

**THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS  
ARE MY OWN. I WROTE THEM  
BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE AS A  
UNION STUNT COORDINATOR,  
PERFORMER AND HUMAN BEING.**

**-MIKAL KARTVEDT**

I share these definitions free of my political afflictions and/or affiliations, which are many.

I advocate on behalf of all performers, but for reference I am a straight, White, able-bodied stuntman.

Like my definitions?  
Share them with every department on the call sheet.

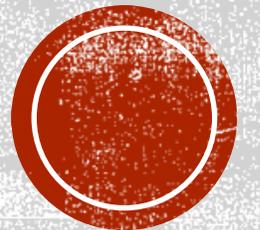


# **PAINTDOWNNS**

# **&**

# **WIGGINGS**

**A DEFINITION OF TERMS: CAST & CREW  
EMPOWERMENT TO END THE ABUSE.**





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**MAKE NO  
MISTAKE,  
PAINTDOWNS  
ARE  
BLACKFACE.**

# THE PAINTDOWN

1. Whether by means of *hair & make-up, costume, stunt & safety equipment* or *computer-generated imagery* the intent is to disguise an **ETHNIC substitution** when stunt doubling an actor.

- In most cases, White stunt performers are used to stunt double actors of color.



# NOT A PAINTDOWN

- As humans we come in a variety of shades, even within our own ethnicities.
- When it comes to stunt doubles, it is **NOT** a **paintdown** to color match or otherwise obscure skin tones **within an ethnic group** or, for an individual with demonstrative overlapping heritage.



# HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- Often under the guise of “**Safety First.**”

A modern-day false narrative rooted in discriminatory hiring practices. An excuse actively being used & abused to continue the arcane practice of paintdowns today.



# SAFETY FIRST

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE NATURE OF STUNTS ARE DANGEROUS AND THAT SOME SKILLSETS ARE HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, PERHAPS EXISTING AMONG ONLY A FEW MEMBERS.

It is REASONABLE to predict that our stunt needs may require talent not found in the appropriate gender or ethnicity of our membership or, even outside our membership.

It is UNREASONABLE to use these rare occasions as a pretense and rationalization to perpetuate the exclusion of **BIPOC, LGBTQ, Women and PWD** stunt performers from our working ranks.

It is the ongoing ABUSE of those exceptions that **MUST** come to an immediate end.



**“SAFETY FIRST”**  
(WHEN IT IS NOT)

- When our cultural & professional credo is **used** like a **weapon of mass discrimination**.

**Sadly**, this pretense is not entirely unfounded when you consider our more than **100-year history** as stunt performers.

Historically, **White males** have coordinated & performed **more than 90%** of **EVERY stunt** ever filmed for domestic **features, television shows** and **commercials**.

- It should be noted that many, **known stunt professionals** are working hard at **expanding** the limited **training & work opportunities faced by all minority stunt performers**. Doing so in order to eliminate “Safety First” as a valid excuse for those who shamelessly hide their discriminatory hiring practices behind the declaration.





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**IT AIN'T  
FUNNY, NOR  
IS IT 'DRAG.'**

# THE WIGGING

1. Whether by means of **hair & make-up, costume, stunt & safety equipment** or **computer-generated imagery** the intent is to disguise a **GENDER substitution** when stunt doubling\* an actor.

- In all *known* instances, male stunt performers are used to stunt double female actors.

\*Gender substitutions while safely doubling minors are noted exceptions.



# NOT A WIGGING

- As humans we come in a variety of hair colors, textures and lengths.
- When it comes to stunt doubles, it is **NOT a wiggling** to address these differences **within the same gender** by using an actual wig, hair dye, costume, stunt & safety equipment or computer-generated imagery.



# WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

**MISOGYNY/GENDER BIAS** – It's been a man's world in the stunt community since the first gag was dreamed up. The misconceptions that women are somehow too delicate, too weak or simply incapable of doing any dangerous stunts are so deeply entrenched in our cultural biases that, to this day, the stunt community's hiring practices irrefutably reflect the tired, old image of male superiority.

**EXCLUSIVITY/JOB RECIPRICATION** – The working stunt community as a whole - even when considering female stunt groups & union membership - remains overwhelmingly male. The same can be said, nationwide, for the position of stunt coordinator.



# **SAFETY FIRST**

**IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE NATURE OF STUNTS ARE DANGEROUS AND THAT SOME SKILLSETS ARE HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, PERHAPS EXISTING AMONG ONLY A FEW MEMBERS.**

It is **REASONABLE** to predict that our stunt needs may require talent not found in the appropriate gender or ethnicity of our membership or even outside our membership.

It is **UNREASONABLE** to use these rare occasions as a pretense and rationalization to perpetuate the exclusion of **BIPOC, LGBTQ, Women and PWD** stunt performers from our working ranks.

It is the ongoing **ABUSE** of those exceptions that **MUST** come to an immediate end.



**ONLY  
YOU**

**CAN PREVENT PAINTDOWNS  
& WIGGINGS.**

**YOU ARE THE UNION.  
THE UNION IS YOU.**

