# Academy to introduce Best Stunt Design category at 100th Oscars



The integration of stunts into cinema has long been a vital aspect of storytelling, weaving a narrative thread that captivates viewers from the earliest days of film. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is set to acknowledge this tradition with the introduction of a new category for Best Stunt Design at the 100th Oscars ceremony in 2027. This move follows years of advocacy from industry artists who sought recognition for the often perilous and meticulous craft of stunt performance.

Stunts have a rich history in film, with their roots traceable to the very inception of cinema. One of the first instances of stunt work can be seen in the Lumière Brothers' 1896 short film, Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat. This iconic film captured an audience's imagination, partly due to the daring use of camera positioning near an oncoming train, a stunt that proved revolutionary at the time. As the art of filmmaking evolved, pioneers began using stunts not merely for spectacle but as essential narrative devices to enhance emotional weight.

During the silent film era, comedy icons like Harold Lloyd, Charlie Chaplin, and Buster Keaton pushed the boundaries of physical performance. Their works relied heavily on innovative stunts that enthralled audiences. Lloyd's famed scene in Safety Last! features him dangling from a clock tower, while Chaplin's climactic moment in The Gold Rush incorporates a cabin teetering on the edge of a cliff, blending live-action and meticulously crafted miniatures. Keaton, known for his bold approach, solidified his legacy with thrill-seeking stunts in films like The General, showcasing an audacity that continues to influence contemporary action cinema.

In recent years, modern filmmakers have reignited the commitment to practical stunts, distinguishing themselves from a trend towards reliance on computer-generated imagery. Franchises such as Mission: Impossible and John Wick exemplify this dedication, producing thrilling sequences that resonate well with audiences. These films, known for their authenticity and high-octane action, demonstrate that real stunts can create a visceral experience that CGI struggles to replicate.

The evolving landscape of blockbuster filmmaking has not completely abandoned practical effects, however. Even in CGI-heavy productions, stunt doubles are essential for safely executing intricate action scenes. The Avengers franchise, for instance, incorporates extensive stunt work, employing choreographed sequences to enhance the storytelling and physicality of its characters.

Effective stunt work transcends mere spectacle; it is designed to enhance the narrative. Similar to a musical number in a film, stunts are not interruptions but extensions of the story, driving momentum and heightening emotional engagement. The art of choreography, timing, and execution requires considerable skill, making the acknowledgment of stunt performers and choreographers both timely and warranted.

As the Academy prepares to add the Best Stunt Design category, the goal is to ensure that it is not merely a formality but a genuine celebration of the craft. The dedication of stunt performers, who often risk their safety for the audience’s heart-pounding entertainment, deserves to be honoured. The anticipation surrounding this new category signals a recognition of the artistry involved in stunt design, reflecting a century-long legacy of innovation in storytelling through physical performance.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://press.oscars.org/news/academy-establishes-stunt-design-award-100th-oscarsr> - This URL corroborates the introduction of a new Academy Award category for Best Stunt Design, which will be part of the 100th Oscars ceremony in 2027. It highlights the Academy's recognition of stunt design as an integral and innovative part of filmmaking.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrival_of_a_Train_at_La_Ciotat> - This link supports the historical context of stunts in early cinema, referencing the Lumière Brothers' 1896 film Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat, which is noted for its novel camera work that captivated audiences.
* <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0013582/> - This IMDb page for Safety Last by Harold Lloyd confirms his iconic stunts, such as hanging from a clock tower, highlighting Lloyd's contribution to the evolution of stunt work in film.
* <https://deadline.com/2023/07/mission-impossible-dead-reckoning-part-one-filming-wraps-1235445053/> - This article discusses the commitment to practical stunts in the Mission: Impossible franchise, illustrating how modern filmmakers continue to emphasize authenticity and thrilling sequences.
* <https://ew.com/movies/avengers-endgame-bts-stunts/> - This behind-the-scenes look at Avengers: Endgame's stunt work demonstrates how extensive stunt choreography is used in contemporary films, even those heavy on CGI, to enhance storytelling and action.