

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMI presents the screening series *See It Big: Stunts!*, a big-screen tribute to practical stunts and choreography, from silent films to contemporary international blockbusters

April 25–June 15, in conjunction with the new exhibition *Mission: Impossible—Story and Spectacle*, which opens April 18



Pictured: *Executioners*, courtesy of Janus Films

Astoria, New York, April 17, 2025 — As thrillingly demonstrated in the new exhibition, *Mission: Impossible—Story and Spectacle*, which opens April 18, the art, craft, and visual astonishment of stunt work remains one of the reasons we still go to the movies, especially in an era when so much CGI has taken the place of human derring-do. In conjunction with this exhibition, which honors the tactile, human accomplishments of the *Mission: Impossible* series—and coming hot on the heels of the announcement that the Academy Awards will be adding a new category honoring stunt design—Museum of the Moving Image will present [See It Big: Stunts!](#), a big-screen tribute to the eye-popping action staged by some of the industry’s most innovative stunt performers, choreographers, and actors.

The screening series, which runs from April 25 through June 15, extends from the silent comedy stylings of Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd to the groundbreaking, influential jumps of Yakima Canutt (*Stagecoach*) to the acrobatic innovations of Jackie Chan to

gonzo Hong Kong nineties superheroes and to the astonishments of 21st-century action films from Thailand, Indonesia, and beyond.

The Museum will announce special guest speakers as they are confirmed and may add additional films.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE—Story and Spectacle and related programs are supported by a Market New York grant from Empire State Development and I LOVE NY, New York State's Division of Tourism.

SCHEDULE FOR SEE IT BIG: STUNTS!, APRIL 25–JUNE 15, 2025

All films take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, New York, 11106. Advance tickets are available online at movingimage.org.

Steamboat Bill Jr.

Friday, April 25, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 26, 1:00 p.m.

Dirs. Buster Keaton, Charles Reisner. 1928, 70 mins. U.S. 4K DCP. With Buster Keaton, Ernest Torrence, Marion Byron, Tom McGuire. The most balletic of all silent comedy stunt performers, Buster Keaton is at his most jaw-dropping in this hilarious tale of a snooty college graduate who returns home to his gruff riverboat captain father, to whom he must prove his bravery. Expert character work and a poignant romance with a local wealthy magnate's daughter give way to pure physical comedy that rivals the funniest of any silent comedy. *Steamboat Bill Jr.* features Keaton battling a destructive cyclone in a scene that cost a third of the film's entire budget, and Keaton's most famous stunt: the house facade that nearly flattens him—if not for a perfectly positioned window.

Cliffhanger

Friday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 27, 12:30 p.m.

Dir. Renny Harlin. 1993, 113 mins. U.S. DCP. With Sylvester Stallone, John Lithgow, Janine Turner, Michael Rooker, Caroline Goodall. The spectacular, throat-gripping suspense of Renny Harlin's *Cliffhanger* demands the big screen. A mid-career triumph for Stallone, this action thriller hit from the slam-bang summer of 1993 is a marvel of mountain climbing and aerial stunt coordination, opening with Rocky Mountains ranger Gabe's nerve-jangling rescue gone awry. While trying to heal his own psychological wounds, Gabe becomes embroiled in a new crisis, when a former military intelligence operative (Lithgow) orchestrates a daring and deadly heist of more than 100 million dollars, the loot crash-landing in the Rockies.

The Fast and the Furious

Friday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

Dir. Rob Cohen. 2001, 106 mins. U.S. DCP. With Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, Rick Yune. The first in the immensely popular car-racing

action franchise stars Vin Diesel as a notorious illegal street racer and Paul Walker as the undercover LAPD officer who infiltrates his crew in order to track down a gang of thieves and bring them to justice following an elaborate California freeway heist. Stunt coordinator Mic Rodgers, whose long career as a stunt performer and double in the industry, from the TV shows *Wonder Woman* and *The Incredible Hulk* to the films *Lethal Weapon* and *Braveheart*, brings a stunning visceral quality to the film's indelible car chase sequences, kicking off one of the most enduring action series in contemporary Hollywood. For co-designing the "Mic Rig," to capture maximum authenticity in the film's many car chases, Rodgers won a special 2002 Academy Award for technical achievement.

Safety Last!

Saturday, May 3, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 1:00 p.m.

Dirs. Fred Newmayer and Sam Taylor. 1923, 73 mins. U.S. Restored DCP. In his most fabulous—and iconic—display of death-defying stunts, comedy legend Harold Lloyd is a small-town kid who has just arrived in the big city. Starting off at the ground floor of a department store, he must literally climb his way to the top after he and his buddy plan a publicity stunt that quickly goes awry. Filmed on location in downtown Los Angeles using a panoply of now textbook techniques to conjure the impression of Lloyd ascending the facade of a single building, *Safety Last!* remains every bit as thrilling as the day it was released.

Thunderball

Saturday, May 3, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Terence Young. 1965, 130 mins. U.K./U.S. DCP. With Sean Connery, Claudine Auger, Adolfo Celi, Luciana Paluzzi. Following the one-two-three punch of *Dr. No*, *From Russia with Love*, and *Goldfinger*, this fourth entry in the James Bond franchise submerges suave star Sean Connery into a whirlwind of deep-sea intrigue, featuring incredible underwater stunts. Here, Bond is on the trail of the SPECTRE organization, which has stolen a pair of atomic bombs, pursuing the criminals to the Bahamas. Boasting an incredibly complex and expensive shoot—and, ultimately, record box office grosses—Thunderball features dazzling work by recurring Bond stuntman Bob Simmons, and is renowned for its stunts, famously putting an understandably jittery Connery in the path of a real shark, as well as its Oscar-winning special effects.

The Heroic Trio

Saturday, May 10, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11, 3:30 p.m.

Dir. Johnnie To. 1993, 88 mins. Hong Kong. DCP. With Michelle Yeoh, Maggie Cheung, Anita Mui, Damian Lau, Anthony Wong. One of the most delightful and lastingly popular wuxia-inspired fantasies of the 1990s, this stone-cold Hong Kong classic from the incomparable Johnnie To stars the dazzling triumvirate of stuntwoman Michelle Yeoh,

Maggie Cheung, and Anita Mui as a trio of warrior superheroes in a comic book–like cityscape battling an evil eunuch Grandmaster intent on kidnapping the local babies. As Invisible Girl, Thief Catcher, and Wonder Woman, respectively, Yeoh, Cheung, and Mui show off their fearsome martial-arts skills, with the help of action choreographer Ching Siu-tung and the wild stylization of To's goofball ultraviolence, carving a singular place in movie history.

Executioners (The Heroic Trio 2)

Saturday, May 10, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11, 5:30 p.m.

Dirs. Johnnie To and Ching Siu-tung. 1993, 93 mins. Hong Kong. DCP. With Maggie Cheung, Michelle Yeoh, Anita Mui. Thief Catcher (Cheung), Invisible Woman (Yeoh), and Wonder Woman (Mui) return in this postapocalyptic sequel to the blockbuster Hong Kong action hit *The Heroic Trio*. Hong Kong's clean water supply has fallen into the hands of a masked maniac intent on seizing political power—forcing the three fearless fighters to settle their differences and once again unite to stop him. Notably darker in tone than its predecessor, *Executioners* finds director Johnnie To continuing to push his whirlwind action set pieces to new heights of cartoon craziness while adding grungy, dystopian atmosphere and a fresh dose of anti-authoritarian attitude.

Police Story

Friday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.

Dir. Jackie Chan. 1985, 100 mins. Hong Kong. DCP. With Jackie Chan, Brigitte Lin, Maggie Cheung. The jaw-dropping set pieces fly fast and furious in Jackie Chan's breathtakingly inventive martial-arts comedy, a smash hit that made him a worldwide icon of daredevil action spectacle. The director/star/one-man stunt machine plays Ka-Kui, a Hong Kong police inspector who goes rogue to bring down a drug kingpin and protect the case's star witness (Chinese cinema legend Brigitte Lin) from retribution. Packed wall-to-wall with charmingly goofball slapstick and astoundingly acrobatic fight choreography—including an epic shopping-mall melee of flying fists and shattered glass—*Police Story* set a new standard for rock-'em-sock-'em mayhem that would influence a generation of filmmakers from Hong Kong to Hollywood.

The Great Waldo Pepper

Saturday, May 24, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 25, 5:30 p.m.

Dir. George Roy Hill. 1975, 107 mins. U.S. 35mm. With Robert Redford, Bo Svenson, Bo Brundin, Susan Sarandon, Edward Herrmann, Margot Kidder. This beautifully made drama was George Roy Hill's follow-up after winning the Oscar for *The Sting*, reteaming him with Redford as a WWI veteran aviator who becomes a barnstorming stunt pilot in late 1920s America on the verge of the Great Depression. Waldo Pepper's tales about dogfighting combat planes during the war might not be entirely true, but that doesn't stop him from inspiring and wowing rural midwestern crowds. Juggling breezy

romanticism, dark pragmatism, and tragedy, *The Great Waldo Pepper*, cowritten by William Goldman, is a cinematic feat all its own, featuring dangerous high-flying acrobatic derring-do from classic Hollywood stunt pilot Frank Tallman.

Ong Bak: Muay Thai Warrior

Sunday, May 25, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 31, 4:00 p.m.

Dir. Prachya Pinkaew. 2003, 105 mins. Thailand. 35mm. With Tony Jaa, Phetthtai Vongkumlaio, Pumwaree Yodkamol, Suchao Pongwilai. One of 21st century cinema's most dazzling martial arts stuntmen and action choreographers, Tony Jaa had his international breakthrough with this action blockbuster. *Ong Bak: Muay Thai Warrior* follows a small-town's beloved martial arts hero who ventures to Bangkok seeking revenge after local gangsters desecrate the town's statue of their Buddhist deity and try to sell its head on the black market. Though he preaches nonviolence, the thugs push him to the limit, resulting in a barrage of incredible action sequences, accomplished without wires or CGI.

Raiders of the Lost Ark

Friday, May 30, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 1, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Steven Spielberg. 1981, 115 mins. U.S. DCP. With Harrison Ford, Karen Allen, John Rhys-Davies, Paul Freeman, Denholm Elliott. The film that introduced Indiana Jones to the world remains one of the most exciting films of all time, a perfectly engineered roller coaster that functions as both a winking homage to the action serials of director Spielberg's childhood and a singular adventure in its own right. A bespectacled history professor by day who moonlights as a globe-trotting archeologist, Jones instantly became one of cinema's great heroes, embodied by Ford with wit and self-effacement. Its mix of incredible stunt work—including stuntman Glenn Randall's breathtaking *Stagecoach*-inspired horse-to-truck jump and subsequent chase—and state-of-the-art special effects has never been topped, and Ford and Allen's screwball chemistry as Jones and former flame Marion sets a standard to which all action couples should be judged.

Hooper

Sunday, June 1, 1:00 p.m.

Dir. Hal Needham. 1978, 99 mins. U.S. 35mm. With Burt Reynolds, Jan-Michael Vincent, Sally Field, Brian Keith, Robert Klein. The highest paid stuntman in the world, Hal Needham turned movie director in the late 1970s with the one-two punch of *Smokey and the Bandit* and *Hooper*, both starring Burt Reynolds and Sally Field. A true auteur project, *Hooper* features Reynolds as the title character, who is—you guessed it—a Hollywood stuntman who's threatened by industry up-and-comer Ski (Vincent) until the two join forces. Good-natured action abounds in this delightful insider comedy, featuring car jumps, fights, explosions, high falls, and motorcycles dipping under semi tractor

trailers. Featuring a knockout supporting cast, including John Marley, Adam West, Terry Bradshaw, and Robert Klein as a pompous director modeled on Peter Bogdanovich.

District 13

Friday, June 6, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 7, 4:15 p.m.

Dir. Pierre Morel. 2004, 86 mins. France. 35mm. With David Belle, Cyril Raffaelli, Tony D'Amario, Larbi Naceri. A pure adrenaline rush, director Pierre Morel and co-writer Luc Besson's film was one of the international hits of the early 21st century, using the acrobatic athleticism of parkour as the aesthetic basis for a swift-paced urban action saga set in the Parisian banlieues. *District 13* features exhilarating stunt work and action choreography from co-stars Cyril Raffaelli and David Belle, who play a cop and a convict teaming up to defeat a local drug kingpin who has somehow acquired nuclear weapons. Raffaelli and Belle are the thrilling main attraction, seemingly defy gravity as they soar and fly amidst the stairways, alleys, roofs, and balconies of the city's high-rise apartments.

The Raid: Redemption

Friday, June 6, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Gareth Evans. 2011, 101 mins. Indonesia/France/U.S. DCP. With Iko Uwais, Ananda George, Ray Sahetapy, Joe Taslim. This relentless, violent action spectacular from Indonesia is one of the greatest contemporary thrillers, featuring punch-to-the-gut filmmaking that has already proven internationally influential. Featuring mayhem choreographed with ballistic balleticism that would make John Woo and Sam Peckinpah proud, the film follows a rookie cop (Uwais) as he joins a SWAT team in an apartment building raid to take down a drug kingpin who has barricaded himself in the penthouse. Getting to the top proves wildly difficult, as the cops must overcome one obstacle, booby trap, and intense battle after another.

Jackass 3 (in 3D)

Saturday, June 7, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Jeff Tremaine. 2010, 94 mins. DCP (3D). U.S. With Johnny Knoxville, Steve-O, Bam Margera, Ryan Dunn, Jason "Wee Man" Acuna, Tony Hawk. The ultimate in cinematic tastelessness? Stunts for dummies? Whatever you want to call it, there's no denying the gutter punk artistry of Johnny Knoxville and his Jackass buddies, pushing themselves to their own physical limits to achieve some sort of idiot grace. This time in 3D, their gross-out risky business includes bordering-on-surreal situations like wrestling bulls, kissing scorpions, supergluing themselves to one another, and perched at the tops of trees about to go "timber!" The pranks are shameless, disgusting, and not for the squeamish, but you can't fault these American antiheroes for going all the way.

Stagecoach

Sunday, June 8, 3:00 p.m.

Friday, June 13, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. John Ford. 1939, 96 mins. U.S. DCP. With John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Thomas Mitchell. With his first western since the silent era, Ford elevated the genre to an art form and made John Wayne a star. A drunk, a prostitute, an outlaw, a gambler, and a respectable couple make their way across Apache country in a stagecoach, while Ford deftly combines character study, action, and painterly landscapes. André Bazin wrote “*Stagecoach* is the ideal example of the maturity of a style brought to classical perfection. John Ford struck the ideal balance between social myth, historical reconstruction, psychological truth, and the traditional theme of the western mise en scène.” It also features some of the most groundbreaking stunts in film history, via former rodeo star Yakima Canutt, whose intricate stagecoach wagon-to-horse jump inspired generations of risk-taking filmmakers.

Atomic Blonde

Saturday, June 14, 3:30 p.m.

Dir. David Leitch. 2017, 115 mins. U.S. DCP. With Charlize Theron, James McAvoy, John Goodman. One of the most acclaimed stunt performers and action filmmakers in contemporary Hollywood, David Leitch—co-director of the original John Wick and Brad Pitt's five-time stunt double—came into his own as a solo director with this mesmerizing, full-throttle thriller starring Oscar-winner Charlize Theron as a bisexual MI6 field agent sent to East Germany mere days before the collapse of the Berlin Wall to retrieve a top secret microfilm list of spies. Teeming with hand-to-hand combat, including one famous ten-minute fight sequence (achieved by stunt coordinator Sam Hargrave operating the camera), and featuring a memorable, period-appropriate soundtrack of 1980s hits, *Atomic Blonde* is a thrillingly physical, tactile experience.

About Museum of the Moving Image

Founded in 1985, MoMI celebrates the history, art, technology, and future of the moving image in all of its forms. Located in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation's most comprehensive collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations. For more information about MoMI, visit movingimage.org.

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