

Andrea Balcar Dillon

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BIO AND STATS

Andrea is a versatile acrobat and actor known for sculpted strength and seat-shifting performance. Native to San Francisco, she specializes in aerial straps, silks and cyr wheel, and brings over two decades of theater and dance experience to her circus career. Andrea is also a NASM Certified Nutrition and Sports Nutrition Coach and has 17 years of experience designing and managing humanitarian aid initiatives for major international organizations.

Height: 5'8" // Weight: 137 lbs. // Born: 1989 // Citizenship: Dual USA and EU // Languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, int. French

EDUCATION

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SPORTS MEDICINE, Nutrition Coach and Sports Nutrition Coach double certification Las Vegas, NV, 2025

NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR CIRCUS ARTS, ProTrack program Brattleboro, VT, Sept 2018 - June 2019

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ARABIC SCHOOL (4 university credits), 4.0 GPA Oakland, CA, June - Aug 2015

BROWN UNIVERSITY, B.A. International Relations, 3.90 GPA Providence, RI, 2007 – Dec 2011

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

JAILBIRDS – solo aerial straps, character actor Las Vegas, Feb – April 2026

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, *CORTEO* International Tour, Nov 2023 – Nov 2025

- Aerial chandelier, cyr wheel, harness, and character acting. International tour including a residency at Royal Albert Hall.
- Completed double certification in Sports Nutrition Coaching through Cirque's Professional Development Training program

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN SPHERE/DWIGHT KENNEDY MUSIC, *AURA* Las Vegas, NV, Sept – Nov 2023

- Voice and improv actor. Creation and original cast of immersive installation at 20,000-seat venue MSG Sphere.

FROOOGS LAS VEGAS – cyr wheel for major U.S. media outlets Las Vegas, NV, 2023

DAHLIAS ENTERTAINMENT – aerial silks for Kansas City Chiefs Las Vegas, NV, 2023

PAPER PLANE THEATER COMPANY, *HAUNTED* – character actor Las Vegas, NV, 2023

DRAGONE, *TERHAL* Dubai and Saudi Arabia, Dec 2022 – Mar 2023

- Silks, straps, aerial pole, dance. Creation of a custom show for Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Culture.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, *AMERICA'S GOT TALENT LAS VEGAS LIVE!* Las Vegas, NV, Sept 2021 – Nov 2022

- Aerialist, silhouette dancer, showgirl, and magic assistant in AGT-winning acts. Creation and original cast of Season 1.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, *9TH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS* Los Angeles, CA, June 2022

- Duo synchronized cyr wheel for 38 heads of state including Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and Justin Trudeau.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AT SEA, *SONOR AND VIAGGIO* MSC Meraviglia, October 2019 – March 2020

- Solo aerial silks, duo synchronized aerial silks, harness, wall-walking/vertical dance, modern dance, and character acting.

HBO MAX, *FINDING MAGIC MIKE* – actor in HBO series based on *The Real Magic Mike* Las Vegas, NV, 2021

FUN CORPORATE MAGIC – showgirl and emcee for custom private event at the Crockfords Hotel Las Vegas, NV, 2021

NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR CIRCUS ARTS, *ALUMNI SHOW* – aerial silks soloist and headliner in *Her Life* Brattleboro, VT, 2021

TITLE NINE APPAREL – fitness model Las Vegas, NV, 2020

MARLA DELL TALENT – fit model San Francisco, CA, 2018 – 2020

THE VIVA FEST, *BREW REVUE* – solo aerial silks in *Andromedan* Las Vegas, NV, 2020

CIRCUS CENTER, *LEAP!* – aerial silks soloist and headliner in *El Tango de Roxanne* San Francisco, CA, 2018

CENTRO KULTURAL TRIVENCHI, *VARIETE TRIVENCHI* – aerial silks Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2015

CENTRO KULTURAL TRIVENCHI, *GALÁCTICA* – aerial silks Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2014

CENTRO KULTURAL TRIVENCHI, *AIRE* – aerial silks Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2014

GRANOFF CENTER FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS, *LIVER COUNTRY* – improv actor Providence, RI, 2011

NEW WORKS/WORLD TRADITIONS, *POSITION/OBSESSION* Providence, RI, 2011

NEW WORKS/WORLD TRADITIONS, *LUNA RISE* – aerial silks, modern and West African dance Providence, RI, 2011

NEW WORKS/WORLD TRADITIONS, *TOPICAL HEAT* – physical theater, modern and West African dance Providence, RI, 2011

PRODUCTION WORKSHOP, *COBRA* – improv actor and dancer Providence, RI, 2011

PRODUCTION WORKSHOP, *DOVETAIL* – actor and dancer Providence, RI, 2010

PRODUCTION WORKSHOP, *DEEP STORY* – actor Providence, RI, 2009

BROWN UNIVERSITY SHAKESPEARE ON THE GREEN, *EDWARD II* – actor Providence, RI, 2008

BROWN UNIVERSITY SHAKESPEARE ON THE GREEN, *THE COMEDY OF ERRORS* – actor Providence, RI, 2007

ST. IGNATIUS THEATER DEPARTMENT, *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2005

ST. IGNATIUS SPRING FESTIVAL OF DANCE – modern dancer San Francisco, CA, 2005

ST. IGNATIUS THEATER DEPARTMENT, *THE MUSIC MAN* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2004

ST. IGNATIUS SPRING FESTIVAL OF DANCE – jazz dancer San Francisco, CA, 2004

ST. IGNATIUS WINTER ONE ACT FESTIVAL, WOODY ALLEN'S *GOD* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2004

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER, *CLOWN LIFE* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2004

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY THEATER INTENSIVE, SAMUEL BECKETT'S *ENDGAME* – actor Exeter, NH, 2004

- Received honors in drama coursework ending in the performance of two one-act plays

PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY THEATER INTENSIVE, *HAMLET* – actor Exeter, NH, 2004

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER, *ROMEO AND JULIET* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2003

CENTER STAGE THEATER ARTS, MOZART'S *THE MAGIC FLUTE* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2002

CENTER STAGE THEATER ARTS, *LEGEND OF PELÉ* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2001

CENTER STAGE THEATER ARTS, *THE LION KING* – actor San Francisco, CA, 2000

CENTER STAGE THEATER ARTS, *MADAME BUTTERFLY* – actor San Francisco, CA, 1999

CENTER STAGE THEATER ARTS, *PUSS IN BOOTS* – actor San Francisco, CA, 1998

PRODUCTION AND DIRECTION EXPERIENCE

BELLAGIO CASINO/SIX FOOT CREATIONS, *LAVISH* – production assistant for MGM NYE bash Las Vegas, NV, Dec 2025

FUN CORPORATE MAGIC – show coordinator for custom private event at the Crockfords Hotel Las Vegas, NV, 2021

- NEW WORKS/WORLD TRADITIONS, *RHYTHM OF CHANGE FESTIVAL*** **Providence, RI, 2013**
- Producer of international dance festival blending dance, theater, mask work, improvisation, and aerial arts
- PRODUCTION WORKSHOP, *THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND* – lighting designer** **Providence, RI, 2007**
- ST. IGNATIUS WINTER ONE ACT FESTIVAL, GLEN MERZER’S *GOING NOWHERE APACE* – director** **San Francisco, CA, 2007**
- ST. IGNATIUS WINTER ONE ACT FESTIVAL, RICHARD DRESSER’S *THE ROAD TO RUIN* – director** **San Francisco, CA, 2006**
- ST. IGNATIUS WINTER ONE ACT FESTIVAL – lighting designer and production assistant** **San Francisco, CA, 2005**

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- STANFORD UNIVERSITY IMMIGRATION POLICY LAB, RESEARCH PROGRAM MANAGER** **Stanford, CA, Dec 2016 – May 2025**
- Original quantitative research published in journals including *Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Political Analysis*.
 - Managed IPL's global refugee research and innovation portfolio, comprising projects that leverage data-driven methods to develop and evaluate new approaches to integrating refugees and asylum seekers into host societies.
 - Spearheaded the lab's research agenda in the Middle East by forging partnerships with governmental, U.N., and NGO agencies.
 - Ran the first randomized study of the impact of private co-sponsorship on outcomes for resettled refugees.
 - Coordinated with multiple U.S. resettlement agencies and foreign governments to launch three randomized controlled trials testing the impact of computer-assisted algorithmic matching on integration outcomes for resettled refugees.
 - Managed IPL's involvement in a collaborative, cross-agency human-centered design sprint to tackle key inefficiencies in the U.S. refugee resettlement process, including financing mechanisms, ESL instruction, and volunteer management.
 - Wrote grant proposals and presented research findings to donors, major media outlets, and members of the research community.
- STANFORD, YALE, PRINCETON UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT** **Stanford, CA, Apr – Dec 2022**
- Managed roll-out and expansion of multi-country randomized controlled trial evaluating social trust in inter-gender interactions.
- MERCY CORPS, HEAD OF OFFICE, KOS** **Kos, Greece, Jan – Jul 2016**
- Oversaw emergency refugee response programs on Kos and Leros, incl. shelter, food, cash assistance, and informal education.
 - Managed Kos program and administrative staff, as well as the cash program's monitoring and evaluation team.
 - Represented Mercy Corps publicly in interagency meetings and working groups at the local and national levels to rapidly develop collaborative solutions to new emergencies, avoid duplication of services, and share reports on human rights abuses.
 - Co-developed the first direct cash transfer program for refugees in Greece, which has since become a ubiquitous form of aid.
 - Managed a shelter for vulnerable refugees, collaborating with partner organizations to establish interagency referral pathways.
- FREELANCE RESEARCH TRANSLATOR AND EDITOR (SPANISH-ENGLISH)** **Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 2014 - Dec 2015**
- International clients include the UNESCO Regional Chair on Women, Science, and Technology in Latin America; the Latin American Social Sciences Institute; and the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE).
- TALENT BEYOND BOUNDARIES, CONSULTANT** **Washington, D.C., Sept - Dec 2015**
- Conducted research on international labor markets and accreditation systems to inform the design of this UNHCR-partnered startup's pilot project. TBB creates new pathways to international employment for refugees.
- UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, PUBLIC INFORMATION INTERN** **Buenos Aires, Argentina, Oct - Dec 2014**
- Monitored 30 Spanish-language media outlets and reported on political developments impacting regional refugee flows.
 - Staged film and photo exhibitions in partnership with local artists to raise public awareness of refugee resettlement in Argentina.
- FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM, FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** **Santiago, Chile, March 2013 - Dec 2014**
- Awarded a competitive U.S. federal fellowship to create a photographic essay exhibition documenting Arab refugee resettlement in Chile, including original Arabic, Spanish, and English translations of my subject interviews.
 - My multimedia exhibition was selected for publication in the Library of Santiago, Chile's largest public library.
- BROWN UNIVERSITY MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES DEPARTMENT, RESEARCH ASSISTANT** **Providence, RI, Sept 2010 – June 2011**
- Conducted research for Melani Cammett's publications on social welfare distribution by Middle Eastern sectarian organizations.
- IRAQI STUDENT PROJECT, INTERN** **Damascus, Syria, Summer 2010**
- Awarded the Marla Ruzicka International Public Service Fellowship to co-supervise operations and manage volunteers.
 - Designed and taught software and cross-cultural trainings for Iraqi refugees preparing to study at U.S. universities.
- A MOTHER'S WISH FOUNDATION, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT** **Arenoso, Dominican Republic, 2008**
- Conducted an impact assessment of development interventions and structured representative Community Council Boards in five

neighboring towns to formalize feedback mechanisms between the foundation and its beneficiaries.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- OFFICIAL SELECTION, CIRCUS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** **2022, 2024**
- Original circus film *Do it for Me* selected for 2024 film festival
 - Original circus film *Andromedan* selected for 2022 film festival
- INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOW, CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL** **2021 - 2022**
- Awarded a competitive state-funded fellowship for the creation of original acrobatic work *Do it for Me*
- GUEST LECTURER, CENTER FOR NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP, UC BERKELEY HAAS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS** **Berkeley, CA, Oct 2016**
- "Communication-Based Advocacy in the Refugee Crisis"
- FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM** **Santiago, Chile, Mar - Dec 2013**
- PRODUCTION WORKSHOP FELLOW, PRODUCTION WORKSHOP GRANT FOR NEW WORKS** **2011**
- Awarded a competitive grant to create original silks act *Position, Obsession*
- DOUBLE FINALIST, BROWN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH** **Providence, RI, December 2011**
- Barbara Banks Brodsky Prize for Excellence in Real World Writing and David Rome Prize
- WATSON ASSOCIATE, WATSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, BROWN UNIVERSITY** **Providence, RI, May 2011**
- Nominated by faculty to a select community of alumni demonstrating "outstanding talent in the area of international affairs."
- MARLA RUZICKA FELLOW, WATSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, BROWN UNIVERSITY** **Damascus, Syria, 2010**
- Recipient of a single annual award for summer work and study in the field of human rights

WORKSHOPS AND COACHING

- The Artz** – Spinning technique, straps conditioning, aerial silks performance and stage presence **Houston, TX, 2024**
- Private acrobatic coaching** – Aerial silks **San Francisco, CA, 2020 - 2021**
- Lotus Om Pole Dance and Aerial Arts Studio** – Movement therapy and aerial conditioning for Syrian refugees **Kos, Greece, 2016**
- Rhode Island Library Summer Series** – West African and modern dance workshops for youth **Providence, RI, 2011**
- Bidna Capoeira** – Capoeira workshops for Iraqi child refugees **Damascus, Syria, 2009-2010**
- Center Stage** – Teaching assistant and production assistance for youth theater company **San Francisco, CA, 2003**

TRAINING

- Las Vegas, NV** – Aerial Straps (Dima Deyneko), Scene Study (DK Acting Class)
- Montreal, Quebec** – Aerial Silks (Sarah Poole), Cyr Wheel (Eric Deschenes), Aerial Straps (Victor Fomine)
- New England Center for Circus Arts ProTrack (Brattleboro, VT)** – Aerial Silks and Rope (Molly Graves), Cyr Wheel, Tumbling, Trampoline, Partner Acro, Straps, Modern Dance, Ballet, Physical Theater
- Centro Kultural Trivenchi (Buenos Aires, Argentina)** – Aerial Silks
- Casa Bufo (Santiago, Chile)** – Aerial Silks
- Brown University (Providence, RI)** – Aerial Silks, Modern and West African Dance, Contact Improvisation, Theater
- San Francisco Circus Center (San Francisco, CA)** – Aerial Silks, Aerial Rope, Cyr Wheel
- American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco, CA)** – Acting Technique, Physical Theater, Musical Theater, Clowning
- San Francisco Conservatory of Music (San Francisco, CA)** – Voice
- Academy of Ballet (San Francisco, CA)** – Classical Ballet