

我是个特技演员

一般问起一个外国人的职业，答案通常是外企管理者、工程师或英语老师。但当你遇到Jonny Moore，你会得到一个意外的答案：“我是个特技演员！”

Jonny是天津滨海航母主题公园的特技演员。他给人的第一印象就是充满动感和力量，很像是动作大片里的武打演员，随时准备投入格斗。酒吧里的长凳显然不够舒服，我想他更愿意坐在一辆高速行驶的摩托车上。

Jonny出生在美国南明尼苏达州，那是一个户外运动盛行的地区。“我的家乡和天津一样四季分明，但是我们冬天的降雪量大很多，我从6岁就开始玩动力雪橇了。所有的冬季项目，比如滑冰、滑雪、钻冰钓鱼，我都喜欢。”Jonny说道。

Jonny 9岁的时候，家里的一位老朋友来做客，他在德国做跳水表演。Jonny觉得这个工作很有趣，于是也开始学习跳水并且希望将来有一天也能做这样的工作。

Jonny在印第安纳州从事高空跳水表演的时候接到一个朋友从中国打来的电话。“他在一次表演中膝盖受伤，他问我是不是愿意接替他。于是我在2010年来到天津。一个月以后，我获得了下一年的合同。”

Jonny有很多做同样工作的朋友，分布在全球各地：泰国、日本、上海和澳大利亚。但他很喜欢现在的工作，因为他有机会学习不同的特技。他说：“如果你在环球影城做表演，你一般只演一个角色。但在航母主题公园，你有机会接触以前没玩过过的设备，公司会给你培训。”

Jonny在航母公园的特技团队共有16个人，来自巴西、俄罗斯、乌克兰和澳大利亚。Jonny主要表演一个打斗场面里的高空落水动作。他介绍说：“在这个场景里，我和一个女孩对打，然后他把我从船上的制高点踢到水里。”整个特技表演以动作电影的形式表现出来，有专业的导演和协调员，其中有很多打斗场景。Jonny说他希望未来能参与到电影的拍摄。“只要我能保护好自己不受伤并保持好身材，我相信机会会来的。”

特技演员受伤是家常便饭，但是Jonny却是幸运的，目前还没有过严重的事故。除了自身的身体素质过硬之外，队友之间的默契配合也很重要。“有时候，你是把自己的生命交到队友的手上，所以你们必须互相信任”，Jonny说，“这帮人平常嘻嘻哈哈的，你可能觉得他们一点也不靠谱。但是在工作中，他们都很专业。有时候，他们的处事原则我可能不敢苟同，但我们的共性就是对待这份工作的认真和专业。”

现在，Jonny每周七天都要为新的演出季做准备，主要是格斗、编排和表演方面的训练。整个表演都是围绕这艘航母进行的，有很多紧张刺激的打斗、追逐和爆破场景。在为观众创造感官刺激的同时，Jonny也体会着工作中不同寻常的精彩。

Fight! Drive! Dive!

By Robert Watt

When meeting with a foreigner for the first time, an early question that's normally asked is, what do you do here? The answers are rarely unexpected; most expats are in management some kind of Engineer or teaching. So it's a bit of a surprise when the reply is, I'm a stunt performer.

Of course when you meet Jonny Moore with his piercings and tattoos you suspect he's going to be something a bit different and a stunt performer is about as different as it comes.

Jonny works at Binhai Hangmu, the theme park that is best known for the Russian aircraft carrier that rises out of the sea in the Binhai Tourist area. It provides a dramatic stage and background for the action packed shows he performs in.

And action is a word that springs to mind when you first meet Jonny. Not just from his life stories, there's an aura of enthusiastic energy around him. A feeling that behind his laid back, Mid-American cool, a big dose of adrenaline is waiting to kick in. As he sits talking about his life, you know he finds his bar stool a little too static and he'd prefer a seat with wheels and an engine.

He grew up in Southern Minnesota; a US state where outdoor activities are popular.

"The climate is just like here", he tells me. "But we get feet of snow. I'm a big time snow boarder and I've been

snowmobiling since I was a kid. The first vehicle I ever drove was a snowmobile, when I was 6 years old. I love the wintertime, snowmobiling, 4 wheeling, ice fishing, skating, skiing. But in Minnesota you get all the seasons, so I had the opportunity to do all the sports."

Minnesota has over 10,000 lakes, including the west end of the massive Lake Superior. So it's no surprise that Jonny is as much at home crashing through the waves, as he is sliding about on the ice or mud. It was an old family friend that inspired Jonny to take up diving at 9 years old. "I remember he was in Germany doing dive shows and travelling the world and I thought, I wanna do that one day."

It was when he was working in a show as a high diver in Indiana, that he got a call from a friend in China who had broken his knee diving in a show. "He called me up and asked me if I was interested and gave me a contact number. It turned out to be another friend of mine and I got the job. I came out to Tianjin in September 2010. I did the show for 1 month then it closed down for the winter. But I got an 8



Jonny Moore



Jonny in a fire scene

month contract for the next year."

Its seasonal work in Tianjin, which means Jonny has the chance for 4 months holiday during the winter. But he's not the type to sit around. "I love what I do so I'll be looking to continue working somewhere else." Last year he went down to Guangzhou where there's a theme park. "I did a lot more land based stuff. My background is water vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, motorcycles, superbikes." He lists a couple of other dangerous toys that he's never heard of before summing it up "I can basically drive anything with a motor. I've always been into motor sports and basically anything that's fast and you can do crazy things on."

The world of stunt performing is a close community and Jonny knows guys that have shows going on in Thailand, Japan, Shanghai and Australia. But he is loving China and the job in Tianjin. "The great thing about this company, he tells me, is we have the opportunity to learn everything and anything we want. At the big companies like universal you're hired for one role and you only do that, then it's finished. But if you've never driven something before, this company will train you.

The Binhai Hangmu show is predominantly water-based stunts on and around the aircraft carrier. He is working as part of a team with 16 other performers. The stunt team is made up of people from all over the world, Brazil, Russia, Ukraine and Australia and there also is a group of Russian dancers too.

The high diving he does in the show is part of a fight scene. "I'm getting beat up by a girl", he explains. "And she kicks me off the top of the ship. The girls are the main characters and they're all evil bad asses." The show is as much a live action movie as a sport, complete with professional directors and stunt co-ordinators. "There's a lot of acting" says Jonny. "A lot of the people I work for have majored in acting, theatre and dance and all that kind of stuff." His goal for the future is to do

Of course he's part of a team, which means his life is often in other peoples hands and it's important that he can rely on them.

some stunt double acting and get into the movies. "I've got the connections," he says. "But right now, I'm trying my best and stay out here as long as possible. As long as I can keep myself healthy, in shape and not hurt myself."

He got the job because his friend broke his leg working. Injury is common in this profession and a serious injury could mean an end to his career. He tells me about one of the older guys who's been with the company for 18 years. "He's one of the best actors, but he's been injured a lot, half his body is metal plates. When we did our physicals and the doctors saw his x-rays, they were like, is he for real?"

So far he's been lucky, "I've not really been hurt doing the job, all my accidents were when I was a kid. I was always climbing trees and tree jumping. I have a lot of body strength, which

helps. I've always had a good build because of being a diver."

Of course he's part of a team, which means his life is often in other peoples hands and it's important that he can rely on them. He tells me about his colleagues "They're mainly guys, a group of actors and adrenalin junkies laughing all the time and having a good time messing with each other. There's a lot of pranks, we're going to be children forever just having a good time." They don't sound like a group of people you'd want to trust your life with but he explains. "A lot of people might have their issues but when we're at work we're all professional about it. It's such a big team there's always going to be some head-butting. You might not agree with the way some people do things, but when it comes down to actual show stuff it's pretty serious, so they all stay professional."

Jonny's standing up now. He finds sitting up straight for long periods gets uncomfortable because he has spent so long crouched over a gas tank. But I wonder if it's just as much an issue of being inactive. He is working 7 days a week rehearsing for the show. "Right now, he says "I'm doing a lot of fight training, fight choreography, stage fighting and stage acting. It's mostly fighting and gun safety training. Although we use fake guns we have to handle them like real guns. So you learn all about the gun in the same way as if you were in a gun safety class back in the states."

As well as fighting and high speed stunts in and around the water, the show also uses a lot of pyrotechnics that simulate gun fire, shell bursts and other loud and spectacular explosions. Within the imposing setting of the Russian aircraft carrier the show recreates an exhilarating depiction of the shock and awe of a conflict without any of the commensurate risks - at least for the audience. For the stunt performers like Jonny, the danger is part of the thrill of his unusual job and his extraordinary life.



Jonny is driving a water scooter