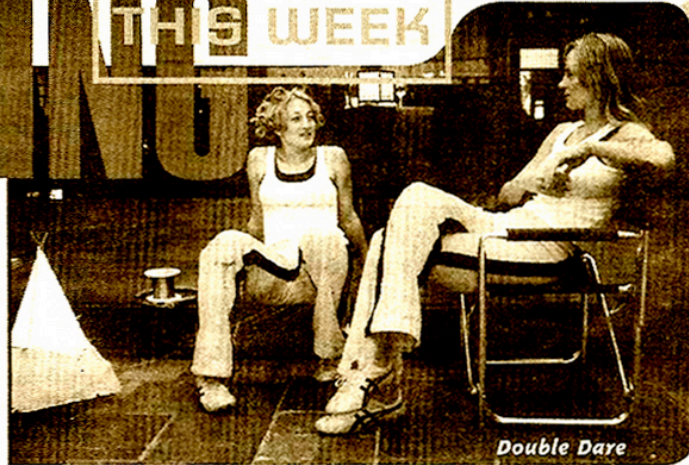


LA WEEKLY

OPENING THIS WEEK



April 22-28, 2005

DOUBLE DARE

In New Zealand, 25-year-old Zoe Bell is ending her run as a stunt double for Lucy Lawless on *Xena: Warrior Princess*. Meanwhile, 60-year-old Jeannie Epper, Lynda Carter's stunt double on the 1970s TV series *Wonder Woman*, remains as ready as ever to take high falls and roll speeding cars as befits a member of Hollywood's pre-eminent stunt family. (On camera, Steven Spielberg reports, "In the bar fight in 1941, there were Eppers flying all over the place.") Though a legend in the trade, she has to cold-call producers for jobs, and in one of this documentary's most affecting scenes, goes for a plastic-surgery consult, like any actress worried about the smooth-skinned ingénues nipping at her heels. Filmmaker Amanda Micheli cuts deftly back and forth between the work lives of both women, and eventually brings them together in Los Angeles, where Jeannie ensure that Zoe meets all the right people, including a markedly un-hyper Quentin Tarantino, who's shopping for an Uma Thurman stand-in. Zoe is lively and an astonishing athlete, but it's Jennie who gives this film resonance – was it a racing pulse as she faced injury and death for all those years that made her heart so big? (*Sunset 5*) (Chuck Wilson)