



COLORADO SPRINGS

# Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

[COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/FAC](http://coloradocollege.edu/fac)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***The enchanting story of Ben and the Magic Paintbrush makes its regional premiere at the FAC***

*Colorado Springs (February 19, 2019)* – The Fine Arts Center Theatre Company is excited to present the regional premiere of *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* by Bathsheba Doran, March 8-April 7, 2019, directed by Meghann Henry. This play is one of the many programs presented by the FAC in celebration of Women’s History Month – celebrating women artists – and opening on International Women’s Day.

Megan and Ben are orphaned siblings alone in the world. She earns pennies as a human statue – painted silver – while her little brother draws marvelous portraits with only a stubby pencil. One fateful day, his artwork catches the eye of the malicious Mrs. Crawley, who has a scheme to make millions with a magic paintbrush. When she captures Ben and puts him to work, it’s up to Megan and their new friend Pierre to help him escape, discovering the value of kindness and bravery along the way. An enchanting story from olden times comes to life in this modern-day fairy tale.

Bathsheba Doran moved to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship in 2000, after working as a TV sketch comedy writer in England. She received her B.A. from Cambridge University, her M.F.A. from Columbia University, and went on to become a playwriting fellow at Juilliard. Her play *Kin* was produced at Playwrights Horizons to critical acclaim. Other plays include *Parents’ Evening*, *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush*, *Living Room in Africa*, *Nest*, and adaptations of Dickens’ *Great Expectations*, Maeterlinck’s *The Blind*, and Ibsen’s *Peer Gynt*. She has adapted *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* as a feature for HBO Films; and wrote on Season Two of the acclaimed Martin Scorsese/HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*. She is a recipient of a Helen Merrill Award, and under commission from Atlantic Theater and Playwrights Horizons. Her work is available from Samuel French and Playscripts Inc.

Meghann Henry holds an M.F.A. in Theatre for Young Audiences from the University of Central Florida. Following graduate school, she spent five years as a resident artist and Director of Education and Outreach at the nationally recognized Coterie Theatre. Regionally she has worked as a director, designer, and teaching artists at The Orlando Repertory, The Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Curious Theatre, The Arvada Center and the Denver Children’s Theatre. Nationally, she is the associate editor of TYA Today, and a former chair for the applied theatre network of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education.

The cast includes David Laybourne, Ilana Sherwood, Miriam Roth, Randy Chronister, Jareth Spirio, and Tracy Nicole Taylor with scenic design by Christopher L. Sheley, Lighting Design by Holly Anne Rawls, Costume Design by Sara Beth Parks, and Props Design/Stage Managed by Terri Harrison.

### ***Ben and the Magic Paintbrush***

**When:** March 8-April 7; Fri 6 p.m. | Sat, Sun Matinées 1 p.m.

**Where:** Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St.

**Tickets:** \$10-20; Recommended for ages 7+

**More:** *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* Day Camps are offered Saturdays, March 9-April 6 from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. offering kids 7-13 a fun, educational adventure complete with a personal meet-and-greet with the cast, theatre games, and more!

**Special offer:** Theatre patrons receive FREE admission to the FAC museum on the day of their ticketed performance.

*Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* is opening in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA), a national magnet for arts and culture in the early 1900s. At its' inception, the BAA, which evolved into the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936, energized the region and created a modern movement to elevate artistic expression for residents and visitors to the Pikes Peak Region. A century after the founding, the FAC celebrates the ingenuity of the artists and patrons who helped to shape the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College into the museum, performing arts theatre, and community art school it is today, and how the BAA's visionary roots are setting the stage for the next generation of arts and cultural enthusiasts. For more information on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, exhibits, and events, visit [www.csfineartscenter.org/100-years](http://www.csfineartscenter.org/100-years).

### **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College**

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. For 100 years, 30 West Dale Street has been the hub of rich cultural history throughout the region. The Broadmoor Art Academy served as a pillar in the cultural community of the Rocky Mountain West. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof – ultimately evolving into what is known today as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit [www.coloradocollege.edu/fac](http://www.coloradocollege.edu/fac).

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