

## Make the Jump and Become a Stunt Person

**Summary:** *The high-intensity world of death defying stunts may be a great option for those that can't stand the idea of sitting behind a desk and enjoy tumbling around.*



It is a fact that not everyone is made to be a stunt person. But for those that enjoy high adrenaline and physically demanding tasks, there is real money to be made being a Hollywood stunt person. Imagine a day at work where you jump from buildings and get set on fire. There aren't many that would look forward to doing things like that, but for those that are destined for the career, they can't imagine anything better.

There are schools and programs specifically for training how to survive being hit by a car, dodge bullets, leap out of airplanes and other dangerous situations, so that with the proper execution, they are rather safe. The programs last about a month long, but will cost a pretty penny. Expect to learn precision driving skills, martial arts, wire work, rappelling, high falls, foot falls, stair falls, weaponry, harness work, and unarmed combat. Once someone understands the tricks of the trade and builds a strong reputation, they will have the option to explore other careers in the special effects and management part of Hollywood.

The best performers can expect to earn well over \$100,000 a year, with the average being \$70,000 a year. New stunt performers will make the minimum Screen Actors Guild amount of a few hundred dollars a day. In order to get jobs with movies, you must be a union member of the Screen Actors Guild or the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. All stunts are planned, practiced, rehearsed, and reviewed many times before being executed.



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Stuntmen also get to travel to wherever the scene is being filmed – the Great Wall of China, the Grand Tetons, the Eiffel Tower. You may work heavy hours for a few weeks and then have a few weeks off in between movies.

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