

FreakShow & Tell

Thom Britton is a man familiar with pain. Pain caused by sharp objects, broken glass and electric shock. The latter, he prefers to inflict upon others, but it's obvious he's no stranger to the sensation himself.



Photo by Steve Stearns visual-meme.com

Thom is a writer, actor, producer and Chef. He's also a freak show performer. He sticks needles into his head and gets his face ground into broken glass under the boot of a willing audience member.

Why?

Because we watch.

Freak shows have been around for centuries, and though they were often cruel affairs with afflicted unfortunates being exploited for the profit of greedy racketeers, there was more to it than that. For some performers, this was their only way of earning any living at all. For others, it was a chance to show off unique (if disgusting) skills or talents. And today, people like Thom Britton bring some of the techniques to life in a new way.

In his show *FreakShow & Tell*, Thom spends an evening torturing himself and his assistants. Oh, and members of the audience as well. Yes – none of you are safe. And yet, at the end of the evening, he's none the worse for wear. Though his mouth is on fire and a meat thermometer



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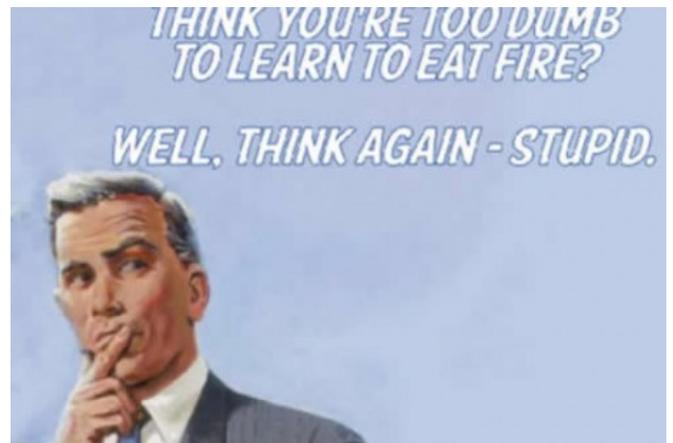
protrudes from his face, he emerges fit enough to perform the same act the following night..

What makes Thom very special, is that he wants to explain it all to you. This isn't magic – he has no special powers – this is simple physics and training. Literally anyone can learn to hammer a nail into their skull, eat fire, or lay on

a bed of nails. You'll have to find your own reasons for doing so, but Thom will open the door should you wish to follow.

But we won't. If you want to learn the mysteries of the human body, you'll have to talk to Thom. (Or your Mom.)

Thom is a follower of Melvin Burkhart, who until his death in 2001 was THE man to go to for freaky knowledge. A veteran of actual freak shows – the ones that would be illegal today – Melvin was a master of an art that Thom feared would be lost. So he learned the skills, and presents them to us today. And he throws in a little science to boot.



We don't think you're stupid
(unless you try these stunts at home)

You may not be fortunate enough to see Thom perform. He's based in Chicago, and literally performs in illegal theaters to small audiences (who inevitably become part of the act.) But if you're lucky, you might find yourself invited to one of these affairs. Prepare to be freaked out.

