

COWBOY PROTECTORS

The Cowboy Protector 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.

JOSH DARIES

33 year old Josh Daries is from Salinas, CA and has been fighting bulls since 2014. He was selected to fight the California Circuit Finals twice and was the California Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association Bullfighter of the Year five times. He is a graduate of North Monterey County High School and attended Feather River College and the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. Josh made his Salinas bullfighting debut last year during the Big Week Bull Riding and is excited to move to cowboy protection in the arena during the four professional rodeo performances this year. He has been a volunteer, contestant and now personnel for his hometown rodeo. Josh lives in Clements, CA with his wife Tyla.



TIM O'CONNOR

Tim O'Connor is back for his 10th 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 20th 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.



ANDY BURELLE

Freestyle Bullfight Barrelman

Andy Burrelle 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 at 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.

