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Fall 2017: Who's Who in FOODPLAY

Our nationally touring troupes feature two professional actors/performers supported by a dedicated staff based out of Hatfield, MA.

FOODPLAY Fall Tour 2017:

Benjamin David Knight (Coach) is a NYC based actor from Windsor, NJ and is very excited to join his first FOODPLAY tour! Benjamin received his BA in Theatre Arts from Pace University. Having performed both Off and Off-Off Broadway, he has most recently appeared on tour as part of the National Theatre of the Deaf, as 'The Todd' in *Scrubs: My Cabaret*, and as 'Matt' in *Dog Sees God*. He's thrilled to bring his two passions of juggling and nutrition together for children across the country!

Courtney Megaro (Janey) is so excited to be joining her second FOODPLAY tour! Previous credits include *Dog Sees God* as 'Van's Sister', 'Lucy' in *Mr. Marmalade*, and 'Rainbow Sprinkles' in *The History of Toys*. She is also a resident actor with the Secret Theater in Queens. She holds her BFA in Musical Theater from The New School.

ARTISTIC STAFF:

Ian Wentz Young (Director) is a theatre artist based in New York City. He is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he studied acting. As a director and writer, his work has been seen at The Atlantic Theater Company's Stage 2 as part of the Atlantic Farm Team as well as at 13th Street Rep. Ian is a founding member of the New York based Joust Theatre Company where he was recently seen in their workshop production of *Incorruptible* by Jacob Marx Rice. Ian is thrilled to be returning as the Director after playing 'Coach' in FOODPLAY's National Tour in fall 2016. He is very excited to help the magic and message of FOODPLAY reach kids all around the country!

Michael Karas (Juggling Coach) earned his B.F.A. in Acting from Point Park University. Michael has always had an interest in juggling, and began seriously pursuing it in the summer of 2001 while attending the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts. Since then, he has become one of the juggling world's key players, winning multiple awards in international juggling competitions and inspiring other jugglers with his creative tricks. Michael toured with FOODPLAY as 'Johnny Junkfood' for two seasons and is very excited to continue supporting FOODPLAY as a juggling consultant.

Regina Diemand (Production Manager) specializes in theater and film production. Graduating from UMass Amherst with a degree in Sport Management, Regina went on to work with the Dew Tour (a live televised sporting event), and then with one of the largest live entertainment companies in the world (Live Nation Motorsports/Feld Entertainment). While on tour promoting shows at venues across the country, she quickly realized the parallels between sports, live entertainment, and theater/film. Since performing has been a lifelong passion (particularly in musical theater), she began working in theater and film when she relocated back to Massachusetts. She has worked with Fox Sports, Comedy Central, and several other companies throughout New England, as well as many passion projects as a Producer and Casting Director. FoodPlay has been a blessing and she is so happy to help kids lead better lives through the power of theatre!

Barbara Storper, MS, RD (Artistic Director, Playwright, Nutritionist, and Executive Director of FoodPlay Productions) is a leader in the field of children's nutrition. Barbara has received a host of national awards including the Society for Nutrition Education's first "Outstanding Young Nutrition Educator in the Country" Award, the American Dietetic Association's "Outstanding Nutrition Entrepreneur" Award, and an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Children and Youth TV Special."