

News Front Page

Last Updated: Sunday, 28 August 2005, 11:29 GMT 12:29 UK

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version



Africa

Americas

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Middle East

South Asia

UK

Business

Health

Science/Nature

Technology

Entertainment

Have Your Say

In Pictures

Week at a Glance

Country Profiles

In Depth

Programmes

BBC SPORT

BBC WEATHER

BBC ON THIS DAY

LANGUAGES

- Espanol
- Brazil
- Caribbean
- More

Cannonball man flies over border

David Smith has an unusual way of crossing the Mexican border into the US - as a human cannonball.

Mr Smith, a professional cannonball, was launched head first across the border between Tijuana, in Mexico, and the US city of San Diego.

His son, also a human cannonball, says Mr Smith is the first person to be fired across an international border.

Mr Smith waved his passport in the air as he sat on the lip of the cannon, before leaving on the brief journey.

'Spatial borders'

The event is the first of a series of public art projects in the two border cities run by the Insite network.

Mr Smith was fired into the sky on Saturday, flying across a rusty border fence from the Mexican beach and landing in a huge net the other side.

Mr Smith said he was inspired by circus performers to explore "the notion of spatial and mental borders".

The US border chief granted Mr Smith special dispensation for crossing into the US in such an unconventional manner.

"I had to make sure to have some kind of official 'OK' high enough up to make sure he doesn't land in the US and go to a federal penitentiary," his son said.

Mr Smith has spawned a family of professional human cannonballs - his son, two daughters and a cousin are all regularly fired from one of five cannons they own.



David Smith sails across the border, passport in hand

[OPEN](#) Enlarge Image



David Smith showed his passport before heading over the border

UNUSUAL JOBS



Head for heights

Being fired twice a day as a human cannonball in a circus



Ravenmaster's role

Life in charge of the Tower of London's famous birds



Pet psychologist

Dr Roger Mugford tries to understand what animals are thinking



Playing the fool

Bringing jesting to life is not a job for the fainthearted



'Sex is my job'

Michelle Thorne talks about life in the porn industry



A stable life

A horse masseuse explains the nature of her hands-on skills



Above the sea

When you're an oil rig engineer, your office is a safety harness

HAVE YOUR SAY

[Do you have an unusual job?](#)

RELATED INTERNET LINKS:

[Insite events](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

TOP AMERICAS STORIES NOW

- Bush declares Katrina prayer day
- Rat plague leads to hunger fears
- Anger over Canada Sharia move
- Colombia rebel released for talks



| [What is RSS?](#)

E-mail this to a friend

Printable version

LINKS TO MORE AMERICAS STORIES

Select Go

[News alerts](#) | [E-mail services](#) | [Mobiles/PDAs](#)

© BBC MMV

[Help](#) | [Privacy & Cookies Policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#)

[Back to top ^^](#)

[BBC Homepage >>](#) | [BBC Sport >>](#) | [BBC Weather >>](#) | [BBC World Service >>](#)

NEWSWATCH

[Notes](#) | [Contact us](#) | [About BBC News](#) | [Profiles](#) | [History](#)