



# GIANA M. BRANDA

AGMT CERTIFIED, THIRD-GENERATION GLAZIER

## SPOTLIGHT

### On Giana Branda:

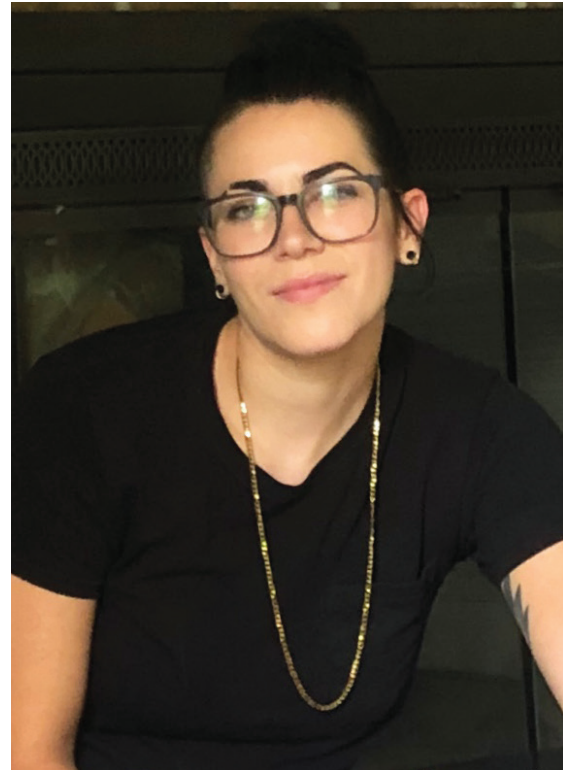
**Title** Journeyperson with The Glass Company (Atlantic City, N.J.)

**Hometown** Williamstown, N.J.

**Family** Girlfriend Nicole

**Favorite TV Show** Dexter

**Favorite Sports Team** Philadelphia Phillies or Chicago Cubs



### ABOUT GIANA

Third-generation glazier Giana Branda followed in her father's and grandfather's footsteps, joining the family business, The Glass Company, in 2016. She began her glazier apprenticeship in January 2017 and graduated in 2021. Today as a journeyman, Giana spends most of her time working on large casino tower projects in Atlantic City, N.J., including current work installing glass shower systems at Caesar's and recent projects at Bally's and Harrah's as well as the W Hotel in Philadelphia.

### SEE THE POTENTIAL

When Giana graduated from Williamstown High School in 2009, she did brief stints at Gloucester County College and Stockton University. But evening work as a restaurant manager and bartender left her with little time to study and even less time to spend with her close-knit family. She knew she needed a different career direction. "I was always good with my hands and was interested in glazing," Giana explained. Unlike many young people, she was exposed to the trade through her family. But she didn't want her dad to encourage her into glazing simply because he is a glazier. "I wanted him to approach me as someone who would be good at glazing, because he saw my potential, not just because he's my dad." When he finally invited her to become a glazier, Giana did not hesitate.

### NOT JUST A GIRL

Giana doesn't ever want to be known as *just* the girl glazier. While her female face in the male-dominated glazing trade may make her stand out, it's far from her most remarkable feature.



*Giana at the W Hotel in Philadelphia, Pa.; on apprentice graduation day in 2021*

She's quick to point out that glazing is a great trade for a girl or a guy. "It's a great career, period," she says. "As long as you want to work, you're going to do just fine." She adds that she's never run into anyone who treated her disrespectfully because she's female. In fact, Giana has earned the respect of her colleagues for both hard work and a collection of credentials that rivals glaziers with many more years of experience.

## CREDENTIALS

In December 2021, Giana was among 12 Local Union 252 glaziers who earned the Architectural Glass and Metal Technician (AGMT) certification. The intensive personnel test evaluates glaziers' knowledge and skills through written and hands-on assessments, validating their abilities and expertise. Giana added the credential to a resume that includes NCCCO rigging and signal person certifications plus OSHA-30, CPR, and fall protection. She goes into every credential test with an open mind, acknowledging there's a possibility she won't pass, but optimistic about her abilities. "It's important to have these skills. I want to be known for having certifications and working hard, not just for being a girl in the union," she explains.

## FAVORITES

Giana thinks it's awesome to know how to do something for yourself, with your hands, and she appreciates the places her glazing career has taken her. Her favorite big project remains her first – at the Hard Rock Atlantic City. She especially enjoys projects that require attention to detail, such as installing storefront glass and applying caulk.

## CLOSE FAMILY

Giana lives with her girlfriend Nicole Annoreno, whom she recently helped open her own salon, Hair by Nicole, in Williamstown. Self-proclaimed "cat obsessed," Giana counts three cats among her six pets (the other three are dogs) and owns drawers full of cat-patterned clothes. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her extended family and regularly visits Nicole's family in Chicago.

## FULL SCOPE

Professional, clean, trained, qualified: these are some of the adjectives Giana uses to describe her fellow glaziers. Her enthusiasm for glazing covers the health benefits and salary opportunities as well as the friendliness of her coworkers. "Growing up, I knew my dad was a glazier, but I didn't see what it really was until I got into the profession," she explains. Now seeing the full scope of her career choice, Giana admits it makes her even more proud of her father. "It's cool to see what he's done and to be able to do the same."

*Clockwise from top to bottom: Nicole and Giana; at a Phillies game; at nephew D.J.'s baptism with family and friends; with brother Anthony, father A.J., mother Rosemarie, and sister Talia*

