

‘Anatomy of an Athlete’ promotional video – Transcript

(Background music and conversation)

Dr Sam Alberti, Museum Director

We're here at the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons. We appeal to the medically interested and also the artistically inclined. So what we've done with this exhibition is we've paired up the best of British athletes with some outstanding surgeons and world leading medical artists.

Joanna Culley, Artist

All the artists from the Medical Artists Association were approached by the Royal College of Surgeons to see if we would like to be a part of an exhibition, so what we did individually was put into a proposal of what we thought would be interesting to the public.

Richard Neave, Artist

What I found interesting about this project was the idea that one could combine anatomy and the idea of being able to build something which has been built by artists to assist other artists and scientists; and yet apply it to a modern situation to show how the modern prosthesis can allow somebody like this athlete to perform with great ability.

Emily Evans, Artist

The injury that we chose - the hamstring injury - we thought would be a really dynamic injury to show. So it would be something that people can relate to and hopefully understand. Initially we wanted a kind of sequence of the injury occurring and in order to achieve that with this kind of modern look that we have gone for, was using quite a few different computer programmes.

Richard Neave, Artist

The actual time spent on building this model was, I think, in the region of two months. But given the opportunity to do it again it would be half the time (laughs).

Catherine Sulzmann, Artist

I've always done fairly short pieces of work of surgical sequences and having the idea of having a whole five months to do a big animation was a real thrill. The biggest challenge I had was tying the sutures, it was a huge trial to learn how to do and they're only on there for about one second (laughs) - but it was worth it!

Emily Evans

I think the biggest challenge would be working to such a large scale and just rendering out the 3D artwork takes quite a long time.

Joanna Culley

The process started with watching Richard - part of the GB Hockey team - playing, and from there I developed ideas of the benefits of exercise.

Catherine Sulzmann

I met the athlete originally through Julia Pearce who was physiotherapist for Great British Olympic Canoeing Team. I asked her if I could do a project on one of her canoeists. Etienne had just had a dislocated shoulder, he was getting his surgical repair done by my boss Len Funk, so the timing was perfect and everybody fitted in really, really well.

Panos Thomas, Sports Surgeon

Surgical injuries are common in the sports world. Athletes, they suffer from injuries around the shoulder in a quarter to fifty percent of all cases

Julie Pearce, Physiotherapist - GB Canoeing Team

They race on turbulent white water that's equivalent to a grade four rapid.

GB Canoeists - Etienne Stott and Tim Baillie

Selection is in five weeks' time on the Lea Valley course here in London so we've got to race off our GB team mates to try and beat them and get the spot.

Professor Norman Williams, President of the Royal College of Surgeons

It's wonderful to welcome you to this superb museum marrying science, surgery and art. We're very grateful for the artists who are coming together and starting off this exhibition.

(applause)

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