

The Whip Artistry Studio

PO BOX 104 Jamestown, OH 45335 Ph: 937-902-4857
WWW.THEWHIPSTUDIO.COM



Gery L. Deer is an award winning, professional, *whip artist and instructor*. Gery has been handling whips professionally for two decades and holds titles in international and regional whip speed and accuracy competitions. He founded and serves as the executive educational consultant of the **Society of American Whip Artistry** and serves as the International Advisor on whip artistry to the **World Stunt Association**; a stunt organization which serves the independent film industry.

Named **2007 Wild West Performer of the Year** and specially inducted into the International Knife Throwers Hall of Fame, Gery opened The Whip Artistry Studio in 1998 and it remains the only permanent facility in the United States dedicated to whip arts. The studio sponsors one of the largest whip artistry competition conventions in the United States every summer in Greenville, Ohio. He has worked for film and television production companies like NBC television, Warner Brothers, Tribune Entertainment and Universal Studios. In addition, Gery's work has been featured on television programs like "America's Got Talent," "The Bonnie Hunt Show" and "Steve Harvey's Big Time."

Gery was the co-producer and stunt coordinator for the 2009 Experimental Microfilm of the Year at Indie Gathering and also designs and builds custom whip handling equipment. He regularly serves as a technical advisor to film studios and theatrical productions around the country. In 2003 he provided whip equipment and consulting for the Universal Studios film, *The Rundown*.

The Whip Artistry Studio

Offeringspecialized, *non-combative* whip arts training for the hobbyist and the professional using proven methods specifically developed for whip artistry in the following areas:

- **Basic through Advanced Whip Handling**
- **Whip Types & Selection / Safety**
- **Care & Maintenance / Repairs**
- **Performance & Competition**
- **Style & Showmanship**
- **Whip Stunt Choreographic Training**
- **Whip Artistry for Theatre and Film**
- **Sport / Fitness Whip Handling**



Sessions are offered throughout the year on a regular schedule at the studio or brought to your location. Call for reservation.

There are plenty of people to learn from out there, but few are whip artistry specialists and none that are certified by the Society of American Whip Artistry and registered with the World Stunt Association. Visit **WWW.THEWHIPSTUDIO.COM** for course details. **The Whip Artistry Studio** is a trademark and entertainment subsidiary of GLD Enterprises & Productions Entertainment and

Whip artistry growing in popularity



The first appearance of a whip to a mass audience was in Douglas Fairbanks' movie "The Mark of Zorro" in 1921. Fairbanks' marksmanship with the whip set the pace for whips in film all the way to Indiana Jones and yet they have been misrepresented by the media almost from the beginning.

Whip artistry is the use of a bullwhip or stockwhip for skillful marksmanship in sport or performance. The whip artist is someone who has spent countless hours learning the craft as carefully and meticulously as any performing artist or musician.

Unfortunately, Hollywood has painted a dreary picture of the whip over the last century with its portrayal as a tool of torture. Bullwhips are often confused with their torturous cousins known as 'flogs' or 'cats-of-nine-tails,' which were designed solely to administer pain.

Movie makers and even historians will insert a bullwhip where flogs would have been used. The two devices are generally both made of leather but the similarity between them stops there.

Just as baseball bats were not intended as a weapon, neither were whips. In reality, bullwhips were designed for one purpose – to make a noise. As a result of this false history, whips are usually forbidden at parks and other public areas because of their perception as a weapon.

Though their tip can be used as a precision targeting tool for entertainment and marksmanship, whips even carry an incorrect name since they don't actually 'whip' anything. The 'crack' the whip makes is the sonic boom produced by the constantly-increasing velocity of the whip's tip to more than 760 miles per hour. The inrush of air to replace the vacuum left in the wake of the moving whip creates the noise.

Fortunately, several organizations now exist to promote the safe, sporting, and entertaining use of whips. The Society of American Whip Artistry (SAWA) is a specialist organization that focuses on American whip artistry styles.

Based in Jamestown, Ohio at The Whip Artistry Studio, the SAWA provides whip artists with the opportunity to develop their skills under the instruction of managing director Gery L. Deer. Deer is a master whip handler with more than two decades in the business on the stage and the competition arena. He has won dozens of performance awards and whip competition titles.

"Whip artistry is a legitimate performing art and is every bit as rewarding and skill-driven as dance or music," said Deer. "Whips are not really good weapons at all and should be appreciated, not feared."

Today, whips are seen more and more as a tool of entertainment and skillful marksmanship. Whip artists are no longer relegated to the stage of the Wild West show but instead are appearing at comedy clubs, corporate events, and dozens of other types of events. For more information, visit our websites: www.thewhipstudio.com or www.gldentertainment.com.

The Whip Artistry Studio

Guidelines and requirements for whip lessons at The Whip Artistry Studio

Safety Equipment: Long-sleeved shirt and pants, closed-toed shoes, a wide-brimmed hat or hooded sweatshirt and safety glasses / goggles.

Reservations & Payment: All sessions at The Whip Artistry Studio require reservations so call or email if you're interested in attending a class. A deposit may be required for your session with any balance due at the time of the lesson. Classes of more than two hours or scheduled at an off-site location require a 50% deposit. Cash / PayPal / Checks.

Whips for your classes:

If you own a whip already it must be approved by the instructor before use in any studio class.

If you do NOT own a whip, you will have the opportunity to try many different types at your first individual lesson and the instructor will help you choose a whip that is right for you and what you want to learn. Generally a starter whip can range from \$140 through \$500, depending on the type, materials, and style. A continuing student is required to have his or her own equipment by the third lesson. Any continuing lessons are counter-productive if the student is unable to practice. Imagine taking piano lessons but having no piano at home to practice on?

Whip Cracking vs. Whip Artistry.

Everything you need to know to crack a whip and just make a noise can be learned in less than 5 minutes. But whip 'cracking' and whip 'artistry' are not the same things. Anyone can 'crack' a whip, but if someone wants to learn the skill of whip handling, the finesse of precision whip artistry, and the fun of sport whip cracking and wants to become proficient at it, even as a hobbyist, we recommend at least a 6-week lesson plan.

Anonymous, sorry can't do it:

Unlike freebie workshops and 'whip gatherings' held by chat groups and clubs, The Whip Artistry Studio is a professional whip arts training center. As a result, we are required to carry insurance, keep income records, and a detailed log of lesson progress and information on the student including a full name and contact information. We do require state photo identification and no one under the age of 18 can participate in any of our activities without the presence of their legal guardian. Often people want us to use their 'screen name' or a nickname on their registration papers, but that's just not possible and it's illegal. So please bring your state-issued ID with you.

Bring a blank VHS video tape.

If you'd like to record your session for study during your practices, bring a blank VHS video tape (sorry, we're old school around here). This can help you go over something you're having trouble with between lessons and make your paid lesson time more productive. *Note: The video cannot be used commercially, posted online in part or in its entirety, and may not be distributed in any fashion. There is a usage agreement to sign.*

On-site or "at your location" classes.

To schedule a class for your location, we will need the specs of your facility (must be indoors) including ceiling height and complete dimensions, not just square footage, the number of students and their ages. Any travel expenses will be in addition to the listed class fee and will be determined in advance. A contract and deposit are required. If you want us to supply whips for the class each student will need to buy one. We have a standard 'starter' whip that costs about \$140 – cowhide with a wooden handle and modified with an Australian fall and popper. We will need a minimum 3-weeks advance notice to order the whips and they must be pre-paid. PayPal, checks or money orders are accepted.

The Whip Artistry Studio

2011 Class Listing

*Whips are NOT supplied for any session unless arranged in advance and pre-paid.
Schedule and pricing subject to change without notice. Call for up-to-date information.*

ALL PRICING AND SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Individual Lessons (Course Number IL1)

This is a one-on-one lesson with senior instructor Gery L. Deer. The first session is used to estimate your potential and figure out what type of whip suits you the best. Each lesson is 1 hour and is planned according to the progress and goals of the student. Everyone proceeds differently, as in music or sports lessons, so your progress will depend on your enthusiasm, commitment, and practice, practice, practice! Individual lessons can be scheduled between 10am and 7pm Monday through Thursday and between 10am and 3pm on Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours vary, call for information. Reservations are required.

At The Studio:

\$45 for the first hour and \$25 for each additional hour on the same day up to 4 hours.

Off-Site: (Specs: Must be indoors, pre-approved by instructor)

\$95 for the first hour and \$35 for each additional hour on the same day up to 4 hours plus travel.

Two-Day Whip Artistry Course (Course Number WWAC2D)

Studio: \$250 Per Day Per Person / Off-Site: \$375 Per Person Per Day plus travel costs.

The weekend whip session is a two-day comprehensive whip artistry course that runs from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on two consecutive days. The course covers a historical overview of whip arts, all major whip cracks, safety, whip selection, a look inside a professional bullwhip's construction, care and maintenance, and basic targeting techniques. Watch website for schedule. Refreshments and lunch are provided both days.

On-Day Whip Artistry Course (Course Number 1DWC)

Studio: \$295 Per Person Per Day / Off-Site: \$395 Per Person Per Day plus travel costs.

This session is a 6-hour condensed version of the weekend whip session. Scheduled to suit instructor and student calendar 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course covers a historical overview of whip arts, 5 basic whip cracks, safety, whip selection, a look inside a professional bullwhip's construction, care and maintenance, and basic targeting techniques.

Equipment Rental

Studio-owned whips may be used at our location only for an additional fee of \$35 per day.

Safety Glasses / Goggles: Limited supply available on-site for purchase only - \$10.

Whips For Purchase

While we do offer limited sales of accessory items such as holsters and belts, The Whip Artistry Studio is not a retail business. Whips are not available for purchase at our studio. If you don't have a whip yet, we recommend coming for your first lesson to try out various types before making the investment. We can then direct you to the appropriate supplier for your needs.

The Whip Artistry Studio

PO BOX 104 Jamestown, OH 45335 Ph: 937-902-4857
WWW.THEWHIPSTUDIO.COM

Whip Course Registration Form

*Student Name: _____ Parent/Guardian _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Course Number Requested: _____ Date(s): _____ Listed Price:\$ _____

Whip & Safety Equipment: *Student will not be permitted to participate without safety equipment. Student-owned equipment is subject to instructor approval. Student may be charged for the use of safety equipment if they bring unapproved items to class. (Goggles \$10) After the 2nd lesson, student is required to purchase an approved whip to continue lessons.*

Have my own whip. I need a whip (Notify Instructor - \$20 per day charge)

I have eye protection. I need eye protection

Disclaimers / Waivers – Student or Guardian please initial each line and sign at the bottom.

1. _____ **Non-combative whip artistry.** I, the student, understand that my lessons are for entertainment purposes only and are not to be interpreted as training for neither martial arts, or offensive or defensive fighting in any manner.
2. _____ **Assumption of risk and liability.** I understand that I assume the risk of my actions regarding whip artistry practice and application. I hereby free Gery L. Deer, GLD Enterprises, The Whip Artistry Studio, the family of Gery L. Deer, and all agents and associates, personal and professional associates, from any all liability for injuries or property damage sustained as a result of training session, in or outside the studio, from the time of arrival to departure from the property, or subsequent practicing, or for the injury of myself or others by my hand. (Long sleeves, jeans, and a wide-brimmed hat are recommended.)
3. _____ **Statement of Purpose.** My desire to learn the art of the whip is in no way undertaken for the purpose of threatening or doing harm to other people or animals.
4. _____ **Understanding of Instructor's Discretion.** Gery L. Deer will determine the course and progression of the lessons as instructor / workshop leader.

Student/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

* Legal name is required and ID may be requested. Minor students must have form filled out and signed by parent or legal guardian. Legal guardian MUST BE PRESENT at all activities.