**An Accidental Success**

**An insurance pitchwoman's comedy dreams: Stephanie Courtney never intended to be an insurance salesperson, said Caity Weaver in The New York Times. Familiar to millions of TV viewers as "Flo," the perky pitchwoman in ads for Progressive Insurance, Courtney originally dreamed of being a Broadway star or a comedic actress. After moving from New York to Los Angeles in 1998, she began performing in the Groundlings improv troupe, best known for minting Saturday Night Live stars such as Will Ferrell, Kristen Wiig, and Maya Rudolph. But SNL never took interest in Courtney, and she struggled to secure regular acting gigs. "I was so stinkin' broke," she says. Her car wouldn't drive in reverse, so, unable to afford repairs, she'd feign shock when she couldn't back out of parking spots and find someone to help push the car. Then in 2007, she was cast in a Progressive ad as an apron-clad cashier with a name tag reading "Flo" – a role she has occupied ever since. Courtney, 53, still performs with the Groundlings and often contemplates the trade-off between artistic and financial success; she's thought to earn millions of dollars a year as Flo. "I'm as 'compare and despair' as anybody," she says, but "the miserable me who didn't get to audition for SNL never would have known" how good life could be. "I hope that's coming through." (The Week magazine, December 22, 2023)**

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**December 19th, 2023 - glass (Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 44)**

**December 12th, 2023 - Apollo 13 (The Week magazine, December 1, 2023)**

**December 5th, 2023 - Venus de Milo a major attraction. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 159)**

**November 28th, 2023 -** [**the Beatles (*The Week magazine, June 10, 2011)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

**November 21st, 2023 -** [**Mel Gibson *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Strange Coincidences)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/) ***giee***

[**November 14th, 2023 - aspirin *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 27)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 31st, 2023 - Jacques Cousteau, the French underwater explorer, trained as a naval pilot in France but a near-fatal automobile accident ended his flying career. His doctor wanted to amputate his left arm because it was badly crushed but he refused to approve the operation and began swimming as therapy. Cousteau went on to invent the Aqua-lung. *(Ed Lucaire, in Celebrity Setbacks, p. 178)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 24th, 2023 - Humphrey Bogart *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 36)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 17th, 2023 - Mickey Mouse *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 45)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 10th, 2023 - Ice Cream Soda *(Rocky Mountain News)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**October 3rd, 2023 – Hospice movement *(Eleanor M. Dawson, in Unity magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 25th, 2023 – Velcro *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 68)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 18th, 2023 - Charlie Chaplin *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 431)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 11th, 2023 - Levi Strauss *(Jean Libman Block, in Reader's Digest)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**September 4th, 2023 – Pink lemonade *(Ripley's Book of Chance)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 29th, 2023 – Leaning Tower of Pisa *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 58)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 22nd, 2023 - Levi Strauss *(Jean Libman Block, in Reader's Digest)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 15th, 2023 – Smurfs *(Jeff Rovin, in I Wish I'd Thought of That , p. 53)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 8th, 2023 - “Scotchgard” *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 55)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**August 1st, 2023 - Bangladesh Relief *(The Week magazine, July 28, 2023)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 25th, 2023 – Paper towels *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 49)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 18th, 2023 - Life Savers. *(L. M. Boyd)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 11th, 2023 - “Nome.” *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 61)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**July 4th, 2023 - burn treatment *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 29th, 2023 - plastics *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 175)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 22nd, 2023 - X rays *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 32)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 15th, 2023 - artificial sweeteners *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**June 8th, 2023 - microwave oven *(The Daily Chronicle)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 30th, 2023 - Great Barrier Reef *(The Daily Chronicle)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 23rd, 2023 - Hawaii *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 16th, 2023 - Penicillin *(Charlotte Foltz Jones, in Mistakes That Worked, p. 31)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**May 9th, 2023 - new drugs *(Alan Sternberg, in Reader's Digest)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 25th, 2023 - Hollywood tradition *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 37)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 18th, 2023 - dry cleaning *(Ripley's Believe It Or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 146)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 11th, 2023 - “crackers.” *(L. M. Boyd)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**April 4th, 2023 - Norman Rockwell *(The Saturday Evening Post, July / August, 2011, page 76)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 22nd, 2023 - Reader’s Digest *(Brian Mockenhaupt, in Reader’s Digest) 22278***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 15th, 2023 – America (*Robert F. Mirvish, in There You Are, But Where Are You?)* *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 244) two parts***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 8th, 2023 – Ivory soap *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook, p. 102)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**March 1, 2023 - The tea bag *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 47)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**February 21st, 2023 - ice cream cone *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 171)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 31st, 2023 - Stainless steel *(Don Voorhees, in Thoughts for the Throne, p. 92)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 24th, 2023 - “Wheaties” *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 48)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 17th, 2023 - “Popsicles” *(Jeff Rovin, in I Wish I'd Thought of That!, p. 33)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**January 10th, 2023 – Penicillin *(M. Hirsh Goldberg, in The Blunder Book, p. 106)***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[**P. S. I have placed this excerpt in the Accidental Accomplishments document of the www.mondaymunchees.com website. I invite you to scroll down the homepage of the website *and check it out, as it is located in the A-section of documents!***](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

[**P. S. I would like to invite you to check out the newest document on the website entitled Banning Books, located in the B-section of documents of the www.mondaymunchees.com website!**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)

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[**Possibles:**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/)