

## #CINEMA

# The Show Must Go On!

The 25 best stunts in cinema - ranked!



Safety Last! (1923)

In the forthcoming Mission: Impossible film, Tom Cruise drives a motorbike off a cliff and wrecks a 70-tonne train. But how does such derring-do compare with cinema's most hair-raising escapades?

### The Burglars (1971)

Inspired, perhaps, by Buster Keaton's Seven Chances, Henri Verneuil's French-Italian caper climaxes with Jean-Paul Belmondo's jewel thief being tipped out of a dump truck and tumbling into a quarry. In two out of the three shots in the sequence, you can see that it's Belmondo doing the tumbling, rather than a stunt double. Afterwards, he brushes back his hair and strolls off. Incredible!

### The Spy Who Loved Me (1977)

The best ever Bond pre-credits sequence has legendary stuntman Rick Sylvester (in for Roger Moore) skiing right off the edge of Canada's Asgard Peak and free falling down, down into a valley. After a nerve-shredding wait, he pulls the ripcord and a union jack parachute blooms above him. Carly Simon starts singing Nobody Does It Better and it's hard to argue.

### Steamboat Bill, Jr (1928)

Buster Keaton was one of the most gifted athletes in cinema history, so it's ironic that his signature stunt didn't require him to run, jump, climb or fall, but to stand totally still. In Steamboat Bill, Jr., a house's facade topples right on to him, but he is positioned just where the hole for an attic window happens to be. Heart-stopping.

### Stagecoach (1939)

Yakima Canutt pioneered countless stunts which would be copied for decades afterwards, most famously in the Indiana Jones films. The greatest of these is from John Ford's Stagecoach. Canutt is dragged along by a team of horses, and then lies in the sand as the hooves and the coach's wheels thunder by on either side.

### Project A (1983)

Each of Jackie Chan's Hong Kong action comedies could fill this list on its own. In Project A, he pays homage to both Harold Lloyd (hanging from a clock hand) and Buster Keaton (plummeting down a building, through two awnings). The drop was 60 feet; he performed the stunt twice - the first time walking away unscathed, the second landing on his head and leaving him with permanent spinal problems.



RRR

### Harold Lloyd dangles from the minute hand of a Los Angeles office building's clock. It's the stunt that exemplifies the thrills of the silent-comedy era - and it's just one example of how Lloyd, more than his contemporaries, gloried in the hazards of 20th century metropolitan life, with its trolley cars, bustling crowds and ever taller buildings.



Charri Mubarak taken to Shankaracharya Temple



Late RV Smith  
Subaltern Historian & Raconteur

The Charri Mubarak or the silver mace of Lord Shiva finally reached its annual destination, the holy cave of Amarnath and the ice lingam which waxes with the full moon. There are many stories about the mace and how it came to be associated with the pilgrimage. But off the beaten path one heard this one minutes on top of a speeding 1970 Dodge Challenger, with just a bit of seatbelt in each hand for security. Then Kurt Russell starts rammigng the car from behind.

### Death Proof (2007)

Why did Quentin Tarantino make Death Proof? Quite possibly as an elaborate excuse to have Zoë Bell spend many minutes on top of a speeding 1970 Dodge Challenger, with just a bit of seatbelt in each hand for security. Then Kurt Russell starts rammigng the car from behind.

### Ben-Hur (1959)

During the epic chariot race, Judah Ben-Hur's chariot bounces over some wreckage, and there is a shocking moment when Charlton Heston's double, Joe Caunt (also the son of the second-unit director) is - in what was tactfully described as an "unplanned event" - flipped head over heels into the air and thundering horses below. Happily, he got away with a scraped chin.

### Police Story 3: Supercop (1992)

Scenes in which the performer drives a motor vehicle haven't made the cut here, so no space for Michelle Yeoh's astounding motorcycle jump on to a train in Supercop. But in the same film, she rolls off the top of a van and on to Jackie Chan's car bonnet, at high speed, on a motorway, while being shot at. "Even stunt people would say, 'You're insane,'" she recalled.

### Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation (2015)

The Mission: Impossible series exists, first and foremost, to show the world's biggest movie star risking life and limb, by, for instance, clinging to the side of a cargo plane as it roars into the sky. Why do your own stunts, Tom Cruise was asked at Cannes. "Would you ask Gene Kelly why he did all his own dancing?" he replied.

### RRR (2022)

SS Rajamouli's Telugu-language epic won this year's Hollywood Critics Association's prize for best stunts. Any number of the film's bonkers set pieces might have qualified for the award, not least a jaw-dropping forest scene in which NT Rama Rao Jr heaves at the ropes keeping a ravenous tiger in a net.

The Charri Mubarak or the silver mace of Lord Shiva finally reached its annual destination, the holy cave of Amarnath and the ice lingam which waxes with the full moon. There are many stories about the mace and how it came to be associated with the pilgrimage. But off the beaten path one heard this one minutes on top of a speeding 1970 Dodge Challenger, with just a bit of seatbelt in each hand for security. Then Kurt Russell starts rammigng the car from behind.

### Death Proof (2007)

Why did Quentin Tarantino make Death Proof? Quite possibly as an elaborate excuse to have Zoë Bell spend many minutes on top of a speeding 1970 Dodge Challenger, with just a bit of seatbelt in each hand for security. Then Kurt Russell starts rammigng the car from behind.

### Ben-Hur (1959)

During the epic chariot race, Judah Ben-Hur's chariot bounces over some wreckage, and there is a shocking moment when Charlton Heston's double, Joe Caunt (also the son of the second-unit director) is - in what was tactfully described as an "unplanned event" - flipped head over heels into the air and thundering horses below. Happily, he got away with a scraped chin.

### Police Story 3: Supercop (1992)

Scenes in which the performer drives a motor vehicle haven't made the cut here, so no space for Michelle Yeoh's astounding motorcycle jump on to a train in Supercop. But in the same film, she rolls off the top of a van and on to Jackie Chan's car bonnet, at high speed, on a motorway, while being shot at. "Even stunt people would say, 'You're insane,'" she recalled.

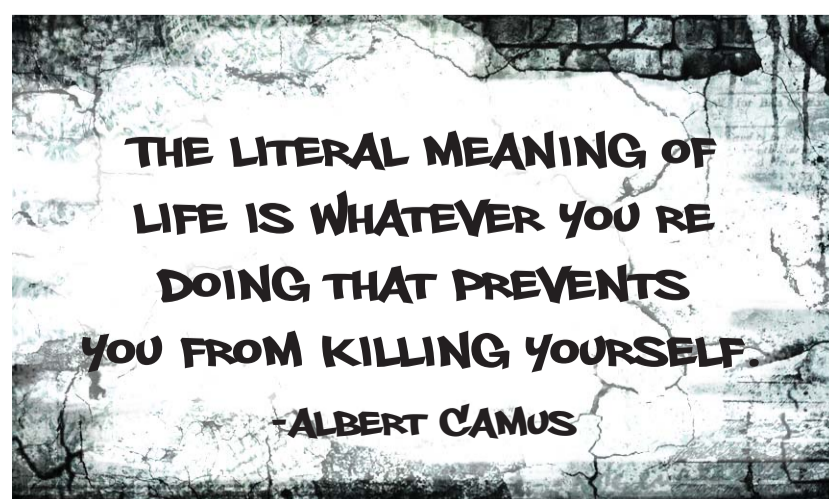
### Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation (2015)

The Mission: Impossible series exists, first and foremost, to show the world's biggest movie star risking life and limb, by, for instance, clinging to the side of a cargo plane as it roars into the sky. Why do your own stunts, Tom Cruise was asked at Cannes. "Would you ask Gene Kelly why he did all his own dancing?" he replied.

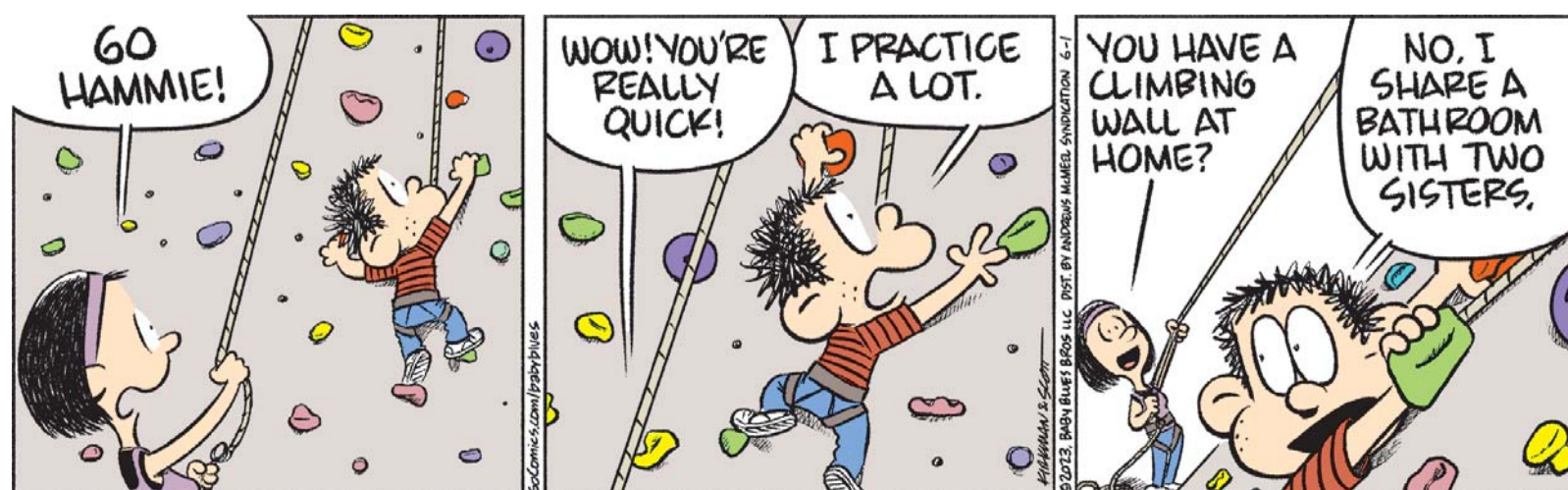
### RRR (2022)

SS Rajamouli's Telugu-language epic won this year's Hollywood Critics Association's prize for best stunts. Any number of the film's bonkers set pieces might have qualified for the award, not least a jaw-dropping forest scene in which NT Rama Rao Jr heaves at the ropes keeping a ravenous tiger in a net.

## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

# A Paean To The Charri Mubarak



Baba Amarnath

until it came to the ex-pandit. Well, he revered the heirloom all right and on the final day of the pilgrimage distributed sweets to mark the culmination of a great event.

And then on the return journey, when the runners brought word that the charri procession was only a few miles away, the ex-pandit and his family began preparing for the reception. Preceded by the nishan (flag) and drummers as the Charri came into view, the custodians went forward to receive it. He embraced the mahant again and swung the mace three times in the air to a deafening cheer and slogans by both Hindus and Muslims. Everybody in the family rejoiced that the priceless heirloom had arrived safely, to be kept away with thanksgiving for another year.

We know how the Charri begins its journey from Jammu, arrives in Srinagar where it is

We know how the Charri begins its journey from Jammu, arrives in Srinagar, and then taken by Mahant Dipender Giri after the puja to Pahalgam, from where it proceeds to the cave shrine via Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchnarni. But the bearded man's tale, redolent with cries of Allah ho Akbar, Nare taqbi and Har har Mahadev, had its own charm

kept at the Dashnami Akhara, and then taken by Mahant Dipender Giri after the puja to Pahalgam, from where it proceeds to the cave shrine via Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchnarni. But the bearded man's tale, redolent with cries of Allah ho Akbar, Nare taqbi and Har har Mahadev, had its own charm and comes to mind as a symbol of communal amity, more so now because of the threat by the Harkat-ul-Ansar and other terrorists.

The pilgrimage may have culminated but the magic of the Charri Mubarak, with its lovely Urdu name, lingers on the whole year. One does not know if that old man still comes for his annual sojourn at the shrine of Kalimullah Sahib, but even if he isn't there must surely be someone still who relates such tales while the evening meal is cooked. For how can a Kashmiri forget the hallowed mace of Lord Shiva? Even Allama Iqbal, such a proponent of the initial idea of a Pakistan homeland, revered the god because of his Kashmiri Pandit ancestry that made him refer to Lord Rama as Imame-Hind and the Ganges as the life-sustaining sacred rivers.

To quote from the poet Mohammad Iqbal: 'Ai Ab-e-rood Ganga woh din yaad hai tujko / Uttara tere kinare jab karavan hamara.'

A lucid reference to the arrival of the Aryans. The Charri Mubarak also is a relic of the same shair went on to

The story goes thus: Once while descending from his Himalayan abode, Shiva met a lame man who couldn't move out of his way fast enough. His retort brought the reply from the lame man that he too would move fast if he had a silver walking stick. The kind hearted God immediately handed over his mace to him. The charri remained in the man's possession ever since. It was handed down from the father to son until it came to the ex-pandit. Well, he revered the heirloom all right and on the final day of the pilgrimage distributed sweets to mark the culmination of a great event.

## #LIVE-TALES

In 1960s the Kashmiri labourers used to migrate to the Capital in large numbers to escape the rigours of winter in their home State. Since one did not stay very far from the shrine, it was possible to visit it every evening for the qawwalis that were a regular feature then. Sitting outside one of the tents before a logwood fire on which the handi was being cooked, it was a pleasure to listen to a bearded man who spoke of the time when the custodian of the Charri Mubarak was a Kashmiri Pandit who had embraced Islam.

and hand it over to him with due ceremony amid cries of Har har Mahadev.

The custodian, his sons and other male members of the family would accompany the procession for 500 yards while the women looked on. Then after embracing the mahant and enjoining on him the duty of bringing back the charri safely the custodian would return, but five of his relatives accompanied the mace right up to Amarnath. On the day of full moon on reaching the holy cave the mahant would offer the charri to the ice lingam, the visible form of the ever present

Shiva, for it was actually his walking stick, which he missed the whole year. How it was bestowed to mankind is another story.

The story goes thus: Once while descending from his Himalayan abode, Shiva met a lame man who couldn't move out of his way fast enough. His retort brought the reply from the lame man that he too would move fast if he had a silver walking stick. The kind hearted god immediately handed over his mace to him. The charri remained in the man's possession ever since. It was handed down from the father to son



Mahant Dipendra Giri and others leave with the Charri for Amarnath

# Tantalizing Flavours of South India



From the soft and flavourful idlis to the aromatic curries and delectable desserts and not to forget the quintessential South Indian filter coffee, Banana Leaf offers an authentic dining experience for the food enthusiasts in Jaipur, all at an affordable price.

## #FOOD REVIEW



Tusharika Singh  
Freelancer writer and city blogger

South Indian cuisine, with its diverse flavours and healthy options, has always been a favourite among people of all ages and dietary preferences. While Jaipur has had a few well-established South Indian restaurants, recent offerings have left food enthusiasts disappointed due to high prices, inconvenient locations, and subpar service.

Located in the heart of the city's most premium and easily accessible location - Mahavir Marg at C-Scheme, Banana Leaf offers an authentic South Indian culinary experience. Banana Leaf, with its establishment in 2006 and multiple branches across Mumbai, Pune,

and Indore, has built a loyal following over the years. Now, the food enthusiasts of Jaipur can experience the authentic and unique flavours that Banana Leaf is famous for, at an affordable price.

From the iconic Mulgai Idli, known for its soft texture and served with delectable sambar, to the flavourful and fiery Guntur Idli, there is a wide variety of idlis to choose from. Those seeking a unique culinary experience can savour Thatte Idli, a flat and delicate rice cake. For Wada lovers, Banana Leaf offers the irresistible Onion Wada made with onions, lentils, and spices, as well as the healthy Palak



Wada, prepared with spinach, lentils, and spices. Dosa lovers must sample the Bangalore masala dosa or the Rajani dosa. The butter soft uttapam as well as the poori onion uttapam seem promising too.

In the main course, guests can delight their taste buds with the aromatic Malabar Curry, a coconut-based curry from the Malabar region, or indulge in the savoury Mushroom Sukka, a dry dish made with mushrooms, roasted spices, and coconut. The culinary journey continues with Neer Dosa, a thin and delicate rice crepe perfect for savouring curries and chutneys. Another interesting option to pair

with the curries is Idiyappam, which are steamed rice noodles.

For those who prefer to eat rice, Banana Leaf presents the Dakshin Biryani, a fragrant and flavourful rice dish prepared with a blend of spices and an array of vegetables. Another option is the wholesome Bisse Balle Bath, a traditional Karnataka dish made with rice, lentils, and vegetables, offering a balanced and satisfying meal. Wash it down with a glass of flavourful masala chaas.

To complete the culinary experience, Banana Leaf offers refreshing Filter Coffee, a strong and aromatic coffee brewed in a traditional South

Indian filter. For those with a sweet tooth, the delightful Yalner Payasam awaits-a creamy rice pudding flavoured with cardamom and garnished with nuts.

Talking about the initiative, Nandan Honawar, Partner, Indus Foods said: "We are delighted to bring the flavours and culture of South India to Jaipur. Banana Leaf is committed to delivering an authentic dining experience that showcases the culinary heritage of South India. We look forward to serving the people of Jaipur with our distinctive menu and warm hospitality."

The ambiance of Banana Leaf in Jaipur caters to various preferences and occasions. Whether guests prefer the charm of outdoor

seating or the comfort of the indoor dining area, they are sure to find the perfect spot. For those seeking an exclusive experience, Banana Leaf also provides a private dining room, ideal for special celebrations and gatherings. The decor and staff uniforms, representing the traditions of Southern India, add an extra touch of authenticity to the overall dining experience. With its commitment to authentic flavours, exceptional service, and inviting ambiance, Banana Leaf will soon become the go-to destination for South Indian cuisine in Jaipur.

Time: 11 am to 11 pm  
Location: Valentine Peak, Mahavir Marg, C-Scheme

