

U.S. daredevil to perform high voltage stunt

Performance artist David Blaine's latest feat of endurance involves standing atop a six-metre high pillar for 72 hours without food or sleep, while being subjected to a million volts of electricity

Tesla coils:

Seven electrical columns will shoot out small bolts of lightning for three days

Spectators at stunt site at New York's Pier 54 and internet viewers in London, Beijing, Tokyo and Sydney will be able to control intensity of coils and play music by producing different notes from coils

Main risk is exposure to potentially harmful ozone and nitrogen dioxide created when electricity ionizes air

PREVIOUS STUNTS

■ **1999:** Buried alive for a week in see-through coffin under three-ton water tank in New York

■ **2000:** Spends 63 hours encased in block of ice in middle of Times Square

■ **2002:** Endures wind and cold on 30m-high pillar for 35 hours

Protection:

Wire helmet, visor to shield eyes from

ultraviolet radiation, headphones for ears and special ventilation system

Faraday suit: Named after English scientist and electricity pioneer **Michael Faraday**.

12kg of steel chain mail serves as barrier against electric currents

Blaine will not be able to eat but will suck water through tube and urinate through catheter

■ **2003:** Survives six weeks without food in glass box suspended over River Thames in London

■ **2006:** Submerged in sphere of water for seven days and seven nights

■ **2008:** Hung upside down without safety net in Central Park for 60 hours