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OVERVIEW:

Not many people in show business can say they got their start by running away with the circus but in 1956 the journey of Michael Marlin began. His unusual life would start by living in a house that is now on the National Historic Registry of Landmarks as part of the [Underground Railroad](#). The youngest of four, he was a natural born showman producing his first event at ages 9 and by 15 was already performing steadily at children's parties. By 18 his talent of juggling cheese balls and salamis in front of a deli got him noticed and hired to be a circus clown but instead ended up working on the back end of [Bucky Steele's Cossack Elephants](#).

At 19 he was making rent juggling on the streets of Houston Texas and the AP wire picked up his story when he went before the mayor arguing the case to be allowed to perform on sidewalks. He went on to graduate with honors from the [Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Clown College](#) and in 1977 made his first appearance on a nationally televised show with [Don Kirshner's Rock Concert](#) thereby introducing the American public to a talking comedy and juggler.

He was signed to Regency Artists and in 1978 was scheduled to appear on the [Tonight Show with Johnny Carson](#) but was bumped by a [buffalo chip thrower from Beaver, OK](#). He was never rescheduled and the big break eluded him. His one-man show went on to tour nationwide at over 350 colleges and universities and in the early 80's he was the first talking comedy juggler ever to appear on a Las Vegas stage in the ***Folies Bergere***. By 1985 he had appeared on numerous television shows both in the US and in 6 European countries and was the only variety artist in the country headlining comedy clubs in LA and in the US, other than Harry Anderson.

Always the pioneer his searching led him into the fine arts where he created multiple roles for the [LA Chamber Ballet's production of, "The Little Prince"](#), and was lauded for his work by [Martin Bernheimer](#) the chief music and dance critic for the LA Times. Another first in the variety arts came through commissions from [Keith Clark](#) to create interpretive juggling to classical music and performing these pieces as a guest soloist

with the [Pacific Symphony Orchestra](#) for three consecutive seasons. He was also the first talking juggler ever allowed on the stages of Hollywood's legendary [Magic Castle](#).

In 1985 he wrote and starred in a series of ten award winning commercials for Toyota trucks a first for any juggler/variety artist. During this time living in LA a trip to the desert opened his eyes to astronomy and the impact electricity has on our capacity to see the night sky and began creating performance art with light in the dark as early as 1986 studying under [Rachel Rosenthal](#).

He left his career at its height in 1987 and for 5 years lived in a tree house with no electricity in the jungles of Hawaii co-founding the eco-community, [Belly Acres/SPACE](#). During this time he began writing and illustrating a philosophy book, "The Contemplative Navel" and by 1991 was performing 'light entertainment' on cruise ships and fringe festivals under the name "Laughing in the Light/Dancing in Dark."

His work was noticed by [Jules Fisher](#) and in 1996 [LUMA](#) was born, a new kind of human light show using the cutting edge light technology of the day. It would go on to be an internationally acclaimed theatrical production and continues to play at performing art centers throughout the US and abroad to this day. In the late 90's Marlin began to create illuminated installations for his theater in Madison WI and would eventually be asked to hang these works at illuminated festivals like "[Illuminato](#)" at the world-reknown, [Kalani Honua](#) Eco retreat in Hawaii

As an inventor his discovery of the flexible coil lasso is the first change of a tethered lasso device since 1780 when Spanish cowboys invented the running noose. This dual patented toy/tool, dubbed a "[Slingerzz](#)"™ is the first toy of its kind that allows the user to secure and retrieve objects as substantial as a chair. It is schedule for release in 2016.

A pioneer in real life he has been building and growing the [Sweet Spot Homestead](#) since 1999 on Big Island, where he currently lives off the grid catching his water from the sky, and growing a wide variety of food bearing trees. He also makes a very good wine from tropical fruit.

He is a master facilitator and communicator and a has initiated hundreds of men over the last ten years into the Mankind Project, a global men's group teaching men to step into the mature masculine and leading their communities through authentic actions based on service.

1) Theatrical

- a. [“Luma: Art in Darkness”](#) This critically acclaimed theatrical production has played in 15 countries on five continents and over 300 PAC’s in 45 States.
- b. [“Light’s Dark Side”](#): Stage spectacle based on the hero’s journey into the dark to find the light in his eye. In development.

2) Literary

- a. [“Horror in Hawaii: Nobody is Immune”](#): Based on a real life invasive species of frogs that has gone out of control on the island of Hawaii but in this sci-fi comedy horror one grows to 80 feet tall. The movie’s producer is intent on Marlin directing this offbeat, quirky sci-fi horror based on true stories shot entirely on island of Hawaii.
- b. [“Out-of-the Box”](#) is a television series that explores and celebrates the subject of toys, games and play from antiquity to the present day and around the world with your host Marlin. Currently under review by production houses and executive producers.
- c. [“The Contemplative Navel”](#): This published work is full of axioms and illustrations from the “Mind of Marlin” that are snacks for the head and fool for the soul. The compact book garnered this from the Midwest Book Review, “A cross between Will Rodgers and Sophocles”. Currently out of print.
- e. [Insight-Incite](#)
These humorous, penetrating, satirical essays and social commentary for our times capture the thought provoking essence of Marlin’s literary style.

3) Product Development

[Slingerzz: The Original Coil Lasso](#): Radical new toy that exceeds a yo-yo or Kendama in its capabilities. This dual patented toy will be released in 2016 through [Toy Smith](#) and other distributors.

4)

Film, Stage and Television

["Christmas Dreams: The Nutcracker meets the Little Drummer Boy"](#)

Featured artist playing six roles including the iconic character from the Nutcracker, the Toy Maker Drosselmeyer.

Television

The pioneer of the stand-up comic juggling as documented here in this 1977 nationally televised appearance on [Don Kirshner's Rock Concert](#).

Still on the scene in the 1980's with this appearance on the nationally televised show [Bud Friedman's Evening at the Improv](#).

5) Fine Art

Suspended Animations are a revolutionary work creating a new genre of sculpture that defines space in a mind-bending way that leaves the viewer captured by the beauty and baffled by the means and methodology used to execute. Here a few links to images of this highly unique art. These photos are not altered or 'photo shopped' in anyway but exist in three-dimensional space.

#1 [Through Cypress Trees](#)

#2 [Tree Hugger](#)

#3 [Blue Liner](#)

#4 [Blue Lake Blue](#)