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Science Explains Why You Can't Tell Johnny Depp From His Stunt Double

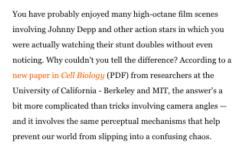
By Jesse Singal Y Follow @jessesingal

October 6, 2014 1:13 p.m.

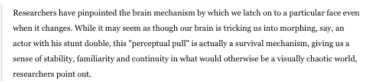
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To the study's press release:



"If we didn't have this bias of seeing a face as the same from one moment to the next, our perception of people would be very confusing. For example, a friend or relative would look like a completely different person with each turn of the head or change in light and shade," said Alina Liberman, a doctoral student in neuroscience at UC Berkeley and lead author of the study[.]

In searching for an exact match to a "target" face on a computer screen, study participants consistently identified a face that was not the target face, but a composite of the faces they had seen over the past few seconds. Moreover, participants judged the match to be more similar to the target face than it really was. The results help explain how humans process visual information from moment to moment to stabilize their environment.

"Our visual system loses sensitivity to stunt doubles in movies, but that's a small price to pay for perceiving our spouse's identity as stable," said David Whitney, associate professor of psychology at UC Berkeley and senior author of the study.

Not to mention a small price to pay to enjoy awesome sword fights.

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