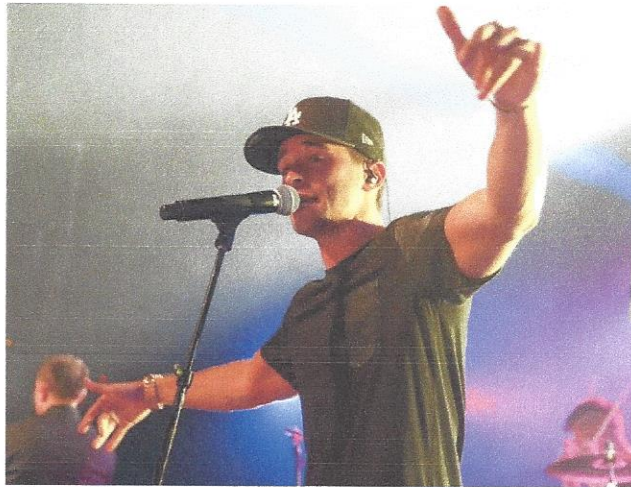


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Singer Jake Miller 'excited' to perform at QuickChek balloon festival



Singer and rapper, Jake Miller, performs the first leg of his "Dazed and Confused" tour at Starland Ballroom in Sayreville, NJ 7/8/15 (Alex Remnick | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com)(Alex Remnick)

By **Angela Lingg**
For NJ.com

READINGTON TWP. -- Festival goers will get a chance to check two things off their bucket lists -- ride in a hot air balloon and see Jake Miller perform.

Miller is kicking off his new tour at the [QuickChek Festival of Ballooning](#). The pop singer will be performing songs from his new album "2:00 a.m. in LA" as well as fan favorites at 1 p.m. July 29 at Solberg Airport in Readington.

"I'm so excited ... This is going to be the first time performing new music from this album," Miller said. "I've seen pictures of the balloon fest and it looks great, and I can't wait to go in a hot air balloon afterwards."

The 24-year-old singer said he was 13 the last time he went on a hot air balloon ride, and it didn't go well.

"I got really sick, so I won't get sick this time," Miller said.

Hot air balloons were actually the inspiration for the first song Miller wrote. Miller said he wrote a song about hot air balloons for an English project in school.

"I was just kind of challenging myself to see if I could actually do it. I found a poem that I had written about hot air balloons ... first song I ever wrote made in my life," Miller said.

During his career, Miller has performed alongside such artists as Ariana Grande, Fifth Harmony and Pharrell Williams. In 2015 his song "[Rumors](#)" went to No. 1 on iTunes' pop albums chart and number two on the overall album chart on iTunes.

Social media has played a key role in developing Miller's fan base known as the "millertary." The singer has one million Instagram followers, 660,000 Twitter followers and 600,000 YouTube subscribers.

One of Miller's more famous Twitter fans is U.S. Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles.

"When she was at the Olympics, one of my fans tagged me in a tweet that she tweeted about three years ago, and it was to me," Miller said. "And I never even saw the tweet, and so I realized that she was a fan and I reached out to her."

After Biles finished competing at the Rio Olympics, she starred in Miller's music video "Overnight" and the two have stayed friends. Miller even took Biles to get her first tattoo.

Over the next few months, Miller will be performing on stages all across the country. Between touring, maintaining his model physique and keeping up with his social media fans, Miller said it is important for him to make room for "chill time" to relax and enjoy each moment.

As Miller's music achievements grow, he said he feels like each accomplishment belongs to his fans.

"I feel like they feel the same sense of accomplishment," Miller said. "When they get my album to go No. 1, I'm so proud of not only myself, but I'm also proud of them ... They really inspire me to keep making music, keep doing stuff that can make a positive difference in the world."

Tickets for the festival and Jake Miller concert can be purchased at <http://balloonfestival.com/>.