

# MEET THE CAST

## A Partnership of Playful Creativity

In 2009, three award-winning performers teamed up to create Playing By Air.

A formally trained actor; a homeschooled free spirit; and an academic community leader. Together, Michael, Ted, and Jacob all share a love for juggling, circus arts, and inspiring audiences through laughter and creativity.

Each member of Playing By Air has followed their own path to discover and apply their passions for the arts, education, and the community.

Based in Nashville, Tennessee, the trio enjoys performing together as partners and friends for audiences around the world.



## JACOB

As both an entertainer and academic researcher, Jacob developed a model for combining circus arts and community service while completing his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University.

Jacob works with artists and city leaders to bring people together and to build healthy communities through creativity.

Jacob grew up playing basketball and wiggling his ears, a skill he learned from his grandmother, which likely led to his current career.



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## MICHAEL

Ever since he was young, Michael has been interested in all things kinetic – from roller coasters to monorails to waterwheels to robots!

With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting, and years of experience as a dancer and puppeteer, Michael is respected worldwide for his ability to create new ideas from multiple artistic disciplines.

He is a recipient of three first place awards from the International Jugglers Association.

In his spare time, Michael enjoys designing original T-Shirts and exploring rarely seen New York City subway stations.



## TED

Hailing from Parry Sound, Canada, Ted brings an unparalleled technique to Playing By Air with his mastery of the Chinese Yo-Yo. He was awarded the Most Spectacular Award at the annual Atlanta Juggling Festival.

As a homeschooler, his non-traditional education allowed him to nurture his interests in music, travel, and juggling. Ted is passionate about inspiring students, and teachers, to follow their talents and creativity, wherever they may lead.

When not on the road, Ted enjoys time at home with his wife, their cat, and the spiciest hot sauce he can find.

