

Warrior women

Game of Thrones is a TV series known for its battle scenes. In this video, watch two of the show's most popular actresses preparing to film their characters' dramatic fight scene.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. to trust somebody
2. a foot
3. a challenge
4. a step
5. to choreograph
6. a stunt double
7. a skill set
8. to put somebody
in harm's way

Definition

- a. to plan the movements for a performance (e.g. a dance or film scene)
- b. a professional who substitutes an actor to do the dangerous parts of a performance
- c. a movement when you put one foot in front of the other
- d. the combination of abilities that a person has
- e. a measurement of about 30 centimetres
- f. to put somebody into a dangerous situation
- g. something that is difficult to do, so you need to make an effort to achieve it
- h. to feel confident that you can depend on somebody

Task 1

Write a number (1–5) to put the ideas in the order they are mentioned.

- Using stunt doubles
- What the fight tells us about the characters
- The choreography of the fight
- The good feeling between the two actresses
- The difference in height between the two actresses

Transcript

(Director: Rolling, rolling.)

(Crew member: Cue marker.)

Director of photography: The fun thing about the Arya and Brienne thing was, I don't think we had to do too much to it to make it really fun to watch, because everybody's wanted to see these two together for a long time. And if they didn't know they did, they certainly do the minute the two of them meet.

(Maisie: Nice.)

Gwendoline: It was so exciting to train for that fight. And we trusted each other.

Maisie: But to be fighting Gwen, who is far over a foot taller than me, and for her to be, you know, fighting someone who's far, far shorter than her, it's been a massive challenge.

(Shouting)

Stunt coordinator: Generally, as you attack, you move forward, and as you defend, you move back. And they have completely different sizes of gait, of step. That was a big challenge to choreograph that and deal with those issues.

Stunt coordinator: We used stunt doubles for their skill sets, and also to put them in harm's way to a degree.

Director: Three, two, one, action!

Gwendoline: In a fight, it's so much more than ... just choreography. *(Characters fight.)* Every movement says something about the character. It tells the story of these two very different warriors.

Gwendoline (playing Brienne): Who taught you how to do that?

Maisie (playing Arya): No one.

Answers

Preparation task

1. h
2. e
3. g
4. c
5. a
6. b
7. d
8. f

Task 1

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Using stunt doubles |
| 5 | What the fight tells us about the characters |
| 3 | The choreography of the fight |
| 1 | The good feeling between the two actresses |
| 2 | The difference in height between the two actresses |

Task 2

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. c
6. a