

bend the air

CIRCUS EVOLVED

THE ULTIMATE AERIAL, ACROBATICS & CIRCUS COMPETITION

07 5493 4765

bendtheair.com.au



BEND THE AIR

Bend The Air (BTA) is the next evolution of the modern circus industry - presenting an annual, multi-level aerial, acrobatics and circus competition. BTA was developed to provide an opportunity for emerging artists to showcase their talent and to highlight their individuality, artistic expression and entertainment value.

Founded on the Sunshine Coast in 2020, *Bend The Air* endeavours to create a nationwide competition that invites the circus community to come together to share their diverse backgrounds and skillsets and thrive in an environment of like-minded artists. BTA attracts performers of all skill levels from amateur to pre-professionals. We pride ourselves on creating an uplifting and supportive atmosphere at our competitions that keeps competitors coming back from year to year.

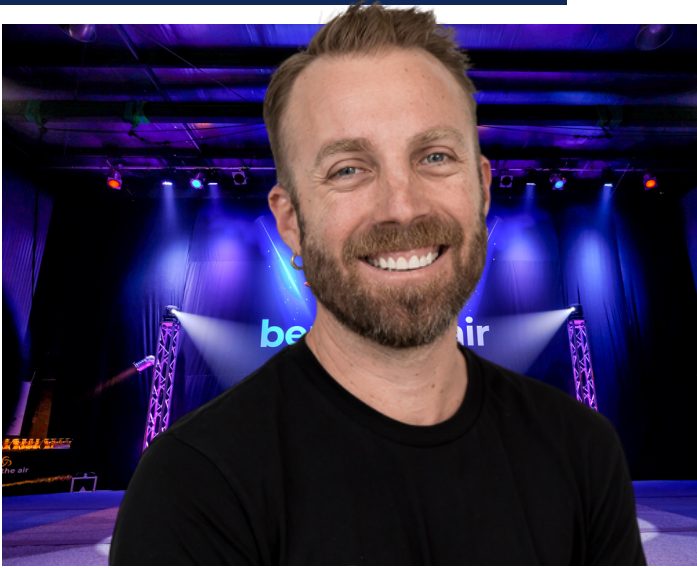
Bend The Air is centred around 3 main categories - Aerial Addicts, Acro Fanatics and Circus Freaks. Each category then offers sections based on skill level and/or age group. Full information, routine criteria and entry processes for each of our sections can be found in the competition kits that are available for competitors to view prior to entering.



FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Darren Smith

Darren Smith is the man behind the concept of *Bend The Air*. Darren's career highlights include performing in Cirque du Soleil's blockbuster 'KA' at the MGM Grand Casino in Las Vegas, dancing in the musical 'Cats' in nine different countries and working on the original production of 'Miss Saigon' in Holland. With an extensive background in dance, sports acrobatics and circus, Darren was inspired to develop a stage for budding performers to showcase their talents and progress in their circus careers. Along with the rest of the *Bend The Air* team, they share a wealth of knowledge that has led to the development of what we call 'The Ultimate Aerial, Acrobatics & Circus Competition'.



BEND THE AIR AUSTRALIA TOUR



Each year *Bend The Air* is adding more destinations to our national competition tour. 2023 is our biggest year yet with 6 regional competitions leading to the National Finals held at the Gold Coast in January 2024!

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

AERIAL ADDICTS

Lyra

In our Lyra (aerial hoop) sections, competitors are able to demonstrate their artistic capabilities through swinging, static and spinning moves. A combination of flexibility and strength is the key to nailing this beautiful apparatus!

8 & Under *

Aerial Minis

10 & Under

Aerial Minis

12 & Under

Aerial Minis
Aerial MiniStars

13 - 17 Years

Intermediate
Advanced
All Star

18 & Over

Amateur
Advanced
Elite

Silks

The dynamic movements and clean lines in our silks sections are highlighted by the fluid nature of the suspended fabric. Precision and endurance are fundamental aspects of this amazing apparatus.

8 & Under *

Aerial Minis

10 & Under

Aerial Minis

12 & Under

Aerial Minis
Aerial MiniStars

13 - 17 Years

Intermediate
Advanced
All Star

18 & Over

Amateur
Advanced
Elite

*Minimum age for aerial categories is 7 years old

Open Apparatus

Our open apparatus sections allow performers to explore new and exciting aerial apparatus' including; cube, rope, hammock, moons and more! Our Open Performance Solo sections invite competitors to create a story with their routine and are judged based on performance and entertainment value, rather than being weighted by technical skill level.

12 & Under

Open Apparatus Solo
Open Apparatus Duo

13 - 17 Years

Open Apparatus Solo
Open Apparatus Duo
Open Performance Solo

18 & Over

Open Apparatus Solo
Open Apparatus Duo
Open Performance Solo

30 & Over

Open Apparatus Solo (Masters)

ACRO FANATICS

Calling all acrobats! We know that most acrobats who want to perform, generally compete in dance competitions. *Bend The Air* is so excited to provide a specialised competition to highlight these performers. You'll be judged by industry professionals who understand the genre and will be surrounded and supported by like-minded, circus inspired performers.

Acro Solo

8 Years & Under
10 Years & Under
12 Years & Under
15 Years & Under
16 Years & Over

Acro Group

8 Years & Under
10 Years & Under
12 Years & Under
15 Years & Under
16 Years & Over

Acro Duo / Trio

8 Years & Under
10 Years & Under
12 Years & Under
15 Years & Under
16 Years & Over



CIRCUS FREAKS

Circus Freaks categories are not limited to any particular circus acts – we want to see any speciality acts come to the stage! This could include all floor-based apparatus such as Cyr Wheel and Unicyclists to Juggling, Hoops, Plate Spinning, Contortion or Partner Balancing!

Circus Solo

12 Years & Under
15 Years & Under
16 Years & Over

Circus Troupe

12 Years & Under
15 Years & Under
16 Years & Over

FIND OUT MORE!

FOLLOW THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT OUR COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND
DOWNLOAD THE COMPETITION KITS



Note for all sections: Age for duos, trios & groups is taken from the oldest competitor. Age groups and sections may be adjusted by event organisers, dependent on the number of entries received.

2023 EVENTS



**APRIL
15-16**

SUNSHINE COAST, QLD

MATTHEW FLINDERS, BUDERIM
ENTRIES CLOSE: SUNDAY, MARCH 5

MELBOURNE, VIC
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CIRCUS ARTS
ENTRIES CLOSE: SUNDAY, MAY 21

**JULY
1-2**



**AUG
12-13**

ADELAIDE, SA

THE PARKS THEATRE, ANGLE PARK
ENTRIES CLOSE: SUNDAY, JULY 2

NEWCASTLE, NSW
THE FACTORY THEATRE, ADAMSTOWN
ENTRIES CLOSE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

**SEPT
16-17**



**SEPT/OCT
29,30,1**

BRISBANE, QLD

THOMAS DIXON CENTRE, WEST END
ENTRIES CLOSE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

PERTH, WA
ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE, BULL CREEK
ENTRIES CLOSE: SUNDAY, SEPT 17

**OCT
28-29**



NATIONAL FINALS

**JANUARY 10-14
2024**

**AB PATERSON COLLEGE
Gold Coast, Qld**

After a monumental year of 6 regional events across Australia, the best aerialists, acrobats and circus performers will take to the stage in the Bend The Air National Finals!

Competitors who place 1st, 2nd or 3rd, or receive a 'wild card' entry at a regional competition will receive a gold pass and qualify to compete at the National Finals. This will be a chance for the best of the best to come together in an epic showcase of talent and determination.





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