high among the pine boughs and branches. A performance art installation, each musical session features instrumental melodies performed with the trio perched aloft upon the trees.

### **CHIRP!\***

featuring Chimney Choir

Aug 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 | 11 am + 3 pm

W Wellington Trail | FREE

Harmonizing their voices to create an ethereal atmosphere in the forest, Chimney Choir is a Denver-based performance ensemble who blends old time folk songs and minimal music into their own quirky compositions. A musical installation, each concert features a vocal soundscape performed along a trail. Featuring guest vocalists Natalie Tate and Evan McCandless.

### **CONCRETE JAMS: SK8 + JAZZ\***

featuring pro skaters Jordyn Barratt, Bucky Lasek + Andy Macdonald

with music by The Other Black

Aug 11, 10 am–1 pm; Aug 12, 10 am–1 pm

Breckenridge Skate Park | FREE

Skateboarding and jazz collide as BIFA brings together athletes and artists in unexpected ways. Essential to both disciplines is the ability to find an individual groove, so this 360-degree immersion showcases the art of improvisation in both music and sport, offering a new kind of performance art: the bowl as bandstand. Denver-based The Other Black perform a blend of jazz, funk and hip-hop, while nationally and internationally celebrated professional skateboarders Jordyn Barratt, Bucky Lasek and X Games legend Andy Macdonald will skateboard to the music on the fly.

### **IN THE LIGHT OF AIR\***

Steven Schick, Conductor

With BMF Orchestra Members + Meta Yoga

Aug 11 | 9 pm

Riverwalk Center | FREE

A tetralogy of works by Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdóttir, this piece – scored for the ethereal combination of viola, cello, harp, piano, percussion and electronic – elicits images of Iceland's varied geography. The four movements bear the titles Luminance, Serenity, Existence and Remembrance and are connected by short transitions to form a seamless flow throughout the work. Performed with an onstage gentle yoga and meditation session for interested audience members. Co-presented with Breckenridge Music Festival.

### **ANDREW BIRD**

with special guest Neyla Pekarek

Aug 12 | 7:30 pm

Riverwalk Center | \$40 ADV, \$45 DOS

Andrew Bird is an internationally acclaimed multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, whistler and songwriter who offers an eclectic mix of folk rock, pop and jazz. A classically trained violinist, former swing jazz musician and now art rock virtuoso, Bird is one of the most imaginative and distinctive voices making music today. Opening set by Neyla Pekarek of The Lumineers.

**KICK PUSH: A ROLL-IN MOVIE NIGHT\***

Aug 14 | 8:30 pm

Riverwalk Center Lawn | FREE

Skate, scoot, pedal or ride to the Riverwalk Center lawn for a program packed with inspiring tales from international filmmakers, explorers and athletes. From boards to bikes, join us for a family-friendly outdoor screening featuring a series of cinematic shorts highlighting humanity's greatest feats on wheels. Co-presented with Breckenridge Film Festival.

**LULA DEL RAY\***

by Manual Cinema

Aug 16 | 7:30 pm

Riverwalk Center | \$20 Adults, \$10 Kids

Lula del Ray is a mythic reinvention of the classic coming-of-age story, set in the mid-century American Southwest and inspired by the music of Hank Williams, Roy Orbison and Patsy Cline. Performed by Manual Cinema, the company creates real-time animated cinema using overhead projectors, shadow puppetry, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design and an onstage music ensemble. Their “movies” evoke the visual poetry of silent classics with the sophistication of Hitchcock and the contemporary gothic of Tim Burton.

**A SIMPLE SPACE\***

by Gravity & Other Myths

Aug 17–18, 7:30 pm; Aug 19, 2 pm

Riverwalk Center | \$20 Adults, \$10 Kids

Get up close and personal with one of Australia’s hottest and most original circus ensembles. In the award-winning show that has captivated sell-out festival audiences worldwide, seven young acrobats push themselves to their physical limits and beyond in an awe inspiring performance of supreme acrobatic ability, strength and skill.

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