Steve's one giant leap for mankind

A STUNTMAN is preparing toskydive from thethreshold of space—by drawing inspiration from the dark depths of a Scottish loch.

Steve Truglia is gearing up to tackle skydiving's final frontier: the stratosphere — by drawing inspiration from the dark depths of a Scottish loch.

Steve plans an amazing skydive from 120,000 feet.

The ex-soldier turned stunt coordinator, who has worked on blockbusters such as *Tomorrow Never Dies* and *Saving Private Ryan*, is set to prepare for the dive by hurling himself out of a balloon from 52,000 feet in the spring.

Dramatic

He will then depend on a specially made spacesuit, which will provide the necessary pressure and breathing apparatus to survive the dramatic seven-minute descent that could break the sound barrier.

Free fall

“The 52,000-foot jump requires the unusual breathing system which I’m totally dependant on. If it stops I die. I feel that is the most I can focus on my breathing and free fall technique.”

If he’s successful Steve will set a new European record for No Limits Freediving.

The space jump, still in the early stages of planning, could take place as early as October next year if Steve secures the necessary sponsorship.

The daring stuntman is relishing the opportunity to challenge the current 102,800 ft world record, set by decorated US Air Force officer Joseph Kittinger, which has stood since 1960.

But he’s all too aware of the risks.

If he loses control during the dive, for example, he could be whipped into a fatal spin, turning him 5000 revolutions a minute.

He stressed, “My job as a professional stunt coordinator is about risk assessment and to second guess potential accidents and problems. The rules are to cover everything that could possibly go wrong before taking the leap.

“The challenges are psychological, physical, scientific and meteorological. I think this is the last great extreme sport challenge left on Earth.”

By Euan Duguid