

Vanessa:
The big jump

10:00:13:00 Titel: Vanessa: The big jump!

10:00:39:00 Vanessa (V) On: No, I don't dare it!

10:00:42:00 Trainer 1 On :That's ok, if you don't want to jump. It is brave to say no, it's ok.

10:00:45:00 V Off: I am Vanessa and I am 11 years old. Stunts are my hobby and I join the stunt school here. We make jumps from up high, fire stunts, fighting scenes and fights with sticks.

10:01:03:00 V On: I don't dare jumping from the highest level, yet. I always wanted to try it but I was scared because that is really high. When you first look you think: Well that isn't too high. But when you are standing up there you say to yourself: Oh, I don't really dare!

10:01:21:00 V Off: In four months I will perform my biggest stunt ever. That will be on a big street-party and it will be even live broadcasted. I got to train for that now. I need to learn to look really seriously, like: ...

10:01:36:00 V On: ...(continued) "Oh no, it hurts, I am burning!". And I guess it will be a strange feeling to actually jump from up there. I will need lots of courage in order to make it.

10:01:59:00 V Off: It is important that our stuns look dangerously though they are not in real.

10:02:11:00 V Off: One needs stunts for example in movies when somebody is fighting or falls from a horse. If an actor was to do that it would be dangerous. That is why stunt people do it who have learned for example how to fall with out getting hurt.

10:02:40:00 V Off: Doing stunts can turn out being dangerous just like swimming. You can drown if you haven't learned how to swim. And when you are doing stunts you might get hurt if you haven't trained that.
No matter what we are doing: Jumping, fire stuns...the trainer must always to be with us.

10:02:59:00 Trainer 1 On: Never forget to keep the hand there. That is your protection so that you will never hit with your nose against the wall.

V On: Yes!

10:03:05:00 Trainer 1 On: Take also your foot, so that it sounds louder. And pull back your head a bit faster. That way it will look better.

10:03:16:00 V Off: When doing fighting-scenes we never really hit each other it just looks like it. We train so that we don't hurt ourselves and our partner is the "holiest", so to say.

10:03:26:00 V On: That was great!
Niklas (N) On: You got something in your hair!

10:03:33:00 Insert: April

10:03:36:00 Stuntman (acting): Help, it burns!

10:03:40:00 Trainer 2 On: That is the scene that you will be doing except that you will be inflamed. The mats will be wet and for double safety we will stand there with fire-covers. And the explosion that you are seeing here is not hot. For that matter nothing can happen.

10:03:56:00 V On: Knowing that I will burn and that I will jump from the top, that is a strange feeling. Now that I hear that I will have to do such a big stunt I guess that this will change a lot for me.

10:04:18:00 V Off: I moved last year to this area and Niklas is my neighbour. I got to know him after a few months and he told me about the stunt-school.

10:04:36:00 Vanessas dad (VD) On: Hi, where have you been?
V: At a party!

10:04:43:00 V Off: When we have guests we sometimes perform something.

10:04:55:00 V On: And then three times?
N: Hm, I don't know.
V: Maybe pulling hair... oh no that's rather my thing.
N: What's next?
V: Pulling hair!
N: That's right!

10:05:14:00 V Off: When my mum watches my performances she gets a bit scared. But she told me that she finds it cool.

10:05:20:00 V On (acting): You are crazy!

10:05:37:00 Insert: May

10:05:43:00 VD Off: Do you know how high that is?
V Off: No!
VD Off: What do you think?

V On: Seven?
VD On: Yes, seven meters, seven meters fifty.
V: On: Cool! Ups that's high! Cool!

10:06:05:00 V Off: During the last weeks we trained by raising the lower platform step by step so that I dare jumping from the top. And today I will try to actually jump from here. I am not sure yet if I will make it or not.

10:06:58:00 V On: Cool!

10:07:01:00 V On: Weeks ago from down there and now from the top.
VD On: Half an hour ago you have been down there.

10:07:09:00 V Off: Well, while I was jumping I wasn't thinking at all. I just jumped, I simply dared. I was very happy that I made it. Well, this jump...

10:07:21:00 V On: ...(continued) was very good for my stunt in summer. I guess I made a big step forward. I think I will dare doing it now, even burning. I will make it!

10:07:33:00 Insert: June

10:07:38:00 V Off: Today I'll do the fire-stunt. The trainer controls if we wear cotton-cloths since they don't burn that easily.

10:07:48:00 Trainer 2 On: Ok, 100% cotton.

10:07:50:00 V Off: Over our cotton-cloths we wear a fire-protective overall. Then they make me wet. That is for protection so that the overall doesn't start burning. And we get a hair protective as well, since hair starts burning very easily.

10:08:10:00 V On: Hello, I can't see anything!

10:08:20:00 Trainer On: Don't run too fast and just concentrate on where you will land. Fall on your belly, stretch your arms and keep your head on the ground.

10:08:32:00 V Off: After they inflame the patches I will run to the mat and then the flames will be extinguished.

10:08:47:00 Trainer On: You are burning!

10:08:50:00 V On (acting): Help! I'm burning!

10:09:12:00 V On: Oh, nice and warm!

10:09:27:00 V On: Hello! Oh mum, get me a towel! Quick!!

10:09:31:00 V On: While running with the flames in the back, one gets a bit scared. But then the flames get extinguished and then it isn't that bad.

10:09:46:00 V On: It's cold, man.

10:09:50:00 VV On: Is the overall heavy now?

10:09:53:00 V On: Absolutely!

10:09:54:00 Trainer 2 On: Give me your arm!

10:10:02:00 Insert: July

10:10:08:00 Vanessa Off: Well, tonight I was dreaming about the stunt – how I'm jumping and landing. In my dream I was very excited at first. But when I woke up I thought: Today is finally the day that I can do my big stunt.

10:10:27:00 VV On: We forgot feeding the fish, I'll do it.

10:10:31:00 V On: And you take your bag!

10:11:02:00 Trainer 2 On: Well, it got to fit. You put on your hair-protective and the cap. You go up and then you jump.

10:11:11:00 V On: How do I jump ?

10:11:13:00 Trainer 2 On: Well, the "cliffhanger", like always. We will do it like every normal fire-stunt. You wait till we say: "The flames are extinguished" then you can move freely again. Ok, you got it?

10:11:24:00 V On: Yes!

10:11:25:00 Trainer 2 On: Well, then I would say: Lets get wet!

10:11:43:00 Trainer 2 On: Now we will go upstairs with you and then we'll just do it!

10:11:45:00 Vanessa On: I simply know that it will work out!

10:11:57:00 Trainer 1 On: Vanessa, you are ok?

No answer

10:11:59:00 Trainer 1 On: Good!

10:12:02:00 Trainer 2 On: And please stay cool, that is the most important thing, Vanessa. The most important thing!

10:12:08:00 Trainer 1 On: Be relaxed but still convincing when you start screaming

10:12:12:00 Announcer first On then Off: For the first time, worldwide, a kid – a stuntkid- makes a jump from more than six meters while burning and with an explosion.

10:12:29:00 tv-reporter first On then Off: ...and one girl is certainly very excited now. That is Vanessa – standing up there. She is eleven years old and for the first time she will jump out of a burning window. Let's see if she dares doing it!

10:13:00:00 Announcer On: She burns! Can you see it? She is burning!

10:13:03:00 Trainer 1 On (covering his ears): Three, two, one!

10:13:18:00 Vanessa's mom (VM) On: Uhh, I got scared!

10:13:25:00 Vanessa On: Now I change cloths!

10:13:26:00 VM On: A real explosion! I got really scared.

10:13:27:00 Vanessa On: Yeah, that was cool. The best stunt in my life!

10:13:31:00 VM On: Yes?

10:13:32:00 Vanessa On: Yes!

10:13:34:00 VM Off: I am proud of you!

10:13:36:00 Trainer 1 Off: Vanessa?

10:13:37:00 Vanessa On: Yes?

10:13:38:00 Trainer 1 Off: Everything ok?

10:13:39:00 Vanessa On: Yes!

13:13:47 VV On: Come on we go to the car. It's over there! You are so confused you don't even know where the car is.

10:13:52:00 V Off: Well, it is a bit strange that it just took a second. But it was still worth practising all that. It doesn't matter that it took four months. I would have even practised six months, I don't care!

Credits:

Camera: Sven Lützenkirchen
Sound: Carina Richter

Editing: Simone Gorges
Musicians: Niko Tobias Wirtz, Bernd Lechler

Producer ZDF: Eva Radlicki
Producer EBU: Marion Creely

Director/Author: Georg Bussek
Production: E+U TV, Cologne

Thanks: Vanessa and parents, Niklas and stunt-school "Movie Kids"