

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK

BERKSHIRE

THEATRE GROUP

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BTG Presents The Down County Ball, An Eclectic Dance Party and Performance Event

Pittsfield, MA– Berkshire Theatre Group and Down County Social Club present the Down County Ball on Saturday, May 31 at 8pm at The Garage in Pittsfield, MA. The ball is a “full-on dance party” driven by the rhythmic inspiration of BFG and DJ Roth Fitz. The evening will also feature live multimedia/music performances by Tree Collage and a live interactive theatrical performance by Heather Fisch featuring The Berkshire Community Youth. Proceeds benefit the development of a new youth performance center at Berkshire Theatre Group’s Pittsfield Campus.

Tickets to The Down County Ball are on sale now for \$10 in advance and \$15 day of show. Contact the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield by calling [413-997-4444](tel:413-997-4444). Tickets can also be bought online at www.berkshiretheatregroup.org. The Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain.

The Down County Social Club, founded by Heather Fisch, holds live musical performances on Thursday nights in an intimate, quirky setting in Sheffield, MA. Heather Fisch is a south country theatrical impresario. Her experiments with clowning during a hitchhiking trip across Canada eventually led her to the streets of Europe where she labored as a street performer in Amsterdam, Prague, Berlin, Warsaw, Krakov, Stockholm, Granada and Barcelona. Tiring of the street life, she traded in her money pouch for registration at the Teatro Estudi Victor Hernando in Barcelona where she continued her studies in dramaturgy, voice, dance, clowning and the fine art of sauce-making. Since her return from Europe in 2006, Fisch has had her hand in many theatrical and musical projects as an accordion/vocalist, actor, director, producer and teacher.

BFG got his name at Fatty's Cafe in Astoria, Queens, where the sandwich board announcing his first gig read "Big Fat Gabriel spinning tonight!" An alum of NYC's Scratch Academy, BFG combines an old-school aesthetic with new-jack beats for a seamless, genre-hopping approach to dance music.

DJ Roth Fitz, also known as Casey Meade Rothstein-Fitzpatrick is a Berkshire Theatre Group board member who was moved by Kate Maguire’s vision for this project and wanted to create an event as a way to build awareness and get the project moving. A native of Stockbridge, MA, Roth Fitz is an active and devoted member of the Berkshire cultural community.

Through live sound processing, laptops, guitars, synthesizers, and electronic compositions, Tree Collage brings the sweetness and softness of the galaxy back down to the earth. This Berkshire sound artist is finding sounds to please young and old, girls and boys, dogs and cats, even ghosts and robots. The playful reverberation of this music is said to give sweet dreams.

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts on five stages in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (400 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age

architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. BTG also performs at the outdoor Neil Ellenoff stage, located on the grounds of BTF in Stockbridge, and at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 17,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. For more information on BTG call (413) 448-8084. To purchase tickets, call (413) 997-4444 or go online to www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.