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# **CHEF TALLENT TO CURATE LOTUS FOOD TRUCK VILLAGE**

Nationally recognized Chef David Tallent blends local food with global flavor for Lotus World Music & Arts Festival.

*Bloomington, Indiana.* Nine-time James Beard Award semi-finalist Chef David Tallent will curate the Lotus Food Truck Village at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, September 16-17 in downtown Bloomington. Food trucks from Louisville, Indianapolis, and Bloomington will offer festival attendees diverse menu options ranging from Indian cuisine and Pueblo-style Latin American fare, to traditional American comfort food. The Lotus Food Truck Village will be located on Kirkwood

Avenue between College Avenue and Walnut Street during the Festival's Friday- and Saturday-night musical showcases, and at Lotus in the Park on Saturday afternoon.

Lotus introduced the food truck concept during the 2015 Lotus World Music & Arts Festival by inviting a few local vendors. The popularity of that offering inspired Lotus to envision a 2016 blending of the food-truck concept with the Lotus organizational mission of creating opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures. "Food and culture are so intimately linked," notes Lotus executive director Sunni Fass, "and it seemed a natural fit, as well as a way to collaborate with the local and regional culinary communities."

Enter David Tallent. A Bloomington native and former owner of Restaurant Tallent, Chef Tallent's commitment to local, sustainable food from across Southern Indiana made him the perfect curator for Lotus. "At first I was surprised when Lotus approached me," Chef Tallent recalls, "but quickly I saw how the vision of the Lotus Fest could carry over to the growing Food Truck movement across Indiana. My goal was to bring together some of the most unique, global flavors to this year's Festival."

While diversity will be on display throughout the Lotus Food Truck Village, one common theme will stand out: like Tallent, each vendor passionately sources local, sustainable ingredients when possible. While some purveyors offer traditional Southern Indiana cuisine, others aim to innovate with menus that emphasize Southern Indiana is about more than "meat-and-potatoes."

Festival fare beyond the food trucks includes local craft beers from Bloomington Brewing Company and Upland Brewing Company on tap for over-21 attendees in both outdoor venue tents, alongside snack offerings from One World Catering. Soft drinks, water, and other non-alcoholic beverages will also be available. Lotus performing artists will enjoy hospitality provided by Indiana Memorial Union Catering.

### **Featured Food Trucks**

The Big Cheeze – Easy, cheezy goodness with unique sandwiches and sides.

The Chocolate Moose – Serving homemade, premium ice cream since 1933

Feast Restaurant and Catering – Premium beverages, bottled and made-to-order

The Gravy Train – A repurposed hot dog cart cranking out twists on old classics

Gypsy Moon Nosh Wagon – Globally inspired street food

La Poblana Taco Truck – Authentic recipes from Pueblo Mexico made fresh to order

S'more Mobile – Gourmet s'mores and frozen hot chocolate

The Tamale Cart – Fresh tamales made from seasonal local ingredients

Traveling Kitchen – Louisville's best Korean-fusion tacos

Uel Zing Coffee – Super-strong, super-smooth cold brew via bike cart

Urgent Foods – Healthy, not-so-healthy, and fun food for the masses

### **About the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival**

Over 30 international artists come together September 15 – 18 in Bloomington, Indiana, for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival. The four-day festival packs eight downtown venues with internationally recognized artists representing over 20 countries, including Zimbabwe, Israel, Ghana, Sudan, Argentina, Ethiopia, Finland, Hungary, and Mongolia. The music is as diverse as the countries represented by the artists, with notes of everything from Finnish folk music, Canarian timple, classical Indian sarod, reggae, American roots, and Irish traditional, to East African Afro-pop, Yemenite folk-electronica, Swedish hip-hop, and more. Festival passes and one-day tickets are on sale now; full artist list, schedule and ticket information available at [www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org).

As the flagship program of The Lotus Education & Arts Foundation, the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival is one of the oldest world music festivals in the U.S. and the only one of its kind in Indiana. Established in 1994, the Festival attracts more than 12,000 people to downtown Bloomington each fall for 4-5 days of music and arts from around the globe. Through the Festival, Lotus creates – on a grand scale – the rare opportunity for audiences to experience places far removed from their everyday routines and to broaden their worldview through the arts. In doing so, Lotus World Music & Arts Festival contributes to The Lotus Education & Arts Foundation mission: *to create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures, through music and the arts.*

## **Contributors**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival is made possible by the generous support of community partners, including:

*Presenting Sponsors:* Blueline Media Productions and Indiana University-Bloomington

*Producer Sponsors:* Bloom Magazine; Bloomington Brewing Company; Indiana Memorial Union Catering; Indianapolis Monthly; IU Office of the Provost; IU Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program, Lou and Sybil Mervis Fund in Jewish Cultural Studies; Ivy Tech Community College; Lennie's; One World Catering; Organized Living; Pizza X

Lotus World Music & Arts Festival continues seeking community partners and sponsors to help Lotus bring the world to Indiana. Interested parties can learn more at [www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org).

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### **About Chef David Tallent**

A native of the Bloomington, Indiana, area, David Tallent attended Indiana University before moving to New York to study at the Culinary Institute of America in 2003. He worked at several New York City restaurants while studying at CIA.

In 2003, Tallent and his wife and pastry chef, Kristen, opened Restaurant Tallent.

Tallent oversaw and developed the seasonal menus while Kristen developed the dessert and acted as General Manager. Restaurant Tallent worked closely with farmers and artisan food producers.

While attending C.I.A., David had become acquainted with the Slow Food Movement and was inspired by the principle of using local, seasonal and organic ingredients. The menu at Restaurant Tallent changed several times throughout the year and primarily reflected what was available in the Southern Indiana region during that season.

### **About Lotus Education & Arts Foundation**

Established in 1994, the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Bloomington, Indiana, with a mission to create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures, through music and the arts.

All Lotus programming supports the institutional mission: the annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, Lotus Blossoms Educational Outreach, Edible Lotus, and a vibrant Visual Arts program. Lotus also offers special programming and events with community partners throughout the year.

Lotus is supported by a diverse funding base: individual contributors, business sponsors, foundation and governmental grants, and ticket revenues. The

organization is named partly in honor of Indiana musician Quinten Lotus Dickey (1911-1989). His spirit of open inquiry into the music of cultures other than his own—and his gifts as a musician, singer, and songwriter — inspired the founders.

## **For More Information**

### **LOTUS WORLD MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL**

For more information about Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, please contact Lotus

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