

# 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: Blond	
Bust: 37in	Waist: 28in
Hips: 37in	Clothes: Size 7
Shoes: Size 7	

### Contact Info

1103 N California Ave #3  
Chicago, IL 60622  
[www.aloftaerialdance.com](http://www.aloftaerialdance.com)  
[aloftaerialdance@gmail.com](mailto:aloftaerialdance@gmail.com)

### SELECTED CIRCUS, FESTIVAL AND CORPORATE CREDITS

Coors Light/Maxim Model Search Tour *Aerial performance on Rope and Stiltwalking. Nov 2006-March 2007*

Cirque Voila! Baltimore, MD. *Static trapeze and aerial silks. Jan 2007*

Seneca Niagara Casino, *Humanimal Performance involving bodypainting, statue and acrobatics. NYE 2006*

"Imagine Christmas", Willow Creek Church, Barrington, IL. Dec 2006. *Aerial direction, choreography and aerial hoop performance.*

Zoppe Family Circus, Midwest Tour Dates. *Aerial silks and aerial hoop, charivari. Summer 2006*

Grainger Annual Picnic, Lake Forrest, IL. *Aerial performance on silks, August 2006.*

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. *Aerial performance on silks. May 2006.*

Diesel Nighthclub Grand Opening, Pittsburgh, PA. *Aerial performance on silks. May 2006.*

Red Bull Trader's event. Palmer House Hilton. *Four legged creature stilts. Jan. 2006*

Seneca Niagra Casino. New Years Eve Party. *Aerial Fabric and Sling. Dec. 2005*

Steve Wynn Las Vegas Private Party. *Aerial Sling hangabout. Sept. 2005.*

Crobar Nightclub. *Rope and harness, rappelling, trapeze. June/Sept 2005.*

International Circus Performer's Gathering, featured performer. *Low single point trapeze. May 2005.*

AMEBA Acrobatic and Aerial Dance guest artist and instructor. *2004-2005.*

"Collaboraction Carnival". Aloft Aerial Dance. *Acrobatic walkabout. Feb. 2005.*

"New Year's High Rollers Party". Horeseshoe Casino. Aloft Aerial Dance. *Five hour aerial hangabout in "light loops". Dec. 2005*

The Midnight Circus, Company Member. Performances include "Chicagoween: Pumpkin Plaza" in Daley Plaza, "The Flower Thieves" evening length show, various corporate and city events. *Lyra, trapeze, Spanish Web, group acrobatics, tumbling, dance, Chinese Poles. 2003-present.*

"Cirque de la Mer" Sea World San Diego. *Chinese Poles, Russian Swing, Tumbling, Swimming. April-Sept. 2004.*

Toffo's Circus, London, England. *Lyra, fabric. Feb 2003*

Circus Maniacs Cabaret, Bristol England: *lyra, fabric. Nov. 2002:.*

Portland Masquerade Ball: *single point trapeze. Feb. 2002.*

"Binary" electronic music festival: *group trapeze performance and hang-about. Feb. 2001.*

Egyptian Room Cabaret: *solo single point trapeze . June 1999.*

## AERIAL DANCE AND THEATRE CREDITS

Aloft Aerial Dance. Artistic Director, choreographer.

"Ful Circle: Festival of Danztheatre" Aloft Aerial Dance. "Telephone". *Choreographer of bungee and silk sling. Feb. 2006.*

Chicago Lyric Opera. "Die Waulkurie". Spring 2005. *Trampolinist under direction of Debra Brown.*

"Full Circle: Festival of Danztheatre". Aloft Aerial Dance. "Chicago Affective", *Solo dance on aerial hoop. Feb. 2005.*

"Le Beouf sur le Toit". T. Daniel Productions. *The Red-headed lady. Mime and acrobatics. Nov. 2004.*

Osland and Co. Dance Workshop Understudy. Fall 2000.

Dance Cartel Showcase, Portland, OR. May 1997 and 1998.

"All Earthly Burdens" *dancer/choreographer*

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

Conduit Dance Summer Showcase (Thani Holt, choreograher): *dancer. July 1997.*

"Now and Before", contemporary dance performance (All Nine Toes/Brittany Brown): *dancer, Jan. 1997.*

For Leavers" and "Gripping, Grasping, Gasping" at Columbia College  
Choreographer's Showcase: *dancer/choreographer. Jan. 1996.*

"Lean on Me" (Randy Duncan): *dancer. May 1995.*

## SELF-PRODUCED SHOWS AND EVENTS

"Big Girls Don't Cry" Aloft Loft 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary party. March 2007. *Cloudswing, burlesque*

"Ghost Stories" Aloft Aerial Dance and Strange Tree Group. Oct 2006. *Trapeze, duo trapeze, tightwire,*

*ensemble participation.*

"The Silentest Movie", Aloft Aerial Dance. Around the Coyote Arts Festival. Sept 2006. *Ensemble aerial performance.*

"Not Like the Other", The Aloft Loft student cabaret. Sept 2006.

"One Flew Over" Aloft Loft Grand Opening Party April 2006. *Improvised aerial performances.*

"Rolling Blackouts" Aloft Aerial Dance. *Corde Lisse, Bungee, Duo Trapeze, Director, Choreographer. Sept. 2005*

"Variations on a Single Point" Aloft Aerial Dance. *Low single-point trapeze.*

## FILM CREDITS

"Heroes and Villains" Super 8 Film Collective: *played "Spaziani Carnivale: Trapeze Superhero". Spring 2002.*

## MODELING, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS

Sept 2005: Morton Aboretum. *Stilts Walkabout*  
Feb. 2005: Leo Burnett. *Tumbling/acrobatics.*  
March 2004: Crunch Fitness Grand Opening. *Acrobatic and contortion Walkabout*  
Sept. 2004: Sax Fifth Ave. *Stilts Walkabout*  
Dec. 2003: Bruce Rhor Photography. *Fine art model on lyra, trapeze and fabric*  
March 2003: Ford Motor Company Sales Promotion *Stilts Walkabout*  
Oct. 2002: Air France, Acrobat and Dancer for Bristol Airport Launch  
May 2002: Shard Photography, fine art model on trapeze and silks.

## 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.  
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, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, break-dancing, cheerleading, aerial dance.
Sports:	Gymnastics, trampoline, mini-trampoline, tumbling, diving, swimming, horseback riding, in-line skating, 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.
2003-2005:	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)