

# Stunt performer

## Description:

Stunt men and women put life and limb on the line to act as body doubles for actors in daring situations. Stunt performers are used for dangerous sequences in movies and television, such as jumping out of a building or jumping from vehicle to vehicle, as well as for other sophisticated stunts like fight scenes, which add to the entertainment value of a film or TV programme.

In order to become a stunt double, you must be prepared to do a lot of physical tricks. A background in gymnastics can often be beneficial for what is a very exciting career.

## Personal testimony:

Steve Truglia, stunt performer and coordinator has featured in some of Hollywood's top blockbuster movies. He's been involved in Bond classics 'The World is Not Enough' and 'Tomorrow Never Dies' and worked with actor Matt Damon on 'Saving Private Ryan'.

For stunt performers like me, DVD sales are a vital source of income. It's important that people continue to buy genuine DVDs rather than unauthorised ones, as they help keep a roof over my head and enable me to stay in the job I love.

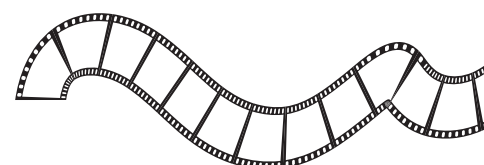
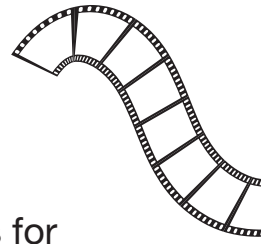
*Steve Truglia, stunt performer and coordinator*

The dangerous nature of his work means Steve can only work while at the peak of his physical fitness and while he's still young – there's a real danger that something could go wrong when he's crashing cars or falling from planes. This means he has to constantly maintain his skills and fitness and he won't be able to carry on working indefinitely. His retirement age is likely to be a good deal earlier than most.

## Industry facts

A typical stunt performer won't be paid in full at the time of their employment on a film or TV show, their wage for each job can be drip-fed over decades depending on how often a film or TV show is repeated or bought on DVD. These repeat fees are not bonuses but an important part of core income for workers in the film and TV industry.

**\*\*\*\*Don't try this at home!\*\*\*\***



# Questions

- What kind of training and preparation do you think is involved in becoming a stunt performer?
- Bearing their particular expertise in mind, how do you think stunt performers are affected by copyright infringement?

## So why is copyright important?

- Every time a TV programme is broadcast, or a film is shown in the cinema, those involved in the creation of that content - everyone from the director and cast, to the floor runner and sound engineer - give permission for the showing of that content in return for a small royalty payment

## Notes

