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How do celebs wear such high heels without falling over or breaking their ankles?

Olivia Carte, Rosamond, California

A.B. Replies: They have no choice. They have to look skinny and tall, or you'll figure out **they weren't born on Olympus.**

You'd take a second look at **Angelina Jolie** and realize that not only is she not a towering Amazon but she has thighs. A-list actresses aren't allowed to have thighs. Everybody knows that. Granted, those thighs have the **same firmness and dimension as fiberoptic cable**, but they're there, and if Angie's going to make that much, she really shouldn't have thighs at all.

This B!tch exaggerates, of course, but only some. High heels add perceived length to the leg, making glamazons out of ordinary Janes and **tolerable citizens out of Oompa Loompas**. Fat becomes justifiable; a weight unacceptable for a person standing five-foot-two works fine for someone who towers over the rest of us like a denizen of the Ent Forest.

In other words, for most actresses, superhigh heels are just part of the everyday uniform, along with Japanese straight perms, **bug-eye sunglasses**, \$200 tank tops from Fred Segal and perilously swingy earrings. Like a good stick foundation or undereye concealer, heels hide flaws. The higher the heel, the taller you look and the more extra poundage you can get away with.

So, any good actress will learn very early on to wear stilettos and platforms and love them like **pairs of little sisters**. By the time they get famous enough to be called celebrities, they can walk even in four-inchers for hours at a time, this B!tch is told.

"For people who are used to them, three, four, five inches of heels are nothing to them," says Tamara Chubinidze, co-owner of the custom shoe atelier Tupli in New York. "They're celebrities. They don't have any other choice."



Without her special shoes, Angie is just like you. No, really.

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Hence **Ivana Trump's** effortless gliding in Tupli's three-and-a-half-inch custom heels. (Chubinidze will make you a pair, too. That'll be \$600, thank you.)

Most actresses don't complain, either. **Marilyn Monroe** famously chirped, "I don't know who invented high heels, but all women owe him a lot." And over at Cydney Mandel, whose shoes grace the feet of **Lindsay Lohan**, **Nicole Richie** and her former best friend **Paris Hilton**, one of the faves is **a wedge that towers four inches**. Spokeswoman **Katie Fine** insists, "You could walk around in them all day."

All that said, some celebrities are rejecting the status quo, or at least trying alternatives. The Kenneth Cole people have been putting beaded flats on stars like *Lost* actress **Maggie Grace**, and A-listers are even daring to wear them on the red carpet. Ditto **Kate Bosworth**, **Nicole Kidman**, **Jessica Biel** and others. Then again, they can get away with it. As a Cole spokeswoman says, "Maggie and Nicole are definitely on the taller side. At five-feet-two myself, it would probably be harder for me to pull it off."

Prediction: **Jada Pinkett Smith** will hold onto those stilettos, thanks much.