



He was not wearing a parachute and set the scene that he had woken up in the plane, took a swig of Red Bull, and jumped.

In 2012 Red Bull and Felix Baumgartner took skydiving to the next level. Jumping on a global live stream, Baumgartner took a helium balloon into the stratosphere and skydived back to earth in a specially made space

suit. Whilst in freefall he broke the speed of sound and entered a spin which threatened the entire Red Bull Stratos mission, but he arrived back to earth safely.

From the world of professional sport, Tiger Woods and Lewis Hamilton are known for their skydiving antics, with Hamilton solo-diving with somersault exits and Woods clocking up

**Above: Patrick Swayze pulled the stunt himself in the famous *Point Break* leap**  
**Left: Tom Cruise is a regular skydiver whether training for a film or for fun**  
**Below: Miley Cyrus jumped out of a plane with a journalist the day after skydiving cropped up in a *Rolling Stone* interview**

52 giant balloons 20,000 feet in the air above the Arizona desert. The stunt dubbed Ascension was inspired by the 1956 movie *The Red Balloon* he watched as a kid. Blane, who has been electrocuted, buried alive, entombed in ice and submerged in an 8-foot diameter water-filled sphere for seven days and nights said he pulled the skydive stunt for his nine-year-old daughter.

30 skydives at Perris Skydiving while he was in California for an invitational tournament in 2007, celebrating his thirty-first birthday by getting his USPA A-license certification.

David Blane, Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth are celebrities addicted to the adrenaline of the jump. In 2020, American illusionist, magician, mentalist, and endurance performer Blane pulled a stunt jumping from

Best known for *Hunger Games*, Chris Hemsowrth's brother Liam made his first tandem skydive during an interview he was doing for *Nylon* magazine and American singer, songwriter, and actress Miley Cyrus got talking about skydiving during an interview for *Rolling Stone Magazine* and dragged the journalist out for a jump the next day. ■



# Freefalling

While most don't want to consider freefalling from the seat of a private jet, for some it's the thrill that keeps giving

There are actors and actresses who have jumped on and off camera – and even with and without parachutes – some even against the advice of experts. “We were told on numerous occasions that it's impossible,” Tom Cruise told hollywood.com regarding the plans he and Filmmaker Christopher McQuarrie had made for the HALO scene in *Mission Impossible: Fallout*. Cruise had to freefall within three feet of the lens so that the cameraman could pull

focus with the correct depth of field. The C-17 military transport aircraft would be travelling between 160 and 200 mph at 25,000 feet. After jumping more than 100 times in preparation and training through the day at the Abu Dhabi base, Cruise and the team had a three-minute window to nail the scene with the perfect light at dusk. Cruise's commitment – and love of stunts, including skydiving – made the impossible possible in one sequence.

Cruise famously took James Corden skydiving in California on *The Late Show* with James Corden, with the British comedian pushing the actor away as he grabbed his hand in freefall.

Patrick Swayze also jumped himself in the 1991 *Point Break* classic, facing the camera in the plane as he leapt out backwards. Keanu Reeves who miraculously caught up without a parachute used a stunt double for the famous scene. Another iconic scene is from *Goldeneye* when Pierce Brosnan's stuntman double – the first base jumper to reach a thousand jumps – rides a motorbike off a cliff in pursuit of the bi-plane to pull up and escape.

**Above: The Palm Jumirah is a popular dive spot for pros, celebrities and adventurers**

Other films including *San Andreas*, *Furious 7*, *Iron Man 3*, *Point Break* (2015), *Last Holiday*, *Deadpool 2* and *Along Came Polly* all feature skydiving sequences – a mix of real and CGI – some more real and some more comedic than others.

Actor Will Smith may not have jumped out of a plane in any of his films, but he is now one of the most famous celebrity skydivers out there. He took his entire family for a tandem jump at Skydive Dubai and bungee jumped from a helicopter on the Grand Canyon, having held onto the rails from take-off.

Stuntman Travis Pastrana jumped from a single-engine Cessna from 12,500 feet over Arecibo, Puerto Rico, wearing only sunglasses, socks and surf trunks while holding a can of Red Bull.