



City of Ketchum

News Release
July 6, 2016

City of Ketchum to Host July 15 Fundraiser for Ketchum Arts Commission
LED, Innovating Performing Arts/Dance Group, to Appear

KETCHUM, Idaho — The city of Ketchum will host a July 15 fundraiser for the Ketchum Arts Commission, a performance by the Boise-based performing arts and dance group LED.

The group will present excerpts from its new work, “This Way to the Egress,” which will premiere at the Morrison Center in Boise in October. The program will begin at 8 p.m. at the nexStage Theatre.

Proceeds will be used to support future performance arts events as well as visual arts initiatives. Tickets will be available at the door, and a donation of \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 16 is suggested. The event is also supported by a grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“LED wowed the sold-out audience at The Spot last year,” said Mayor Nina Jonas. “We are excited to showcase such talented, innovative Idaho artists for another year, and encourage the community to contribute to the KAC’s efforts to expand funding for public art.”

In the week leading up to the event, LED performers will conduct a workshop for local dancers hosted by the Footlight Dance Centre. Workshop attendees will also perform at nexStage.

Through a fusion of artistic mediums, LED reawakens the performing art experience with live original music, movement, sound and visual design. The group’s collaborators transform traditional and non-traditional spaces into a visceral world to transcend the artist/audience relationship.

LED was founded and is led by the husband and wife duo, Lauren Edson and Andrew Stensaas. Edson is a former Trey McIntyre Project dancer and choreographer whose original pieces have been performed all over the country, including at Jacob’s Pillow in Massachusetts and the Kennedy Center. Stensaas is a singer/songwriter composer and member of the Boise band Edmond Dantes.

“This Way to the Egress” is a multimedia work that draws inspiration from the Boise Zoo’s founding. In 1916, a circus traveled through Mountain Home and stopped briefly. During the stop, a monkey escaped from captivity and was eventually found in the desert near Mountain Home. This monkey was discovered several months later, taken to Boise, and became the animal that founded the Boise Zoo. Using this story as the underlying metaphor for aging, “This Way to the Egress” will use circus, desert and zoo as the landscape for a work that unfolds from childhood through old age. Exploring themes of isolation, the degeneration of body, voyeurism and reflection, the collaborative work will involve artists from several different mediums.

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About the City of Ketchum Arts Commission

The Ketchum Arts Commission was created by the city of Ketchum in 2009 with the objective of integrating arts and culture into the community. Among its initiatives are Cover Art, the wrapping of utility boxes in downtown Ketchum, as well as a gondola car on Baldy; Art on Fourth; StreetArt, which features manhole covers designed by local artists; Art in City Hall; a collaboration with the Sun Valley Center for the Arts to commission two major sculptures as part of The Center's Craters of the Moon project; and the development of policies and plans for public art in the community. The Ketchum Arts Commission also receives support from individual donors. The Commission consists of local volunteers who are active in and passionate about the arts.

About the City of Ketchum

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

Media Contact:

Lisa Enourato
(208) 720-9766, lenourato@ketchumidaho.org

Jo Murray
(208) 726-5869, jo@jomurray.com