

COWBOY PROTECTORS

The bullfighter is responsible for distracting the bull while the cowboy regains his sense of direction and escapes to safety after a fall or dismount. Today's bullfighter, far from being a clown, is serious about his job; he routinely places his own life in danger in an effort to protect the cowboy. The modern bullfighter is also an accomplished athlete, a master of timing and agility.

ANDY BURELLE

Freestyle Bullfight Barrelman

Andy Burelle was born and raised in Michigan, "The Wolverine State". He attended college at Eastern Michigan University and began his rodeo career as a bull rider at J Bar J Ranch. Soon after, he learned to fight bulls from the great bullfighter Rex Dunn. Andy has worked most prestigious rodeos including the Calgary Stampede, California Rodeo Salinas and the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo. He offers top-notch value in showmanship, inside and outside of the arena. Andy will be in the barrel during the Freestyle Bullfights helping his buddies stay safe while they maneuver around large angry bulls instead of fighting those bulls himself. Andy's freestyle bullfighting experience makes him the right guy for the job and we are always happy to welcome him back to the California Rodeo Salinas. He and his wife, Robyn, son, Zane and daughter, Sonora, make their home in Ardmore, Oklahoma.



Photo by Richard Field Levine



Photo by Phil Doyle

TIM O'CONNOR

Tim O'Connor is back for his 9th year as a Cowboy Protector at the California Rodeo Salinas. He developed his skills while watching his uncle, Craig O'Connor, fight bulls throughout his childhood and adolescence. This season marks his 19th year as a member of the PRCA. Tim has been selected five times to protect the bull riders for the California Circuit Finals, in addition to many other major rodeos. His commitment to hard work and excellence pushes him to give his best to the bull riders, stock, and fans. He lives in Springville, CA with his wife, Amber and kids Karson, Kalynn and Rylan.

ERIC LAYTON

2019 was Eric's 13th appearance as a Cowboy Protector at the California Rodeo Salinas. A protégé of the famous bullfighter Joe Baumgartner, Eric joined the PRCA in 2006 and has worked several rodeos throughout California, Nevada and Oregon, including the California Circuit Finals Rodeo 7 times and the Ram National Circuit Finals once. Eric lives in Red Bluff, California where he works for Growney Bros. Rodeo Company and spends his free time hunting and fishing.



Photo by Phil Doyle