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Exclusive

Blaine's late-night calls to Brit

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MAGICIAN David Blaine has been making 4am phone calls to a British man to help him stay awake ahead of his new sleeplessness stunt. The US star plans to avoid kip for almost TWO WEEKS in his latest death-defying performance.

And he's been ringing world record holder Tony Wright, from Cornwall, for tips during dry runs.

Tony, 43, set a new record of 11 days and 2 hours without sleep last year. Blaine now plans to smash that by completing 13 days without nodding off. But he has postponed doing so until September - because he's finding the training so tough.

Tony said: "He called me the other morning at 4am New York time because he's been practising.

"He's a little bit concerned if it will do him any long term harm.
"Some of his previous stunts have looked impressive - but this is genuinely quite dangerous.
"This is a psychological rollercoaster."

Blaine's past stunts include 44 days in a box without food and 61 hours inside a block of ice. Tony has agreed to act as Blaine's mentor and has put him on a strict diet to keep him awake. He believes David is up for the challenge - but that might not be enough. He added: "A lot of it is down to how your brain is wired - some people can do it, some can't."

- Tony was speaking ahead of the release of The Invasion DVD - starring Nicole Kidman - on February 25.