

RUBY KAREN

INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHER, AERIALIST and DANCER

Website: www.rubykarenproject.com

Email: rubykaren@gmail.com

Telephone: (714) 330-7484

Synopsis:

With a career spanning four decades, aerialist, dancer, choreographer and producer, Ruby Karen has thrived in the performing arts— theater, cinema, and music— while mastering various fitness disciplines. With roots in Manila, Ruby Karen’s training and success’ gave her the opportunity to globetrot through metropolises such as, Zurich, Tokyo, New York, and Los Angeles to name a few. Her accomplishments include holding three world titles in dance, a guest performance on Fox’s hit primetime television show *So You Think You Can Dance*, an *instructional lifts and tricks partnering DVD*, **authorship** of the fitness program *Aerial Dance Fitness* and the certification program, *International Aerial Teacher Training Program (IATTP)*, *Teacher’s Alliance*, festival competition – *West Coast Aerial Arts Festival* and performances and appearances in over twenty (20) countries. Ruby Karen has also received ostensible press coverage from respected publications across the US, Asia, and Europe.

After extensive travel performances and teachings, in 2007, Ruby Karen incorporated (and later was joined by husband, Luca Cecchini who is the organization’s in-house certified rigger):

- The first aerial school in Orange County, namely, the [Ruby Karen Project, Aerial and Performing Arts](#) and its’ performing company, [Orange County Aerial Arts](#) and is recognized as one of Southern California’s premier aerial instruction and performance schools.
- They produce and manage their commercial entertainment company, [CIRCO ETEREO](#), specialized Aerial and Dance acts as well as Fabrication of Aerial and Ground apparatuses.
- They also established and founded [Aerial Arts America](#), a non-profit organization and the only one in Southern California that embodies standardization programs such as the [Aerial Arts Teacher Certification](#) and the [West Coast Aerial Arts Festival](#), and recently launched the 3rd program of AAA – the scholarship program.
- They were featured in many high-end publications, online video shows and even was featured in [KTLA – Allie MacKay’s program](#) - June 2013.

Professional Credits:

1991 – Present: (not in order)

- Founding Director: [Aerial Arts America](#) - 2012– to present, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that creates awareness and safeguards the aerial arts discipline through its programs, including Teacher Certification, [West Coast Aerial Arts Festival](#) – an aerial competition and demonstrations; and Scholarship Grants
- School Administrator, Program Director and Faculty (2008 – to present) to the [Ruby Karen Project Aerial Dance Performing Arts](#)
- Founder & Artistic Director - [Orange County Aerial Arts](#) 2009 – to present, pre-professional aerial company of the RKP school
- Founder & Executive Producer, [Circo Etereo Entertainment](#) 2011 – to present
- Creator and Choreographer of all production performances by the OC Aerial Arts
- Producer, Artistic Director, Choreographer and Author to:
 - “Airborne” 2009,
 - “Holiday on Air” 2010,
 - “Nightmare on Air” 2011,
 - “Tales of the Gods” 2012,
 - “Adventures of the Mortars” 2013,
 - “Alice – Flight to Fantasy” 2014,
 - “Fairytale in Blue” 2015
- Producer of Festival performances for OCAA at OC Fair 2012–present, OC Great Parks 2011-2012, Tri-Art Festival, Dancescape 2010-2012 and Pearson Amphitheater

- Organizer of children's aerial dance summer camps at various locations in Orange County and Los Angeles
- School Director and Instructor: Aerial Arts, Dance, Fitness, Latin and Kid's Programs at its main headquarters in Costa Mesa, Orange County locations and satellite studio in Los Angeles locations. 2008 – to present
- International Performer and Instructor (concentration of travels started in 2000: At least 50 cities with repeated invitations in Europe, Asia, North and South America, including Tel Aviv, Guatemala, Jakarta, Rio De Janeiro, Ordos-China, London, Munich, Hamburg, Hannover, Dusseldorf, Vienna, Murcia, Salzburg, Graz, Paris, Marseilles, Gothenburg, Tokyo, Bangkok, Manila, Vancouver, Kuala Lumpur, Mexico, Sicily, Marbella, Barcelona, Rome, Brescia, Perugia, Salerno, Chiavarri, Genoa, Milan, Mumbai, to name a few.
- Choreographer and first aerial arts trainer for [Ballet Manila](#) (2015) for their newly formed group: Circus D' Ballet, which premiered December 2015.
- Aerial trainer, advisor and choreographer for [Sky Fly](#), Bangkok from 2012 – Present
- Aerial trainer and advisor to Mumbai's [Fly High](#) and collaboration projects with [Shree Samartha, Vyayam Mandir](#)
- Guest Performer and coach with Alex Da Silva: 1st Season - Final Episode of "So You Think You Can Dance" 2005.
- Producer of Instructional DVD: *Ground and Aerial Tricks for Dancers 2006*
- Featured dancer: DVD - The Hollywood Dancers, released 2008
- Collaborative dance productions with aerial and dance artists and companies
- Aerialist for touring production company – Camerata Tango 2011
- Acrobatic guest artist for Otero Dance Company - ORDOS FESTIVAL, China 2014

1995 – Present:

- **Brockus Project Dance Company – Brockus Red, Los Angeles** – simultaneously worked as principal dancer for this modern company and toured with them in national level. Highly recognized for their contribution and awards in the local scene and has been a leader in the performing arts, having produced current productions such as Dance in LA, Spectrum and Split series.
- **South Bay Ballet, Torrance** until 2001- Seasoned Productions of Bravo, Toyshop and Fairy Tales and several roles including Blue Bird, Arabian, Spanish, Paquita and other SBB repertoires

1990 – 1995: Japan

- **Freelance Choreographer, Dancer, Instructor and Singer:** Ruby Karen had worked the dance mainstream in Tokyo, having accepted jobs involved in commercial, industrial and stage performances. At the same time, she was also a faculty at the Accel Dance Center where she taught jazz and ballet. As a singer, she was involved as a main soloist and back-up singer to various concerts and events. She also produced her own album, *Make it Through the Night*, which she composed and performed. Details and sample of this album can be accessed in her website.

1993 – 1995: Inspiration Dance Company, Tokyo Japan - A principal dancer for this modern company, known for its high energy Horton technique. Inspiration is a seasoned company with regular performances all over Tokyo.

1986 – 1990: Quezon City Ballet, Quezon City, Philippines – Principal dancer - Kitri (Don Quixote), Sugar Plum Fairy (Nutcracker), Peasant Pas Giselle, Cygnets (Swan Lake), Arabian and other major roles from original classical ballet and original QCB repertoires including Valse Engrande

1982 – 1985: Dance Concert Company, Manila, Philippines – Principal dancer - Arabian (Nutcracker), Visions in Blue, Nympha - Medea; Gypsy - La Gitana, Entrada Soloist - Paquita; Carmen and other DCC repertoires

DANCE EDUCATION - Ballet

1995 - Present - California, USA

Open classes and workshops including, Diavolo Dance Theater; Charles Maple - Maple Conservatory; Stefan Wenta – Wenta Dance School; Marie de la Palme, Lisa Ebayer, David Wilcox - Long Beach Ballet, Diane Lauridsen - South Bay Ballet and schools around the greater Los Angeles

1994 - New York, USA

American Theater Dance, New York (Scholarship Award); Joffrey Academy of Dance

1989 - 1995 – Tokyo, Japan

Matsuyama Ballet School, Ohkura Ballet

1987 - Zurich, Switzerland - Zurich Opernhaus Dance

1970's – 1991 – Metro Manila, Philippines

William Morgan; Eric V. Cruz – Dance Concert Company; Cultural Center of the Philippines; Edgar Valdez - American School of Ballet; Effie Nanas School of Dance; Vela Damian's School of Ballet and Dance Arts; Shirley Halili - Halili-Cruz School of Dance

AERIAL ARTS & CONTEMPORARY MODERN Education

- **CIRCUS AERIALS ARTS:** Commenced training in 2003 with Trapeze, Tissu, Hoop, Mallakhamb and Vertical aerial apparatus. She attributes her skills to training and practice locations at Escuela Municipal de Circo de Alcorcon (Madrid), Escola Nacional de Circo (Rio De Janeiro), Hollywood Aerials Arts (Los Angeles), Florentine Circus (Tel Aviv), SF Circus Center (San Francisco), Shree Samartha Vyayam Mandir (Mumbai) and continuing education at various facilities and instructors in Montreal, Las Vegas, Mumbai, Portland.. with icon instructors including Rachel Walker, Terry Beeman, Tania Holt, Ginger Anna Greip-Ruiz, Shayna Swanson, Aurelie Dauphne, and Uday Desphande, among others. She will be travelling to Mumbai this January 2016 for a long intensive course in Mallakhamb discipline with no other than master. She has worked and continues to collaborate and contribute with many performing artists for different projects.
- **ACRO-GYMNASTICS AND AERIAL PARTNERING:** Exposed in the early stages of lifts and tricks as early as her ballet professional days in the 80's, Ruby mastered this artform and incorporated her skills in various dance discipline, more so in Salsa and Acrobatic Adagio. It is in this art form that she saw the need to go independent and explore her skills to its fullest which gained her recognition locally and internationally. Due to the overgrowing demand for her style, she produce her own Aerial Lift and Tricks Instructional DVD (released in 2006) and continues to teach these movements in all appearances and invitations around the globe
- **MODERN:** Professional Dancer; company member and collaborative efforts with dance companies e.g., Inspiration (Tokyo); Brockus Project Dance Company (Los Angeles) and independent contracts (1999 – 2002)
- **SALSA:** Professional career since 2004. Traveled, taught and performed in many countries and cities around the world.

CHOREOGRAPHY: See separate sheet for list

PRESS REVIEWS: Ruby Karen's works and performances has been reviewed and published several times by LA Times, Coast Magazine, Riviera Magazine, Enjoy Life & Style, Beverly Outlook, Celebrity Chronicle, Asian Journal and other local newspapers at various cities and countries where she performed. Some of these can be accessed at: www.rubykarenproject.com

AWARDS and TITLES:

- 1st –Mayan World Salsa Championship 2005
- 1st (Gold medalist) in Ballet - World Championship of Performing Arts 2003
- 1st (Gold medalist) - Acro-gymnastics - World Championship of Performing Arts 2003
- 1st –San Francisco Salsa Championship – Cabaret Division 2005
- 1st –California Star Ball Professional Cabaret/ Theatrical Arts Championship 2007
- 1st - Open Japan Dance Competition 1991
- 1st - Open Professional Salsa Championship, Palm Springs 2006
- Finalist - ESPN's 1st World Salsa Championship 2005 – Las Vegas
- Finalist– International Choreography Festival Dance Under The Stars, Palm Springs 2005
- Finalist– International Choreography Festival Dance Under The Stars, Palm Springs 2001
- Outstanding Performance - The Lester Horton Dance Awards Nominee 2004
- Achievement Award for Exceptional Performance and High Standards of Excellence by Celebrity Chronicle, Glendale 2005
- Recipient of various awards for Recognition and Excellence
- 1st Place - 1989 National (Philippine) Bodybuilding Mixed Pairs

- 2nd Place - 1989 National Women's Bodybuilding
- 3rd Place - 1991 Asian Women's Bodybuilding Championship
- 7th Place – 1993 Japan Bodybuilding Championship
- Special Award - Best Poser, '89 National Women's and Mixed Pairs
- 2nd Place – 1988 Ms. Metro Manila Bodybuilding Competition

TEACHING EXPERIENCES 1981 - Present:

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS: Tel Aviv, Guatemala, Jakarta, London, Munich, Hamburg, Hannover, Dusseldorf, Vienna, Murcia, Salzburg, Graz, Paris, Marseilles, Gothenburg, Tokyo, Bangkok, Manila, Mumbai, Vancouver, Kuala Lumpur, Mexico, Rio De Janeiro, Sicily, Marbella, Barcelona, Rome, Brescia, Perugia, Salerno, Chiavari, Genoa, Milan (and many other cities in Italy) Some of these cities, she has been and is contracted more than once.

Regional Workshops: San Francisco and other Bay areas, Southern California, Phoenix, Dallas, New York, Rhode Island, San Diego, Seattle, Portland, Miami other cities across the USA.

REGULAR CLASSES:

SCHOOL OF BALLET AND DANCE ARTS (Phils.)
 GOLDCREST DANCE WORKSHOP (Phils.)
 LEGASPI DANCE CENTER (Phils.)
 HALILI-CRUZ SCHOOL OF DANCE (Phils.)
 STUDIO ACCEL (Tokyo)
 CENTER STAGE DANCE ACADEMY (California)
 FOCUS FISH DANCE STUDIO (California)
 DANCETIME STUDIO (California)
 LAURIDSEN SCHOOL OF DANCE (California)
 BEA HIVE DANCE CENTER (California)
 BROCKUS PROJECT STUDIOS (California)
 NEWHOPE ACADEMY OF GYMNASTICS (California)
 DANCE ASYLUM (California)
 ORANGE COUNTY ARTS ARTS (California)
 RUBY KAREN PROJECT (California)
 FAIRMONT SCHOOL (California)
 SILVER GAN SCHOOL (California)
 SKY FLY AERIALS (Bangkok)
 FLY HIGH AERIAL ARTS (Mumbai)

FITNESS AND CONDITIONING:

An advocate of good health and core training, Ruby Karen has explored the competitive arena of bodybuilding and power lifting as a medium in understanding her body. Given this, she has used her skills to develop core strength, endurance and technique which she applies both in her personal training and teaches the same in her workshops.

ACTING CREDITS: Films, Television and Commercials: Partial List (w/ speaking roles) include: "Nemuro Otoko", "Tengoku No Taizai", "Yamada Ga Machini, Yatte Kitta", "Don o Koroshita Otoko", "Takaragashi Boutique", "Germs Super Show", "Mongolian Barbecue", "Good Morning Manila".