

# RISKY BUSINESS: Stunt Women Honored at Skirball Center

Jamie Lee Curtis, right, impersonates her injured stunt double, Donna Keegan, left, as part of a tribute to her. Curtis would go on to give her Action Icon Award to Keegan.



**I**t was time for stunt women to get their props.

The industry turned out to the Skirball Cultural Center on October 4 in support of Diamond in the Raw and the Celebrity & Stuntwomen's Awards, which honors stunt women, professional female athletes and action actresses each year.

Among the top honorees were two-time Golden Globe winner Jamie Lee Curtis (for the Action Icon Award) and world champion boxer Laila Ali (for the Dare2bDifferent Award). Screen Actors Guild National President Ken Howard was in attendance to present Curtis her award.

Curtis, in turn, presented her award to her stunt double, SAG member Donna Keegan.

"Her stunt double was injured doubling her, so she thought it might be nice to dress up like her on crutches and give her recognition for doubling her for so many years," said La Faye Baker, stuntwoman and co-creator of the awards. Curtis also arranged a special tribute to Keegan during the show. Baker said the acknowledgement was touching for the stunt community because stunt performers seldom get recognized by the more famous people whom they double.

Other top honorees included Angela Meryl for the Diamond in the RAW Award and May Boss for the Helen Gibson Award. The Special Achievement Award was given to Mary Albee, while the Gone But Not Forgotten Award was given posthumously in memory of Svetla Krasteva-Foley. Tom Foley accepted the award in honor of his late wife.

Other awards, which were voted on by members of the stunt community and Screen Actors Guild included the Gem Award, which was a tie, honoring both Vic Armstrong and Keith Woulard. The Jewel Award went to Annie Ellis and the Mentorship Award went to Spice Williams-Crosby. Dorenda Moore was given the "Wow" Stuntwoman Award, and the Dynamic DUO Award winner was Lisa Hoyle, who doubled for Keira Knightley in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films.

SAG National Board Member Sumi Haru served as the gala event co-chair along with Doug Coleman, a second unit director.

"It was an outstanding production and I am proud to have celebrated the achievements with these talented individuals," Baker said.