

A l t e r n a t i v e S p o r t s f e a t u r e



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What goes up must come down. To negate this statement a person could attempt a number of things—travel beyond Earth to experience weightlessness, take a psychotropic drug, or, enslave hooks in your body to be heisted off the ground into a state of suspension.

Even though you may feel tugs of gravitation on your skin, suspension could be as close as it gets to defying Newton's law of gravitation.

As a bystander witnessing the act of suspension I ponder the mental state of the body swinging in the air, sometimes seeing blood swim down the back from the protruding hooks. In order to partake in suspension, one must be aware of the professionalism involved.

It takes meticulous calculation to determine the number of hooks used, where the hooks can be placed, skin durability to withstand the pull, distribution of weight, the suspendee's health, general risks (such as shock and fainting), as well as a steady background of physiology and human anatomy.

With three tattoos (shoulder pentacle, skull with flames on one calf and a witch burning at the stake on the other calf) and seventeen piercings (including 10ga ear cartilage, industrial and earlobes

stretched to 1 1/4' along with a bridge, eyebrow, septum, tongue, nape of the neck, and others) Cory Campbell, 27, of Marion, Ohio is not a rookie to the scene.

Cory participated in his first "flesh-pull" at Hellcity in 2002 giving credit to Shawn Lower along with the Only Flesh and Evolved suspension groups in Columbus, Ohio and Steve Haworth for sparking his interest.

Cory's first true performance was with Lower's Evolved group at Trama 2003. Cory explained, "Aaron and I were selected to be angels in the performance and we were painted white and suspended Superman style on rigs that had wings attached. I'm guessing we were suspended for around 15-20 minutes."

You may be questioning the motivation behind being suspended with hook piercings. Cory said, "my own personal reasons for doing suspension are pretty much the feeling of accomplishment that I get from knowing that I'm doing something that is outside of the range of what most other people would be willing to partake in."

"I know a lot of people do it for spiritual reasons, euphoria, or because they get a big adrenaline rush out of it."

Out of the suspension styles,

Cory prefers the "Suicide" because it allows for freedom to swing around.

The best way to experience a live suspension show would be to track down Tattoo and Body Piercing Expo's or look for Shawn Lower's band Only Flesh to perform; you may see Cory swinging around at occasional Only Flesh concerts (www.myspace.com/onlyflesh).

For those interested in suspension, Cory advises, "learn all you can and talk to someone who has done a few. Know what you want to get out of doing your suspension and then find someone who can set it up. Albeit a little on the extreme side, I love suspending and I see what I do as a type of performance art."

—Written, Photos by Neil Shumate
Photos of Cory Campbell taken at Odious thanksgiving show, Alrosa.



For further information or questions, contact
www.myspace.com/c_campbell
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