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SHORTLISTED
FOR NEWSPRESS
MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR

JAGUAR'S FASTEST MAN ON SKIS
GET HUGH JACKMAN'S LOOK
TARON EGERTON LEARNS TO SKI
SNOW POLO WITH MASERATI



EDDIE THE EAGLE

**See the Film
Win his Van!**



“A FEEL-GOOD, CROWD-PLEASING TRIUMPH”



RADIO TIMES

TARON
EGERTON

AND

HUGH
JACKMAN

WIN OR LOSE, ALWAYS AIM HIGH

EDDIE *The* EAGLE

IN CINEMAS APRIL 1
PREVIEWS FROM MARCH 28



ISSUE 31 / 2016

This week

#WinEddieTheEagleVan Eddie the Eagle. Here's a film that we can all get behind as it celebrates one of the most unlikely British sporting heroes of all time.

#WinEddieTheEagleVan Obviously we've gone Eddie the Eagle mad and quite right too, and got behind the origins of the film and just how it got made and find out the inside ski jump line from Hugh Jackman and Taron Egerton.

#WinEddieTheEagleVan We find Eddie the perfect car for getting to the top of the ramp, plus a suggestion for a new sport he could easily smash and a whole heap of Eddie the Eagle related products.

Oh yes, nearly forgot. You can Win Eddie's Van. Just sign up at the website www.freecarmag.com/win-eddie-the-eagles-van and you could be the envy of everyone with the actual van featured in the film, Eddie the Eagle.

Terms and conditions do apply (see online, so you need to be a resident of the UK, over 18 years old and collect the van within five working days. You have until April 29th to get your act together and **#WinEddieTheEagleVan**

● Cover Image Courtesy Lionsgate



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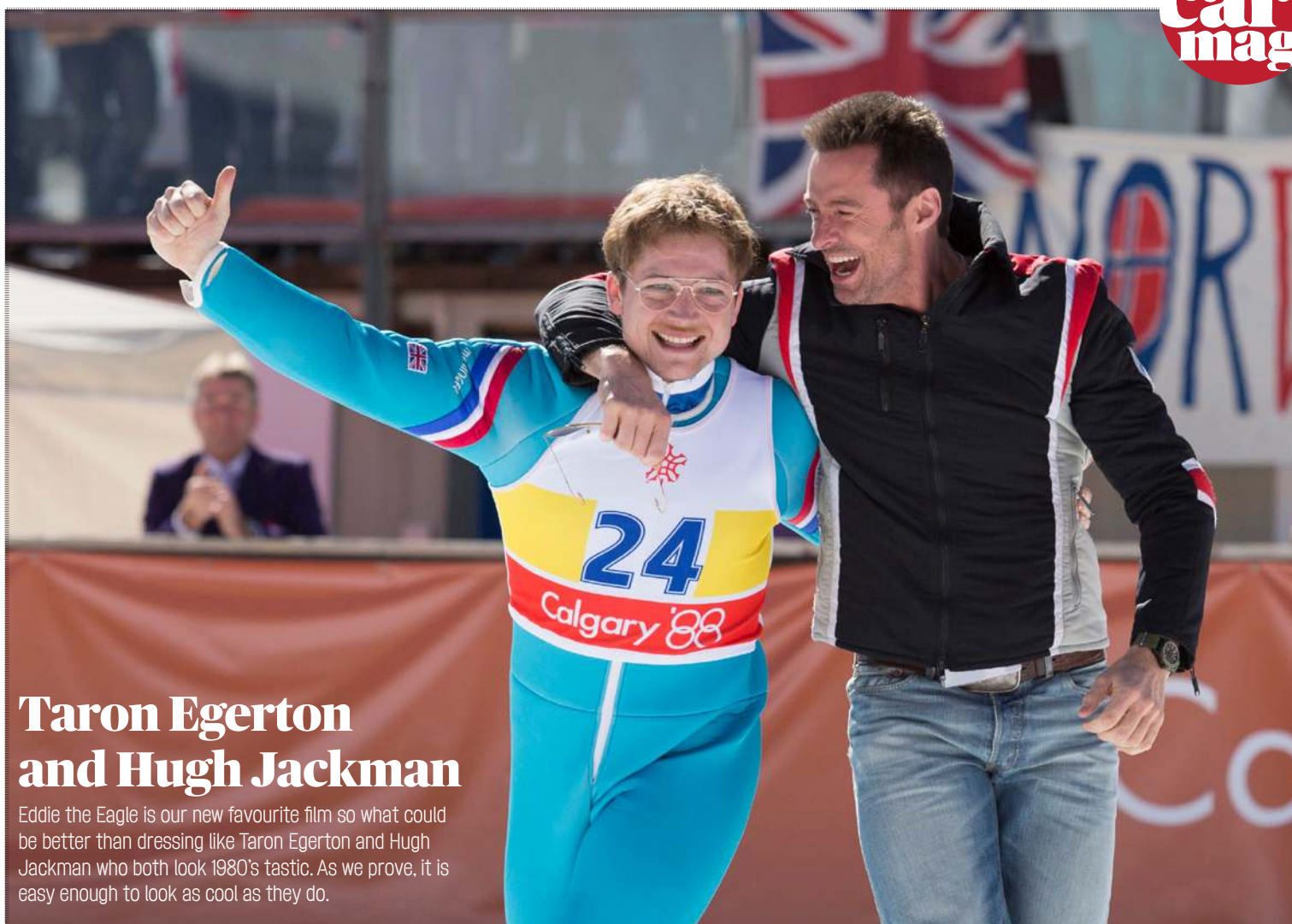
Eddie The Eagle Premiere

A fantastic night was had by all at the Leicester Square Odeon when the snow machines were turned onto the stars. Everyone was there starting with Eddie himself. Obviously Hugh Jackman and Taron Egerton were in the square along with Keith Allen and Jo Hartley who played Eddie's mum and dad, Janette and Terry. As well as Director Dexter Fletcher there was a bunch of '80s music heroes including Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet and Howard Jones. Indeed, the soundtrack album was put together by Gary Barlow, who also popped along with stars of the film, Tim McInnerny, Rune Temte and Ania Sowinski. Also spotted was Claudia Schiffer.

All images copyright Lionsgate Films.



SPOTTED
OUT AND
ABOUT



Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman

Eddie the Eagle is our new favourite film so what could be better than dressing like Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman who both look 1980's tastic. As we prove, it is easy enough to look as cool as they do.

Get the look



- 1 Eddie's outfit £44.99 +pp
Ebay.co.uk
- 2 Bronson Peary jacket
£79.99+pp Ebay.co.uk
- 3 Jeans £35.00 River Island
- 4 Calvin Klein belt £45.00
Next.co.uk
- 5 Mens Sports watch from
the Seiko Solar Collection
£129.99 Seiko.co.uk

A full-page photograph of actor Hugh Jackman sitting on a horizontal metal beam. He is wearing a dark, long-sleeved button-down shirt and blue jeans. He is looking off-camera to his right with a slight smile. The background consists of a building with horizontal wooden siding and a metal framework. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Eddie the Eagle

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

How the brilliant family friendly film Eddie The Eagle got made, according to Hugh Jackman, Matthew Vaughn, Dexter Fletcher and Taron Egerton.





One night, towards the end of 2014, Matthew Vaughn - director of *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, *X-Men: First Class* and *Layer Cake* - sat down to watch a film with his children. The film was *Cool Runnings*, the comedy about a Jamaican bobsled team that defied all the odds to compete in the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

"My kids were loving the film," says Vaughn, "and I started thinking, 'Why does nobody make movies like this anymore?' I wanted to make a movie that you could watch and just come out feeling inspired. And I wanted to do a film I could show my kids!"

"This is a whole new experience for me, making a family-friendly feel-good film!"

Perhaps spurred on by the remarkable coincidence that the Jamaican bobsledders and Eddie Edwards competed at the same Olympics, Vaughn turned his thoughts towards *The Eagle*. Fifteen years or so earlier, Vaughn and his then directing partner, Guy Ritchie, had been sent an *Eddie The Eagle* screenplay

with a view to turning it into a movie. That deal hadn't worked out, but something about it resonated with him. "I thought it was charming, and worth making. Loads of people had bought it since, but nothing had happened," Vaughn explains. "I tracked down the script, said I wanted to buy it, and three months later we were filming."

Vaughn quickly assembled his dream team both in front of and behind the camera. Deciding immediately that he didn't want to direct ("This is a whole new experience for me, making a family-friendly feel-good film"), he turned to his old friend, Dexter Fletcher. Fletcher had starred in the first movie produced by Vaughn, *Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels*, and the two had remained in touch ever since, during which both had become directors. Fletcher's helming debut, *Wild Bill*, in particular, caught Vaughn's eye.

"I loved *Wild Bill*," says Vaughn. "Dexter's good at heart, and he's good at looking after people."

Unlike Vaughn, who was glued to Eddie's exploits in Calgary, Fletcher has little memory of the time. "I was in my 20s, he wasn't cool, and everything had to be

cool when you were in your 20s," laughs Fletcher. But he had been impressed when Edwards showed up in, and won, the British high-diving reality show, *Splash!*, "I thought, Eddie has the right attitude. He was 45 years old, but he had an Olympic approach to it, a real singlemindedness. He had no fear."

"Our attitude towards Eddie would be that he's mad"

So, when he got the call from Vaughn, Fletcher was more than ready to make the Eagle soar. "It was a great opportunity to work with Matthew as a producer, but there's something really interesting about this story. It's not just what we think we know," he explains. "And then Matthew started talking to me like I was doing it! The train had left the station. I just happened to be on it!"

Fletcher and Vaughn wanted to keep the focus firmly on Eddie's drive for glory. "The story is all about when he's there and what he achieves," says Fletcher.

Edwards' exploits were solitary. Largely shunned by the ski jumping community, he would either train



himself or go through a string of short-lived coaches. For the film however, Vaughn and Fletcher wanted to create a character to join Eddie through every step of his journey. "We needed someone we can relate to, a participant we can imagine ourselves to be," says Fletcher. "Our attitude towards Eddie would be that he's mad, but we're won over by his inspirational enthusiasm and approach."

"He remembered Eddie The Eagle... he used to jump off the roof of his house in Australia and pretend it was a ski jump!"

Enter Bronson Peary, a hard-drinking, chain-smoking American and former ski jumper who takes Eddie, very reluctantly at first, under his wing. It was a role created for a movie star. And one of the benefits of being as successful as Matthew Vaughn is that you have movie stars on speed dial. Hugh Jackman, for one.

"I rang Hugh up and sent him the script," says Vaughn. "He remembered Eddie The Eagle. He told

me he used to jump off the roof of his house in Australia and pretend it was a ski jump! Hugh loved the idea of doing this. He's never done anything like this before."

Jackman says he was indeed a huge Eddie the Eagle fan growing up – just another reminder of the huge impact Eddie's exploits had on the world at large. "Eddie was a legend who embodies that pure spirit of having a go. And he had a go at the most crazy, almost suicidal event in sport, the ski jump. I mean, I wanted to be in the Olympics as a kid; I just wasn't going to go this far!"

Jackman was also drawn in by the chance to play Peary, a damaged, cynical soul who was kicked out of the U.S. Winter Olympics team at the peak of his powers. His friendship with Eddie enables a long-overdue healing process for Peary. "Eddie's dogged determination intrigues Bronson," adds Jackman. "He likes this kid. He thinks he's flat out crazy, but he relates to him. They're both outsiders, they've both been shunned by the world, and it's a redemption tale for both of them. Through that growing friendship, Bronson starts to believe in himself again."

A key part of Peary's arc is his relationship with his former coach, Warren Sharp, who kicked Bronson out of the U.S. team all those years ago. Sharp remains a huge presence in Peary's life, particularly in a climactic scene where the two meet for the first time in decades. But the character presented Vaughn and Fletcher with a casting challenge. "It had to be someone on a par with Hugh Jackman," says Fletcher. "That's Christopher Walken. When he came on set, it was just brilliant. What he does is so 'Walken,' but it's powerful and moving, and means that Hugh's character is more three-dimensional as well."

"The godfather of the sport walks into the room...It's Christopher Walken!"

Jackman loved working with the legendary actor. "Honestly, no acting required!" he laughs. "For one scene, the script says, 'the godfather of the sport walks into the room and everyone goes still.' That's pretty much what happened. It's Christopher Walken! And he's the coolest, most relaxed guy from take one until the end of the shoot. It's all gold."

Vaughn and Fletcher had their Bronson Peary. And they had their Warren Sharp. Now they just needed the biggest piece of the puzzle: the Eagle himself.

As it happens, the hunt for Eddie didn't take very long, because Vaughn realized he had the perfect candidate right under his nose. He had just put the finishing touches on *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, starring Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Caine, Mark Strong, and as the film's hero Eggsy, Taron Egerton, a young Welsh newcomer in his first film role.

"I knew Eggsy was a performance," says Vaughn. "Eggsy is so not Taron. I said to him, 'It's important you do a character now which surprises people.' I didn't have a doubt that Taron was going to pull Eddie off."

"Audiences will no longer think of Eddie the clown, but as Eddie the hero."

Egerton wasn't even born when Edwards was soaring through the Calgary air, but the young actor quickly jumped at the chance. A test with Jackman in New York swiftly followed, before Egerton was officially offered the role just before Christmas 2014. But he took it on one proviso. "I have absolutely no interest in sending Eddie up," says Egerton. "He can be funny, he can have mishaps, but he needs heart and soul and to be real and believable."

His initial fears were misplaced. "I wanted to dial up the emotion," says Vaughn. "That's what I'm most excited with this movie. Audiences will no longer think of Eddie the clown, but as Eddie the hero."

To prepare for the role, Egerton did meet with the real-life Eddie, which helped inform his performance. "Eddie is a very reasonable and pleasant, affable chap," he says. "He has optimism, and he's focused. There are things about Eddie that are heroic."

Egerton transformed himself for the role with the addition of a subtle wig, the trademark thick glasses, a little extra weight, a Cheltenham accent and, towards the movie's end, Eddie's iconic moustache. "But I also need to be really innocent," he says. "Hugh's bringing all the movie star pecs, and he's given me the room to be a bit eccentric."

"You realize how dangerous it is when you're doing it."

The young actor also learned how to ski for the role, in order to replicate the positions required for ski jumping, from the Inrun position (the first position a ski jumper adopts as they come down the slope) to the take-off move and the "Telemark," which allows the jumper to land with one foot in front of the other. "Well, I did about fifteen hours!" he laughs. "I was quite nervous doing it. It's hardcore. You realize how dangerous it is when you're doing it."

Be under no illusions - ski jumping is an incredibly

dangerous sport. "I won't be doing the 90 metre jump," laughs Egerton. "You have to do it every day from the age of four just for it to be safe. It's why Eddie kept hurting himself." Jackman, no stranger to doing his own stunts, was also daunted by the sheer difficulty of a 90 metre jump, which requires total focus and mastery of the human body just to take off, let alone land safely.

"I had to do a scene where I sat on top of the jump, and I had a wire on to stop me from killing myself if I fell," recalls Jackman. "And even then I was pretty freaked out! When you think that Eddie did that in the Olympics after doing hardly any jumps in his life, he had some serious courage."

Perhaps Vaughn sums it up best. "Whoever invented ski jumping was insane," he remarks. "There's no logical reason for doing it."

To accurately depict Edwards' training routine, and the big jumps he undertook at the Calgary Olympics, Fletcher and his director of photography George Richmond had to find a way of doing it safely, and repeatedly.

"There are thirteen or more jumps in the film, and it's always the same action - a guy goes up somewhere steep, he jumps off and then he lands," notes Fletcher. "We had to find a lot of new ways to do that. And as soon as you get on a screen, everything becomes flat, and the height of something is reduced by 50 percent, at least."

Other problems encountered by the production while on location in Germany and Austria, was amazingly, a lack of snow. "We were filming in spring and at the tail-end of a mild winter," says Fletcher. "There was one shot where Taron goes to the top of the 70 metre jump and looks down, and there was no snow! We had to bring some in from higher up the mountain in a truck, and spread it out around the slope."

Other solutions involved judicious use of CG, helmet-cams to increase the feeling of speed as the skier speeds down the slope, and the construction of complex platforms in and around the 70 metre and 90 metre jumps. The latter allowed Fletcher, Richmond and second unit director, the legendary Vic Armstrong, to devise shots where the camera would swoop and fly and be able to depict the sheer speeds of a ski jumper as they leap into the unknown. "George and I got very creative," adds Fletcher. "We found ways of coming up with fun angles, and ways to communicate how high and dangerous this is. It's about choosing the right people to help you bring it to the next level."

Eddie the Eagle Edwards may not have gone to the next level and won an Olympic medal, but his example is an inspirational one. Says Vaughn: "This film shows that no matter how big a problem you may have, you can solve it. Having heart and determination and tenacity does work."





ON THE PISTE

The life and fast times of Eddie the Eagle

Michael Edwards was born on 5th December 1963. Eddie's story is inspirational. Although he was never athletically gifted, from an early age he dedicated his life to achieving one goal: to become an Olympian. Eddie tried his hand at various sports and disciplines, before settling on downhill skiing. Having narrowly failed to make the British team at the Winter Olympics in 1984, he recalibrated and switched to ski jumping.

There were several problems here: Britain had never had a ski jumping representative at a Winter Olympics. And Eddie had never even attempted a ski jump before. He was heavier than most ski jumpers, all of whom started at a very early age, he had no funding, very little training and his terrible eyesight meant that he had to attempt jumps while wearing glasses that would dangerously mist up mid-jump.

Begging and borrowing equipment, Eddie was the sole British entrant at the 1987 World Championships, 55th position was enough to see him through to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada.

Calgary was where Eddie really took off. Although placed last in both his events - the 70 metre jump and 90 metre jump - he became a media darling (he was quickly dubbed "The Eagle" by the tabloids) and something of a folk hero, famous for his unorthodox style, appearance and will to compete.

Sadly, it is now impossible for someone to replicate Eddie's achievements. As detailed in the film, the standards required to qualify for the ski jump were almost immediately increased by the International Olympic Committee. Eddie never qualified for the event again, although he was selected as a torchbearer for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.



Let's get Eddie out of retirement and playing this...



It's official: snow polo is a thing.

The Maserati Polo Tour 2016 began with a thrilling start at the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz that took place on the frozen lake of St. Moritz. Incidentally, Maserati won.

Over the three day tournament, the four polo teams played entertaining and high-class polo matches to the delight of the 13,000 spectators. The favourable weather conditions transformed the polo field on the frozen lake of St. Moritz with the snow-capped Engadine mountains in the background providing a spectacular backdrop.

Team Maserati with Team Captain Rommy Gianni (Italy, Handicap +1), Luciano Vazquez (Spain, Handicap +2), Dario Musso (Argentina, Handicap +7) and Frankie Menendes (Argentina, Handicap +6) received the support and cheers from the audience to win the finals of the Snow Polo World

Cup St. Moritz over Team Cartier in a thrilling finish 5 to 4.

We are not sure what standard of horseman Eddie is, but we imagine it would be pretty good and fit right in and enjoy the weekend packages ranging from a snow golf tournament and test drives on snow and ice, to attending the world-class Snow Polo Tournament with the Maserati Team as well as the exclusive Snow Polo Gala dinner.

Detailed information on the Snow Polo World Cup St. Moritz can be found under the following link: <http://www.snowpolo-stmoritz.com>

To keep up to date with all of the thrilling action from the global events, the 2016 tour can be followed on www.maseratipolo.com, where there will be access to photos, extra content and updates from each leg of the Maserati Polo Tour.

EDDIE QUOTES

“They said I was afraid of heights. But I was doing sixty jumps a day then, which is hardly something someone who was afraid of heights would do.”

•

“There was always a chance that my next jump would be my last. A big chance.”

•

“When I started competing, I was so broke that I had to tie my helmet with a piece of string,”

•

“Brian the Budgie, Simon the Seagull, Vinnie the Vulture... none lasted more than six months, they didn't realize how much effort ski jumping entails.”

Have your say  @freecarmag1

CITROEN BERLINGO vs RENAULT KANGOO

We are giving away a very large van that was in Eddie the Eagle, but just in case you don't win that, here are a couple of popular alternatives.

CITROEN BERLINGO



Average
Repair Cost
£200.80

Cooling/
Heating
15%
failure rate

Axle/
Suspension
25%
failure rate

Electrical
45%
failure rate

warrantydirect
Rating:
GOOD

WHY BUY?

It is hard to argue with the boxy dimensions of these vehicles which can accommodate just about any load, especially as the seats can be moved and taken out. Brand new both could seem expensive which means that they are excellent used prospects.

WHICH MODELS?

Citroen Berlingo built from 1998. The 1.6 petrol is arguably the better value buy, but the 2.0 TD diesel is refined and economical. The Kangoo from 1999 onwards. The 1.5 litre diesel is the frugal choice for many. Four wheel drive model not really worth the bother.

ARE THEY RELIABLE?

Going by Warranty Direct's statistics the Citroen is clearly the better buy. Electrical failures continue to be at the top of the list for modern cars. However, buyers should check for neglect and damage.

HOW MUCH DO THEY COST?

You can pick up early versions from £300, but quite often they have lead quite a hard life. £4500 or more for later examples. Same concerns about the early Kangoos which can be even cheaper in basic trim at below £400. Top money is now £4000, so very good value.

RENAULT KANGOO



Average
Repair Cost
£300

Cooling/
Heating
12%
failure rate

Axle/
Suspension
13.51%
failure rate

Electrical
33.78%
failure rate

warrantydirect
Rating:
GOOD

SUM UP

Both are durable vehicles that do the same job. Simply buy the best condition and least worn out one that you can find.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



warrantydirect

For more used car information and buying tips go to freecarmag.com



"Cylinder Head £1500" - Source: Warranty Direct data, 2012

Are you driving a car that's no longer under warranty?

Then you could be driving around in a ticking financial time bomb! Any second it could go bang, and blow your socks off with sky high repair bills.

Don't risk it – get your car protected with an insured warranty from Warranty Direct. Warranty Direct offers comprehensive cover that's recommended by WhatCar?

Once your car reaches three years old the manufacturer's warranty protection usually expires. A warranty from Warranty Direct will protect your car and your wallet.

Call 0800 731 7001 | **buy online** www.warrantydirect.co.uk



Did you know?

Highest repair bills paid by Warranty Direct during 2013:

New Engine	£16,165.38	Drive Chains	£3,464.87
Complete Gearbox	£20,797.88	ECU	£3,395.84
Piston Rings	£2,285.26	Water Radiator	£3,497.71
Torque Converter	£3,182.50	Shock Absorber	£1,654.80



Get a quote today at warrantydirect.co.uk
We might just save you a fortune!

Call 0800 731 7001 | buy online www.warrantydirect.co.uk

WE ALSO PROVIDE GREAT VALUE DEALS ON BREAKDOWN RECOVERY, GAP INSURANCE AND BIKE WARRANTIES

Eddie the Eagle's Buy Now

AVAILABLE:
NOV

PRICE:
From £55,00

HYPER LUXURY ITALIAN SUV

MASERATI LEVANTE

Eddie will have to wait for this one until the end of the year, but then it is a Maserati, so it will be worth it. Apparently all UK models will be diesel. A fascinating fact is that the Levante name inspired by a warm Mediterranean wind. Mostly though it will be a Maserati but taller. Expect a top speed of 164 mph and that it will get to 62mph in 5.2 seconds. There are lots of technical details to excite everyone. But don't worry sumptuous leather is standard.



AVAILABLE:
SPRING

PRICE:
£36,350

EXECUTIVE ALL WHEEL DRIVE SALOON

JAGUAR XF AWD

Here's a classy saloon that like Eddie the Eagle, won't be flummoxed by a bit of dicey weather. The Intelligent Driveline Dynamics technology maximises traction and performance benefits of AWD while preserving its sporty rear-wheel drive agility. Adaptive Surface Response mode for Jaguar Drive Control delivers even greater composure in even the most adverse conditions. Eddie will love it.

AVAILABLE:
NOW

PRICE:
£46,950

POSH SWEDISH SUV HAS BEEN UPRATED

VOLVO XC90

The latest models now have semi-autonomous drive technology, Pilot Assist II, as standard which supports drivers up to speeds of 80 mph in well-marked highway conditions. There is also Run-off Road Mitigation, which uses auto-steer to help keep you on the road. Volvo's standard collision-avoidance system, City Safety, also receives an update with Large Animal Detection. It is also even more connected with music streaming and Smartphone connectivity, so hardly anything for Eddie to worry about.



Precision Performance



PULSAR
SOLAR

ance





WATCH THE FILM, WIN THE VAN

Here is your fantastic chance to win Eddie's van from Eddie the Eagle film courtesy of the producers, Lionsgate. It's the van that Eddie lives in and is strapped to the top of in the film.

Just in case you wondered, this is a Bedford CF van but with a twist. It has a Dormobile Debonair conversion, with body panels made from plastic. A popular way to go camping in '70s and ski-jumping in the '80s.

All you have to do is subscribe to the competition page at www.freecarmag.com/win-eddie-the-eagles-van and answer a simple qualifying question, Eddie the Eagle is about #Skijumping or #IceSkating. Please use **#WinEddieTheEagleVan** on social media when telling everyone about the competition or how clever you have been to enter. We would really appreciate it if you could get Eddie's van trending.

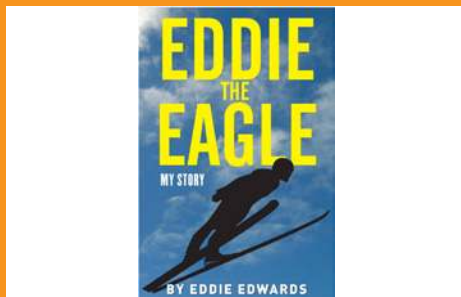
There are general terms and conditions on www.freecarmag.com but the specifics are for the Eddie the Eagle Van are: This competition runs until April 29th. Entrants must be residents of the UK over 18 years old and based in the UK. There is no cash equivalent. The winner will be picked at random by Lionsgate. The winner must within 5 days arrange collection of the Eddie the Eagle Van. Failure to do this will mean that the van will be auctioned for charity.



SEIKO SOLAR SPORTS

A Tough way to tell the
Time, £129.00

Eddie the Eagle needs a job that can take the rough and tumble of the jumps and this Seiko is perfect. Similar to the one that Hugh Jackman in the role of Eddie's trainer Bronson Perry can be seen wearing. For a start it has a military strap so it won't slip off. The Hardlex glass is a synthetic mineral crystal glass which is highly resistant to knocks and scratches and it comes in a tough stainless steel case. Even if the ice melted Eddie would find that the watch is water resistant to 100 metres. Also these quartz watches are powered by light, capable of converting all types of light into energy, with no battery replacement ever required. Then at least Eddie could concentrate on jumping and not worrying about whether the battery is going to fail. It is the perfect watch for Eddie and the perfect watch for those of us with tough lives who strive every day to do something truly heroic.



EDDIE THE EAGLE: MY STORY £4.32

Short and stocky, sporting thick glasses prone to fogging, Eddie was nobody's athletic ideal. Through struggle, sacrifice, even near-starvation—this British plasterer made his dream a reality: competing in the 1988 Olympic Games in Calgary. Here, in his own words, is Eddie's story—from the schoolboy stunts that developed his physical courage, to the menial labor that paid for training, to the qualifying jumps that had millions around the world glued to their television sets to watch him.

Amazon.co.uk



EDDIE THE EAGLE €19.95

T-Shirt Icon of the Olympic Games 1988
100% cotton,
190 gm, very soft material
Sizes: S | M | L | XL | XXL
Available colours: skyblue, sand or white
Machine washable at up to 40°C
€6.95 to ship to the UK

Pixda.de



'FLY - SONGS INSPIRED BY THE FILM EDDIE THE EAGLE'

Curated By Take That's Gary Barlow features some of the biggest stars from the 80s including Tony Hadley, Marc Almond, Holly Johnson, Paul Young, Kim Wilde, Andy Bell, Midge Ure, Nik Kershaw, ABC, Go West, Howard Jones and Heaven 17. A mix of new studio recordings and original songs and the stars of the film Hugh Jackman and Taron Egerton have also recorded a very special duet, 'Thrill Me', written by Gary Barlow and Andy McCluskey (OMD) which will also feature on the album.

Amazon.co.uk

World Record Attempt



MAD AS AN EAGLE

Jaguar, in the true spirit of Eddie the Eagle, have a plan to set a ski world record.



Jaguar and Olympic skier Graham Bell have announced a technical partnership aimed at setting a Guinness World Record in 2017.

Graham, now TV presenter on successful British TV show 'The Jump', hopes to become the fastest man on skis with the support of Jaguar Land Rover engineers, facilities and expertise in aerodynamics.

Working with Jaguar to develop a unique ski suit and harness containing twin micro jets, Graham hopes to reach speeds of over 160mph – setting a new World Record. He has already begun training for the record by ski-joring behind a Jaguar XE AWD at over 100mph in the Austrian Alps.

Graham Bell said "I approached Jaguar to become my lead technical partner due to their experience in aerodynamics and love of all things involving speed. As lead technical partner in the attempt, Jaguar will provide the aerodynamic expertise to develop the Iron-Man-style suit I need, as well as helping me acclimatize to speed and external forces using high performance vehicles including the Jaguar XE AWD - designed to provide maximum traction in adverse conditions including snow and ice."

Ian Anderton, thermal and aerodynamics manager, Jaguar Land Rover, said: "As engineering challenges go it doesn't get more unique than this, so the next few months are going to be very exciting.

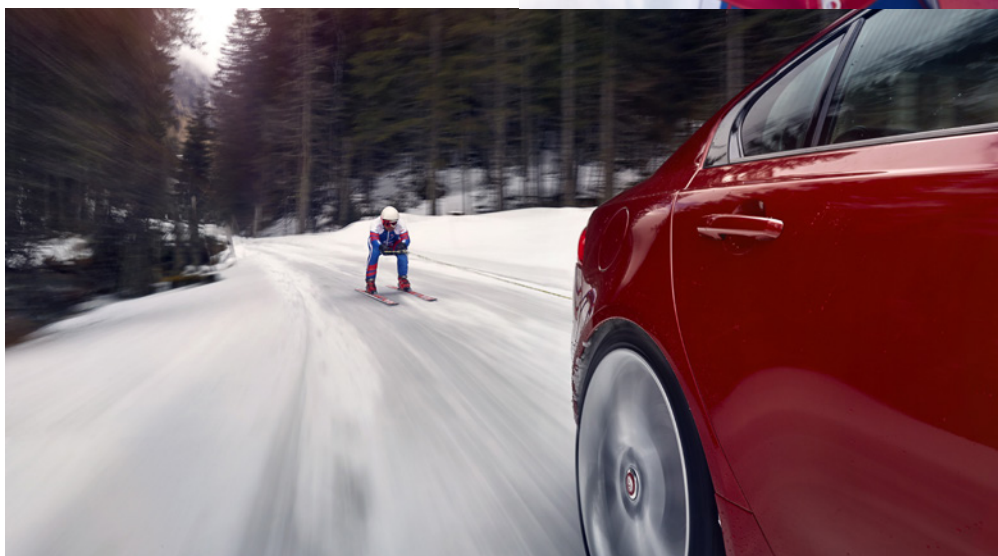
"We kick-started the technical partnership by ski-joring with a Jaguar XE AWD to determine what factors should be taken into consideration when designing his suit, such as wind, skiing position and chill – especially in minus conditions.

"In many ways, it's very similar to the car design process, necessitating the perfect balance between

aerodynamics, engineering and design for ultimate performance."

The Jaguar XE has been optimised for ultimate aerodynamic efficiency and stability. It is the only car in its class to use an aluminium-intensive body structure, making it the lightest, stiffest and most aerodynamic Jaguar yet. The XE AWD enhances vehicle dynamics and provides greater traction in intense weather conditions, making it a true all-weather sports saloon.

The record attempt will take place at Jaguar's cold weather testing facility in Sweden in early 2017. Although there is no comparable record, the current World Downhill Speed Skiing World Record is currently held by Simone Orengone at 156mph.



NEXT ISSUE

We love anything Fast and Furious and we absolutely adore Michelle Rodriguez and boy can she drive. In the next Free Car Mag she will be reaching some fairly insane speeds behind the wheel of a Jaguar F-Type SVR. I don't think we can top that, but there may well be some Stooshie...



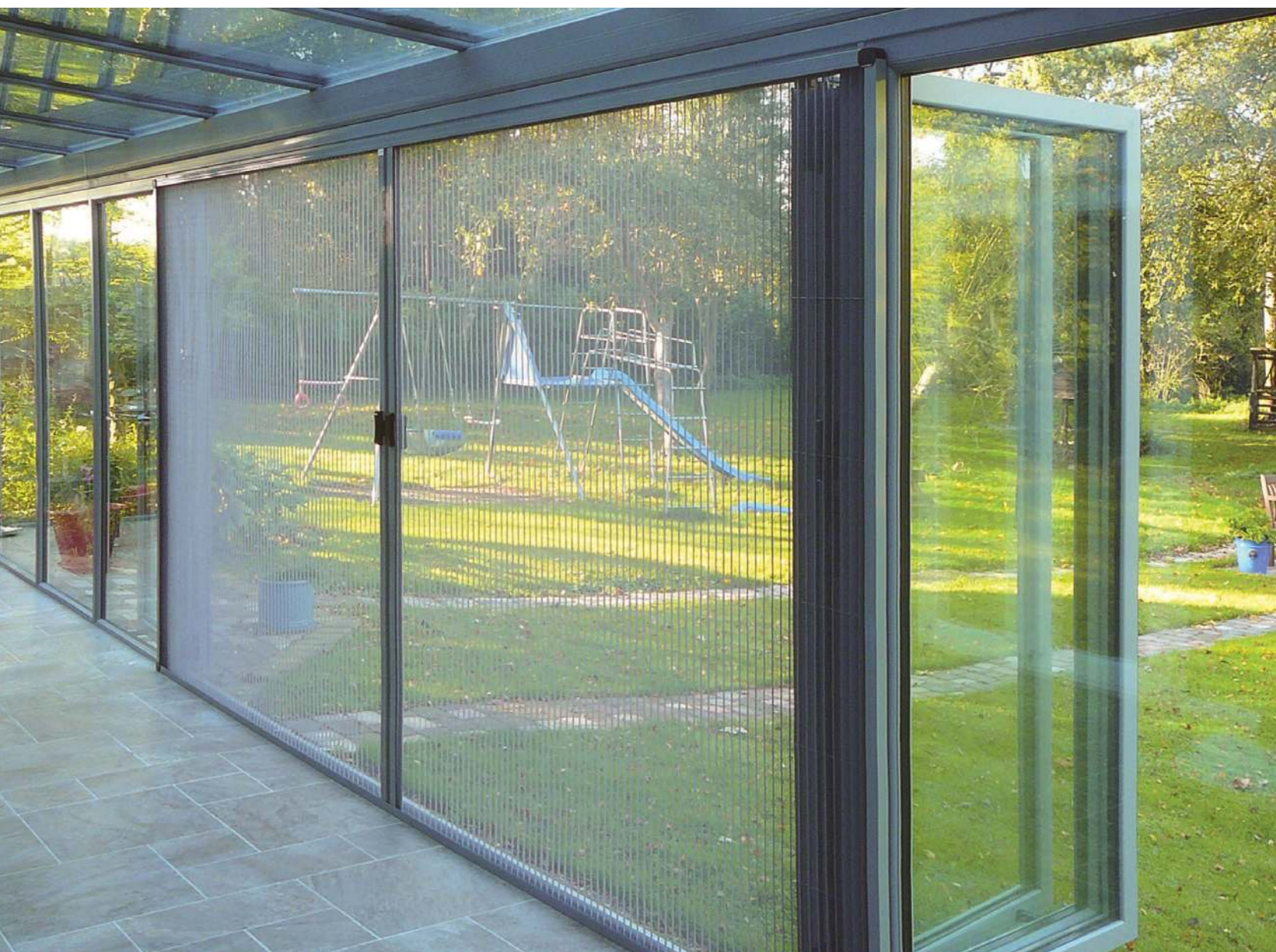
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