

STUNT DOUBLES



Have you ever done anything really dangerous? Have you fallen off a bridge? Have you walked through a fire? Rick English and Angela Meryl have. You've probably never heard of Rick or Angela, but you've seen them when you've watched a film at the cinema or on a DVD. They've been in a lot of famous films, including *Kill Bill*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Casino Royale* and the *Harry Potter* films. You haven't heard of them, because they're stunt doubles. Most film stars don't want to do dangerous things in films, so stunt doubles do them. Rick and Angela have been stunt doubles for some of the biggest movie stars.

They've done a lot of very dangerous stunts. Rick has driven cars through walls and into rivers. Angela has fallen off bridges, high buildings and motorbikes. She's also fallen out of windows and cars. Stunts look good in films, but they can be very dangerous. In 2002, Angela

fell through a glass table in the film *Kill Bill*. The glass cut her hand very badly and she ended up in hospital.

Probably the most dangerous stunt ever was in the film *Cliffhanger*. The stuntman, Simon Crane, climbed from one aeroplane to another, while they were flying at nearly five thousand metres. That was also the most expensive stunt ever. Simon got a million dollars for it.

'Danger is part of our life,' says stuntman Frank Street. 'A lot of stunt doubles have died and most of them have been in hospital several times. In fact, I've just come out of hospital myself. I broke my arm when I jumped out of a helicopter last week.' Because stunts are so dangerous and expensive, film directors have started to use CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) instead. It's safer and cheaper. So, in the future, there probably won't be any stunt doubles.