

# Time Out

## New York



**WONDER WOMEN** Jeannie Epper shows her tireless support for Lynda Carter.

### **Double Dare**

**Dir. Amanda Micheli. 2004. N/R. 81mins. Documentary.**

It was stuntperson Jeannie Epper as much as buxom star Lynda Carter who put the wonder in *Wonder Woman* during the 1970s, when tough chicks were just starting to gain a toehold in the world of TV and movie tumbles. With a brief outfit that left no opportunity for padding, Epper gleefully ran through walls and fell through floors. Amanda Micheli's insightful documentary shows how far women have (and haven't) come in the stunt business since then, while providing a rare look into the quotidian experiences of people who do the dirty work for big stars who are bigger insurance risks.

In addition to following Epper as she attempts to keep working into her sixties, the film focuses on up-and-coming New Zealand stuntwoman Zoë Bell, who spent several

years jousting and parrying in the stead of *Xena* star Lucy Lawless. After that fantasy series finishes its run, Bell visits California, befriends Epper and auditions for the biggest role of her life: to be a stand-in for Uma Thurman in the bruising scenes of Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* films.

Sure, traveling to Beijing to work for Tarantino in a martial-arts epic would be a dream come true for any ambitious adrenaline junkie. But Bell's deftest moves are saved for an awards show's after-party, when she summons all her agility to avoid the crude come-ons of crazy-eyed Gary Busey ("You wanna play scratch and sniff?" he asks). It's then that she performs a daring high-risk escape that simply cannot afford to fail. (Opens Fri; Quad.)  
—Darren D'Addario