

Shayna Swanson

Aerialist, Acrobat, Dancer

Personal Details

Nationality: US Citizen	Ethnicity: Caucasian
Birth Date: April 5, 1977	
Height: 5'3"	Weight: 140 lbs
Build: Athletic	Eyes: Blue
Hair: Brown	
Bust: 37in	Waist: 28in
Hips: 37in	
Shoes: Size 7	

Contact Info

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CORPORATE AND GALA CREDITS

Cyberport Greek Festival, Hong Kong, *Aerial Hoop Solo/aerial director*

KI International, Green Bay, WI. *Group aerial silks, flying silks, aerial director/choreographer*

Starfish Resort, Jamaica, *corde lisse*

Deutsche Bank Christmas Party, Chicago, IL. *Trapeze performance and aerial director*

Discovery Channel Christmas Party, Washington, DC. *Aerial Silks, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.*

Coors Light/Maxim Model Search National Tour *Aerial performance on Rope and Stiltwalking.*

Steve Wynn Las Vegas Private Party. *Aerial Sling hangabout.*

Grainger Annual Picnic, Lake Forest, IL. *Aerial performance on silks,.*

Absolut Vodka, Chicago, IL *Aerial Silks*

Ford Motors, Chicago, IL *Stiltwalking*

Seneca Niagara Casino, Niagara Falls, NY. *Humanimal Performance involving bodypainting, statue and acrobatics.*

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. *Aerial performance on silks*

Morton Arboretum, Chicago, IL. *Stilts Walkabout*

Leo Burnett, Chicago, IL. *Tumbling/acrobatics.*

Rochester Erotic Arts Festival, Rochester New York, *aerial silks, lyra*

Crunch Fitness Grand Opening, Chicago, IL. *Acrobatic and contortion Walkabout*

Sax Fifth Ave. Chicago, IL *Stilts Walkabout*

Ford Motor Company Sales Promotion, Chicago, IL. *Stilts Walkabout*

Air France, Acrobat and Dancer for Bristol Airport Launch , Bristol, England

Diesel Nightclub Grand Opening, Pittsburgh, PA. *Aerial performance on silks*

Red Bull Trader's event. Palmer House Hilton. *Four legged creature stilts.*

Mannequin Nightclub, Chicago, IL. *Aerial silks.*

Seneca Niagara Casino. New Years Eve Party, Niagara Falls, NY. *Aerial Fabric and Sling.*

Crobar Nightclub. *Rope and harness, rappelling, trapeze.*

"Collaboraction Carnival". Chicago, IL. *Acrobatic walkabout.*

"New Year's High Rollers Party". Horseshoe Casino. Hammond, IN. *Five hour aerial hangabout in "light loops"*

Portland Masquerade Ball, Portland, OR: *single point trapeze*

"Binary" electronic music festival, Portland , OR: *group trapeze performance and hang-about.*

CIRCUS, FESTIVAL AND THEATRE CREDITS

Moisture Festival of Variety Arts, Seattle, WA *corde lisse*

El Circo Cheapo Cabaret, Chicago, IL *corde lisse, duo frame, director*

Milwaukee Bastille Days, Milwaukee IL, *Duo Birdcage Act*

Kim Tom International Clown Festival, Shanghai, China. *Stiltwalking, Powerizers, Roller skating*

Imagine Christmas, Willow Creek Church. *Aerial Director, Spanish Web, Powerizers. Lyra*

Aloft Aerial Dance. *Artistic Director, choreographer.*

Cirque Voila!. Tomfoolery Productions. *Static Trapeze, aerial silks*

Zany Umbrella Circus, Pittsburgh, PA, *aerial silks and static trapeze*

Chicago Lyric Opera. "Die Walkurie". *Trampolinist under direction of Debra Brown*

"Cirque de la Mer" Sea World San Diego. *Chinese Poles, Russian Swing, Tumbling, Swimming.*

Zoppe Family Circus, Midwest Tour Dates. *Aerial silks and aerial hoop, charivari.*

International Circus Performer's Gathering, Brattleboro, VT, *single-point trapeze*

The Midnight Circus, Company Member. *Lyra, trapeze, Spanish Web, group acrobatics, tumbling, dance, Chinese Poles.*

Zyngara Performance Company, *Duo Aerial Silks*

Toffo's Circus, London, England. *Lyra, fabric*

Circus Maniacs Cabaret, Bristol England: *lyra, fabric.*

"Full Circle: Festival of Danztheatre" Aloft Aerial Dance. "Telephone". *Choreographer of bungee and silk sling*

"Crucible, the Musible" Aloft and Strange Tree Group. *Aerial silks and triple trapeze director*

"Rolling Blackouts" Aloft Aerial Dance. *Corde Lisse, Bungee, Duo Trapeze, Director, Choreographer.*
International Circus Performer's Gathering, at Nimble Arts. Featured performer. *Low single point trapeze.*

"Full Circle: Festival of Danztheatre". Aloft Aerial Dance. "Chicago Affective",
Solo dance on aerial hoop.

AMEBA Acrobatic and Aerial Dance guest artist and instructor.

"Le Beouf sur le Toit". T. Daniel Productions. *The Red-headed lady. Mime and acrobatics.*

Osland and Co. Dance Workshop Understudy.

Dance Cartel Showcase, Portland, OR.

"All Earthly Burdens" *dancer/choreographer*

"Loves Me, Loves Me Knot" (Gina James): *dancer/vocalist*

Conduit Dance Summer Showcase (Thani Holt, choreographer): *dancer.*

"Now and Before", contemporary dance performance (All Nine Toes/Brittany Brown):
dancer,

For Leavers" and "Gripping, Grasping, Gasping" at Columbia College
Choreographer's Showcase: *dancer/choreographer.*

"Lean on Me" (Randy Duncan): *dancer*

TRAINING:

Presently: The Aloft Loft--Intensive aerial training and conditioning with a focus in aerial dance.

Presently: Private training in contortion and hand balancing with Norboul Meirmeninov.

Aug 2007 Two week workshop with Fred Deb in aerial silks and performance.

Aug 2007 Two week workshop with Elsie Smith in advanced trapeze.

Feb. 2005: Trampoline training at Lyric Opera Chicago with Debra Brown.

April 2004: Cirque de la Mer. Training in Chinese Poles, Russian Swing, Tumbling and performance technique.

Sept 2002-

April 2004: The Midnight Circus company training in aerial and acrobatic skills including partner and group acro, teeterboard, Chinese Poles and performance techniques.

Feb. 2004: "Viewpoints Workshop" facilitated by Alexandra Billings

Sept 2002-

Feb. 2003: Circus Maniacs Special Projects Student. Under the direction of Jackie Welborne

- (Williams), full time professional development in aerial circus arts, specifically aerial hoop/ ring with a secondary emphasis on tumbling.
- April 2002: Under Serenity Smith, private static trapeze instruction.
- Fall 2001: Course work in Acting Improv and writing stand-up and sketch comedy. Portland State University
- 1996-2002: Echo Theatre-aerial dance, trapeze, cloud swing, Spanish web, aerial hoop under Robin Lane and Anne Seward.
- 1997-1999: Conduit Dance Space-Modern and Contemporary Dance under Mary Osland
- 1995-1996: The Dance Centre at Columbia College: Dance performance/Choreography major studying modern, ballet, improv and theory under Jan Erkert and Shirley Mordine
- 1992-1993: Rolling Meadows High School Orchesis. Modern, Ballet, Jazz and Choreography
- 1991-1993: Competitive Springboard Diving Training
- 1982-1995: Competitive Gymnastics Training: USGA Level 8 and High School Competitive Levels

PERFORMANCE SKILLS/ACTS

- Circus: Complete acts are currently available on lyra/aerial hoop, single point trapeze, static trapeze, duo trapeze, silks/tissu, Spanish Web, corde lisse, and stilts dancing and walkabout, stilts on all-fours. Also, Chinese Poles, Russian Swing, trampoline, basic flying trapeze, partner and group acrobatics, teeterboard, tumbling, bungee acrobatics/dance, tight-wire (basic), 3-ball juggling, clowning and walkabout.
- Dance: Modern, contemporary, contact improv, jazz, hip-hop, break-dancing, cheerleading, aerial dance.
- Sports: Gymnastics, trampoline, mini-trampoline, tumbling, diving, swimming, horseback riding, in-line skating, roller skating, roller derby, speed skating.
- Theatre: Acting, Improvisation, Character comedy, physical theatre
- Music: Singing, song writing and guitar
- Teaching: Aerial dance, circus skills, gymnastics, acrobatics, dance, personal fitness training
- Production: Choreography, direction, costume design and construction, set and prop building

TEACHING AND COACHING

- Present: Director of the Aloft Loft, center for physical performance and new circus arts. Aerial Dance, Trapeze, Lyra, Acrobatics, Rope and Fabric and Act Development classes currently offered at the The Aloft Loft and private aerial coaching. Assisting students in aerial technique skill development, act creation and conditioning.
- 2004-2005: AMEBA Acrobatic and Aerial Dance. Trapeze workshop instructor.
- 2003-present: Circesteem. Working with inner-city youth using circus skills to improve self-esteem and lifestyle. Also, doing residencies in Chicago schools.
- 2003: Circus Smirkus Summer Camp. Instructed all levels in static, double and single-point trapeze, fabric, Spanish Web, corde lisse, lyra, aerial dance, acrobatics and stilts. Choreographed acts in each discipline.
- 2002: Circus Maniacs Youth Performance Company Head Acrobatics and conditioning coach. Bristol, England.
- 2002: Independent Lake Camp. Coaching circus skills under the supervision of Jackie Tan. Coached aerial, acrobatic and mini-tramp skills. Orson, PA.
- Jan. 2002: Three Day Workshop for high school dancers in Chicago, IL. Instructed dancers in aerial dance technique on solo and double single point trapeze.
- 2000-2002: Rose City Youth Circus. Ran and coached a small youth circus in aerial and acrobatic skills, presenting performances to community centers, schools and charity groups. Also taught classes to adults and children in circus skills. Portland, OR.
- 1994-2001: Coaching gymnastics skills, beginner to competitive at various gyms in Chicago, IL, Portland, OR and a summer camp in Maine.

AWARDS, HONORS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Davis Choreography Scholarship winner to Aerial Dance Festival 2005.

2005 CAAP Grant Recipient for the creation of an evening length aerial dance performance.

Choreography selected for showcases:

“Anti-“ International Circus Performer’s Festival, 2005.

“Chicago Affective” Full Circle Festival of Danztheatre. 2005

"All Earthly Burdens" Dance Cartel Choreographer's Showcase 1998

"For Leavers"-Best of Student Performance Night 1996 (Columbia College Chicago) and runner-up for entrance to American College Dance Festival.

Illinois State Regional High School Gymnastics Meet:

1st Place Balance Beam, 2nd place All-Around

United States Gymnastics Association Safety Certification

Pediatric First Aid Certification

EDUCATION

University: Portland State University. BS in Sociology. Graduated in June 2002 with Honors.
Columbia College Chicago. Dance Studies 1995-1996.

High School: Rolling Meadows High School. Graduated June 1995. (English, Dance, Art)