

# Living on the edge

**Fuelled by adrenalin, there's not much biker stuntman Craig Jones won't attempt to experience**

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**FOR PROFESSIONAL STUNTMAN** rider Craig Jones, the road is his sanctuary and we're just passing through it. From one-wheel drops to faster-than-furious speeds, we catch up with the daredevil to get schooled on the art of living life on the edge.

**Can you tell us what attracted you to stunts and bikes in general?**

I have been riding bikes since I was 14. Speed and adrenalin have always excited me. Riding a bike on two wheels has never satisfied me, which is why I guess one wheel suits me better.

**You have performed pretty dangerous stunts. How do you prepare and how much effort goes into doing some of the things you have accomplished?**

I don't consider my stunts dangerous. People think that it's dangerous because it's often so removed from what they are capable of. In fact, everything that I do is calculated and controlled. If I am practicing a new stunt, then I simply break it down into parts and learn each until I am ready to put it all together.

**Riding can be quite dangerous, even for the most skilled. What's the worst situation that you've been involved in? How about the most memorable?**

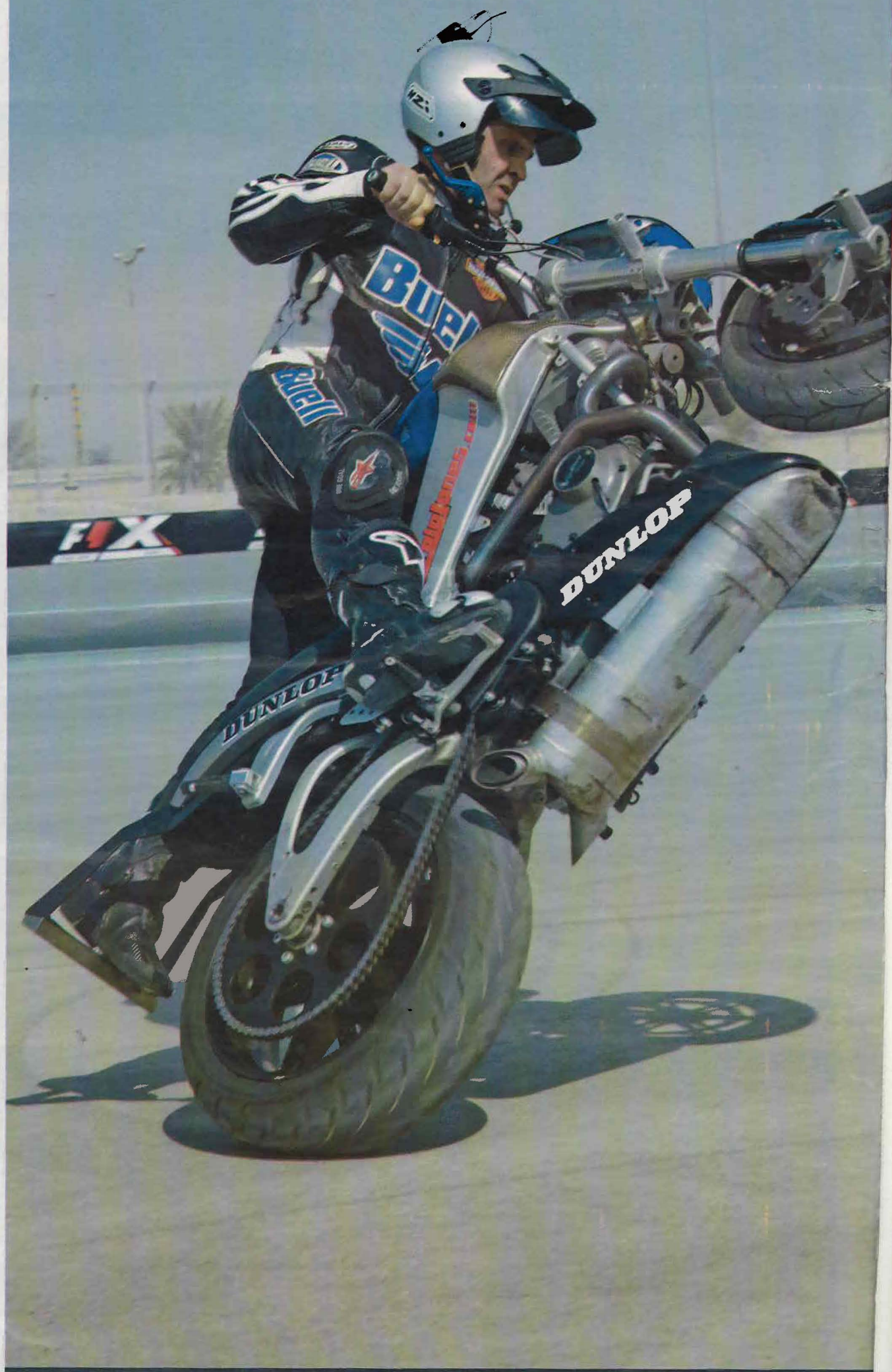
In 2002 myself and Wing (my passenger) were in the South of France at an event called 'Burns Day'. There were 20,000 spectators on a very hot day. One of our crazy moves is for me to ride the Buell bike on the front wheel at high speed with Wing on the front with his head scraping on the floor. We had made at least four passes from approx 70mph (120Km/h). I insisted that we did one more pass even though we were tired and exhausted. As I squeezed the front brake of the Buell at 80mph, Wing's foot slipped off the stunt peg and he fell under the wheel. The bike and me came down on him and we came to rest some distance down the track. Wing was out cold but I was straight to my feet. It was crazy because even though Wing was motionless and the crowd was silent, I knew that the show had to go on. So the paramedics lifted Wing away and I addressed the crowd to signal that I would continue. Now this is what gains respect. The crowd roared and I simply took another bike and finished my routine on pure adrenalin. Wing survived and is still my passenger today. What we did learn was to listen to our bodies and understand when to stop!!

**They say you have a policy of never being satisfied. Can you explain this?**

Never being satisfied means that I will continue to develop and reinvent myself. The world is fast and trends change. No one will last forever and so it is important keep moving to stay fresh.

**You've toured the world performing for such diverse audiences. Why do you think stunt riding translates so well to other cultures and people?**

Yes, travelling the world has given an insight into many cultures. I do know that an audience being close to a stunt show where danger is an attraction has a similar reaction in all cultures. People just love it and the occasional accident or near miss is just the icing on the cake.



Craig Jones: 'I don't consider my stunts dangerous'