



RACHAEL MARKARIAN





# BIOGRAPHY

Rachael was born into an Armenian family and raised outside of Boston. She immersed herself in Theatre & Dance at a young age and attended a Performing Arts High School, while also training at some of the most prestigious schools in NYC. Knowing the importance of becoming a hybrid artist, Rachael studied Theatre, Dance & Voice at Oklahoma City University before moving to Los Angeles.

Over the years, Rachael has enjoyed a versatile and successful career in the Entertainment Industry as an Actress, Pro-Dancer & Choreographer. After her Recurring Guest Star role as Dr. Neema Fiskell on CW's hit show *ALL AMERICAN*, Rachael's momentum continued in both Film & Television.

Her work includes Supporting Roles in *TOP GUN: MAVERICK* alongside Tom Cruise, *BANDIT* opposite Josh Duhamel and Nestor Carbonell, *ON A WING AND A PRAYER* for MGM starring Dennis Quaid, where she was in the running for an Emmy Nomination. As well as Guest Star Roles on NBC's *MAGNUM PI*, AMC's Anthology Series *TALES OF THE WALKING DEAD*, Netflix's *SWEET MAGNOLIAS* as a Recurring Guest Star, BET's *FIRST WIVES CLUB* and Emmy Nominated sitcom *THE MS. PAT SHOW*, ABC's *QUEENS*, and Bounce TV's hit series *JOHNSON*. You can also catch her alongside Deion Sanders & Nick Saban in the new *AFLAC Insurance* campaign. Rachael will soon be seen in Disney's *DESCENDANTS: THE RISE OF RED* and Marvel's *CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD*.

Her hybrid skills also came into play as she recurred on the hit shows *GLEE* and *TRUE BLOOD*, with appearances in *THE MORNING SHOW*, *GILMORE GIRLS REVIVAL*, *DOLLFACE*, *MASCOTS*, *RUSH HOUR 3*, *BEHIND THE CANDELABRA*, *NO STRINGS ATTACHED*, *HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER*, *VEGAS*, *CSI*, and *PARKS & RECREATION*.

Rachael also played the Lead Role of Kari in Emmy Nominated writer Craig Wright's play *THE PAVILION*, at the prestigious Malibu Playhouse.

Rachael brings a unique quality to the table as a diverse and well-rounded artist. Passionate about supporting young creatives on their journey, she continues to give back to her artistic community as an Educator & Mentor.

## SHOUTOUT LA

We had the good fortune of connecting with Rachael Markarian and we've shared our conversation below.

Meet

**Rachael Markarian**

Actress, Pro-Dancer & Educator



**You've had a long and diverse professional career, can you share the mindset that keeps you motivated?**

A clear vision is the main thing for me, and the love I have for this craft. I honestly couldn't imagine myself doing anything else. I still have a fire in my belly after all these years, and get giddy for any job, audition, table read, etc.

My vision has been a key factor, and I've had to get very clear about my path; how I want it to feel and what I'm striving for.

I think without a clear vision and belief in yourself, this business is harder to navigate and pursue with the passion that brought you to it in the first place. But when it's clear, it doesn't matter the setback because you're able to see the bigger picture...you look at those moments as an opportunity to learn, grow and shift perspective.

**You've had some wonderful projects come out recently, what are you most excited about coming up?**

Thank you! It's been fun taking it all in and enjoying the ride.

I was so thankful to be part of TOP GUN: MAVERICK, a film that reminded us why we truly love the theatre. THE WALKING DEAD was also a blast, being part of the anthology series and franchise was thrilling, and of course hopping into the Series Finale of MAGNUM PI was a great time.

To be in the running for an Emmy Nomination for ON A WING AND A PRAYER was such a cool moment for me.

I'm about to start filming Season 4 of SWEET MAGNOLIAS. And, I've got 3 movies coming out soon...Marvel's CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD, Disney's DESCENDANTS: THE RISE OF RED, and I had the honor of working with Francis Ford Coppola on his new film MEGALOPOLIS.

**"One of the biggest lessons I learned the last couple of years is that every moment matters. For example, I was offered a role in Top Gun: Maverick based off an audition I did for a TV show 18 months prior. An audition I never heard back from or thought twice about. So you just never know what goes on behind the scenes."**



## Are there things you've learned or wish you new sooner and want to pass onto younger artists in the Entertainment Industry?

Over time, I've learned to allow the disappointments to sting, but never for more than 48hrs (if I can help it). That everything can be forward movement, if we choose to look at it that way. I've embraced my own journey, it's excited to know it's uniquely mine and things can happen in many different ways. And for that I'd say to just stay focused on your own lane, anything else will be a distraction. Listening to my team while also trusting my instincts and knowing my own power has been invaluable.

I've learned that a watched phone never rings, so go out and live your life, because a balanced life is a full life. Those experiences make us a more interesting, aware and dynamic actor. And finally, perhaps one of the biggest lessons I learned the last couple of years is that every moment matters, even when you think it doesn't. For example, I was offered a role in Top Gun: Maverick based off an audition I did for a TV show 18 months prior. An audition I never heard back from or thought twice about. So you just never know what goes on behind the scenes. Show up, put the work in, trust that it's good enough (that day), then get out of your own way and let things flow.





# DEMOS

## Rachael Markarian Reel



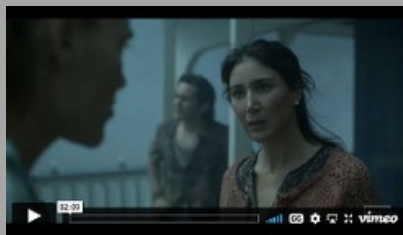
## MAGNUM P.I.



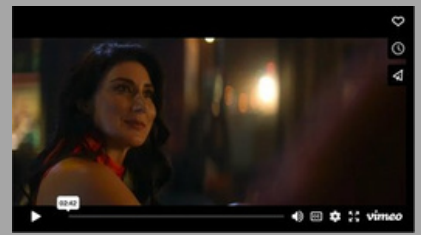
## ALL AMERICAN



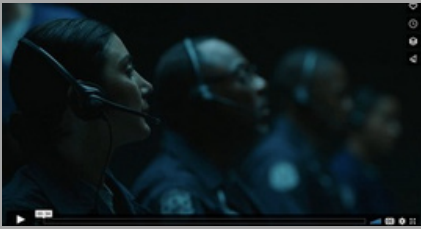
## TALES OF THE WALKING DEAD



## ON A WING AND A PRAYER



## TOP GUN MAVERICK



## BANDIT



## THE ms. Pat SHOW

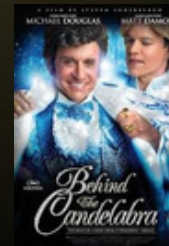


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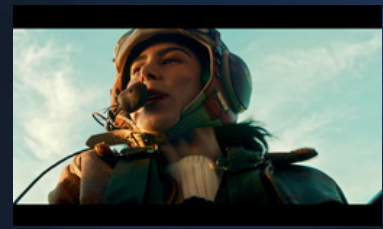
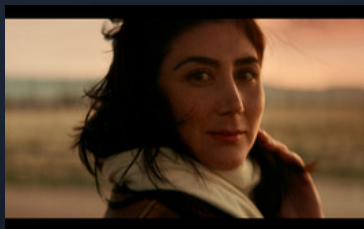
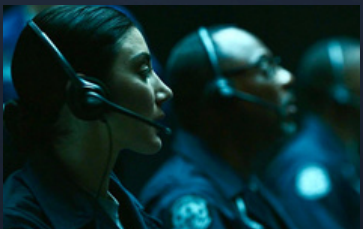


# CREDITS





# STILLS





# BEHIND THE SCENES





# EVENTS

**billboard**  
MUSIC AWARDS



**billboard**  
MUSIC AWARDS





# MORE PRESS



"ALONG WITH UNDENIABLE TALENT, I'VE LEARNED THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE STAMINA AND THE RIGHT MINDSET FOR THIS BUSINESS. THE ABILITY TO TAKE 'REJECTION' AND KNOW HOW TO REDIRECT THAT IN YOUR MIND, SO THAT IT SERVES YOU AND DOESN'T STIFLE YOU."



## Meet Rachael Markarian

*Tell us about your process or approach to the work, and what inspires you.*

EVER SINCE I WAS A KID THE WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE WAS ALWAYS PRESENT. AS I GOT OLDER AND BEGAN TO STUDY THE CRAFT, THE IDEA OF STEPPING INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES REALLY FASCINATED ME. MY FIRST ACTING COACH, THE WONDERFUL ARTHUR MENDOZA, TAUGHT ME THAT THE SEARCH IS NEVER OVER WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR CHARACTER. I WORK FROM THE IMAGINATION WHEN I'M BUILDING A CHARACTER'S BACKSTORY, THEIR MEMORIES, ETC. THERE'S SOMETHING VERY FREEING AND ENDLESS ABOUT CREATING FROM THAT PLACE.

MY HOPE IS TO ALWAYS DO GREAT WORK ALONGSIDE GREAT ARTISTS AND FILMMAKERS. TO TELL THOUGHT PROVOKING STORIES THAT ARE REAL AND RELATABLE... WHERE SOMEONE CAN WATCH AND SAY, "I GET THAT PERSON." OR "I UNDERSTAND THAT STORY." AND SO ON.

WHEN I'M ON SET, I'M LIKE A HAWK WATCHING THE INNER WORKINGS OF THINGS, ESPECIALLY AS A GUEST ON A SHOW THAT'S BEEN RUNNING FOR A WHILE. THERE'S ALWAYS A RHYTHM I LIKE TO TAKE NOTE OF SINCE EVERY ACTOR, DIRECTOR AND SHOW IS DIFFERENT. I LIKE TO OBSERVE AS MUCH AS I CAN BEFORE IT'S TIME TO SHOOT .



I'M ALSO KEYED INTO EVERYONE ELSE'S ROLE. I STARTED DOING THAT WHEN I WAS DANCING PROFESSIONALLY, I WORKED ON SEVERAL SETS AND WAS SO IMPRESSED BY ALL THE MOVING PARTS. I TREATED IT LIKE SCHOOL, THE MORE I COULD UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE EACH PERSON'S ROLE, THE BETTER ARTIST I BECAME.

KNOWING ABOUT CAMERA, LIGHTING, CONTINUITY, ETC. THOSE ARE ALL THINGS YOU LEARN ON THE JOB FOR MOST PEOPLE. SO THE FACT THAT I GOT TO LEARN ABOUT THAT WHILE I WAS PERFORMING AS A DANCER, MADE ME VERY PREPARED FOR MY WORK AS AN ACTOR. I THINK IT'S SO VALUABLE TO UNDERSTAND NOT ONLY YOUR ROLE, BUT THE INTRICATE ROLES OF EVERYONE ELSE, AND HOW ALL OUR WORK COMES TOGETHER TO CREATE THIS FINAL PIECE OF ART.

WHEN IT COMES TO MY OTHER INSPIRATIONS, IT COULD BE AN A-LIST ACTOR OR SOMEONE I'VE NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE IN A SMALL INDIE, OR EVEN SOMEONE IN AN ACTING CLASS. I'VE WITNESSED SOME OF THE MOST INCREDIBLE SCENES IN MY CLASSES...IF I'M MOVED AND YOU MAKE ME FEEL SOMETHING, THEN I'M INSPIRED.

***Do you have any advice for other artists either starting out, or experiencing a rough patch?***


SOMEONE ONCE TOLD MY BROTHER WHO'S A SCREENWRITER, "IF YOU CAN'T GIVE IT 5 YEARS, DON'T GIVE IT 5 MINUTES." WE BOTH LAUGH NOW LOOKING BACK AND SAY, "5YRS? TRY 10, AT LEAST!" BUT IT'S TRUE, THIS IS A LONG JOURNEY AND I'VE LEARNED THAT THINGS TAKE TIME. YOU REALLY NEED TO LEARN A LOT—NOT JUST CREATIVELY, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE BUSINESS— BEFORE YOU'RE READY TO RECEIVE SOME OF THE BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES YOU'RE AIMING FOR. AND I'M CONTINUOUSLY LEARNING ABOUT HOW THIS MACHINE OPERATES.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN UNDERDOG, HAVING TO MAKE MY WAY, PUSH PAST ADVERSITY OR OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS OF ME, AND SCRAPE MY WAY UP. SO I'VE DEVELOPED THICK SKIN AND A RESILIENCE. THE BEST WAY I CAN PUT IT IS, ALONG WITH UNDENIABLE TALENT, YOU HAVE TO HAVE STAMINA AND THE RIGHT MINDSET FOR THIS BUSINESS...THE ABILITY TO TAKE 'REJECTION' AND KNOW HOW TO REDIRECT THAT IN YOUR MIND SO IT SERVES YOU AND DOESN'T STIFLE YOU. BEING ARTISTICALLY, MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY EVOLVED IS CRUCIAL. THIS BUSINESS EBBS & FLOWS, AND EVERY STRUGGLE I'VE HAD HAS HELPED MOLD OR PREPARE ME FOR THE BLESSING THAT FOLLOWED. WHEN IT'S ROUGH, BE THANKFUL AND TRUST THAT SOMETHING GOOD IS AROUND THE CORNER.

I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS FOR OVER 20YRS, IT'S INCREDIBLY REWARDING AND EQUALLY TOUGH SO YOU REALLY HAVE TO LOVE IT, AND BE WILLING TO GIVE SO MUCH OF YOURSELF TO IT....TIME, ENERGY, EMOTIONS, FINANCES, SACRIFICES, ETC. WHEN I GOT TO A PLACE WHERE I UNDERSTOOD THE FULL SCOPE OF WHAT THIS IS, IT MADE THE JOURNEY EASIER AND SO MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE.







“Knowing the importance of being a hybrid artist, I feel confident knowing I’m able to walk on set and bring versatility and unique qualities to the table.”

VoyageLA

### ***Any tough lessons you learned along the way?***

I ATE SOME SERIOUS HUMBLE PIE WHEN I BEGAN TO PURSUE ACTING, THE PATH WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN MY PATH AS A DANCER. WRAPPING MY HEAD AROUND THE IDEA OF ESSENTIALLY STARTING AT THE BOTTOM--WHEN I WAS AT THE TOP OF MY GAME IN A PREVIOUS CAREER--WAS EYE OPENING. MY JOURNEY BEGAN AS A PROFESSIONAL DANCER, AND I GOT VERY LUCKY WHEN I MOVED TO LA. I BOOKED MY FIRST STUDIO FILM WITHIN 3 WEEKS, HAD PERFORMED AT NUMEROUS AWARD SHOWS WITH TOP ARTISTS, AND BOOKED MY FIRST WORLD TOUR ALL WITHIN 9 MONTHS OF BEING THERE. AFTER THAT, MY CAREER TOOK OFF AND I NEVER WENT MORE THAN 2 WEEKS WITHOUT WORKING...FOR 15YRS.

CUT TO, PUTTING A PAUSE ON THAT CAREER TO PURSUE ACTING AND NO ONE REALLY WANTING TO TAKE A CHANCE ON SOMEONE IN THEIR 30s. I’D HEAR A LOT OF, ‘DIVERSITY ISN’T REALLY IN’ OR ‘PEOPLE WON’T KNOW WHERE TO PLACE YOU.’ I WAS EITHER TOO ETHNIC, NOT ETHNIC ENOUGH, OR MY AGE WAS A FACTOR. I WAS EVEN TOLD TO CHANGE MY LAST NAME TO MARKS, SO IT’D BE EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND. IT WAS CONFUSING AND DISCOURAGING.

SO I FOCUSED ON THE WORK, I DOVE HEAD FIRST INTO TRAINING, PASSING ON DANCE JOBS SO I WOULDN’T MISS ACTING CLASS,

I WAS COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO EARNING MY PLACE AND SKILLS AS AN ACTRESS. I FIGURED IT TOOK ME YEARS TO TRAIN AS A DANCER AND GET TO THE LEVEL I WAS AT...ACTING IS NO DIFFERENT. I MADE A LOT OF SACRIFICES AND GOT CLEAR ON MY VISION. FINALLY, THE RIGHT PEOPLE CAME INTO MY PATH, PEOPLE THAT SAW MY TALENT AND PROVIDED ME WITH OPPORTUNITIES.

ANOTHER HARD LESSON I LEARNED WAS TO UNAPOLOGETICALLY OWN EVERY ASPECT OF MY ARTISTRY. WHEN I WAS MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM DANCER TO ACTRESS, MY TEAM AT THE TIME DISCOURAGED ME FROM TELL PEOPLE ABOUT MY DANCE CAREER, THEY DIDN’T THINK I’D BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS AN ACTRESS. SADLY, I BELIEVED THEM AND PUT MYSELF IN A BOX, KEEPING QUIET ABOUT MY WORK. IT WASN’T UNTIL A VERY WELL KNOWN CASTING DIRECTOR PULLED ME ASIDE DURING A PRODUCER’S SESSION AND TOLD ME I SHOULD BE PROUD OF MY CAREER BECAUSE THOSE SKILLS ALSO HAD A HAND IN GETTING ME IN THAT ROOM, AND WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE ME IF I KNOW HOW TO OWN IT. THAT CONVERSATION WAS INVALUABLE AND COMPLETELY SHIFTED MY PERSPECTIVE AND SELF-WORTH. I NOW SEE MYSELF AS A VERSATILE ACTRESS WHO BRINGS DIVERSITY AND UNIQUE QUALITIES TO THE TABLE.



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