



## **DOUBLE DARE**

**Written and directed by Amanda Micheli**

**Runaway/Goodmovies, opens May 6, Quad**

It's no secret that Hollywood is the most exclusive of boys' clubs (quick: how many women have won a Best Director Oscar?) but Amanda Micheli's documentary finds a fresh angle via the intersecting stories of two stuntwomen: Jeannie Epper (Lynda Carter's double on *Wonder Woman*) and Zoë Bell (Lucy Lawless's on *Xena: Warrior Princess*). Amid plentiful clips of high falls, fistfights, and car chases, Micheli shows the unique challenges faced by women in this notoriously macho field, not the least of which is performing punishing scenes in revealing costumes that leave little room for padding—we see multiple takes of Bell slamming her shoulder into the ground attempting a harness move. Even with her immense physical abilities and model-actress looks, Bell struggles to find post-*Xena* employment in a hypercompetitive job market. For Epper, contemplating liposuction to stay in the game as she moves into her sixties, opportunities are even fewer. Near the end of *Double Dare*, Epper receives a career achievement award from her mostly male peers—she's a legend in her own time, but that doesn't mean she'll be able to land a job as a stunt coordinator. JOSHUA LAND