

COURTENEY COX

If you believe the polls, Courteney Cox's *Friends* character Monica Geller, the obsessive neat freak, is the least popular of the six friends. If so, it clearly has nothing to do with Courteney, whose popularity has been proven by her latest movie role in *Scream*, the most successful box-office hit out of any films starring a *Friends* actor. Courteney, 32, proved such a hit in the Wes Craven horror film as pushy paparazzi reporter Gale Weathers that she's already been signed up to play the lead in the sequel.

What makes you scream?
Many things! I scream a lot and people actually like to make me scream on the set of *Friends* because it's so easy for me. All of the cast were playing Operation, the game you play when you're 10, trying to pull the bones out of the body with little tweezers. I screamed every time the buzzer went off when we were trying to get any item out of the body. I scream so loud that it shocks me.

Have you ever had a scary stalker?
I had a stalker a couple of years ago. He would just come to my house and drop off presents like jewellery, cards, poems and stuff like that and then wonder why I didn't meet him at a certain place, like I was supposed to. That's pretty freaky. But luckily for me, I haven't actually come face to face with one.

Did you go to the police about him?
Yes I did. And I also went to Warner Bros.' security department and distributed his picture around. I know what these people look like, because you end up doing research on them and you get their pictures, so you know who to look out for in case of trouble.

Were you scared easily as a child?
Yes. When I was growing up as a kid, there was a bar at my house with shutters on the sides and behind the bar I always thought there was somebody who was going to jump out at me every time I ran by. It didn't matter if it was broad daylight or at night. I think at 32 now, if I ran by that bar, I would still feel that there was something that was going to get me. I can still relate

to certain scary things like that.

Do you feel a certain sense of satisfaction because *Scream* has been the most successful movie by far out of any of the *Friends* stars' films?
No, not at all. Not for that reason. I'm very proud of the film and satisfied in that sense, but there's no competition between us.

Not even friendly competition?
No, no, no. Okay, they're not happy for me! No, the truth is, everybody has films coming out and we're all making a go of it and everybody is continuously working. I just want everyone to do well but movies are always up and down. But we're very supportive of each other's efforts. It's in our contract. We must pretend we like each other!

Do you purposely avoid films that are similar to *Friends*?
If I ever get offers, it's true that they are more similar to Monica, even though there are not a lot of obsessive characters running around. I also get a lot of parts for the girl-next-door or the sweet-girl-type and that seems very boring to me, considering I play a very nice girl in *Friends*. I have to do something that speaks to me and I have to love it, otherwise there's no point in doing it, because I have a job already in *Friends*.

What would the producers of *Friends* think if you were to do a nude scene?
I think they're pretty liberal. I don't know if the television station NBC would be upset or Warner Bros. I can't speak for them, but I know our producers are very liberal. As long as it's not exploitative.

Would you take your clothes off for a movie role?
If it was important for the role, yes. I would probably have a clause in my contract that I wouldn't want to have full shots of my behind, or whatever you want to call it, buttocks, bottom! And I probably wouldn't want to show full-frontal nudity.

Would you do a rudey love scene?
If it wasn't distasteful or dirty, I want to look the best I can. I don't think anybody wants to see me in broad daylight nude. I'm not saying it's horrible but I would rather be shot in the shadows

wrapped in a sheet. I think there's ways of making things sexy without showing things.

Are you okay about watching yourself in love scenes?
I had to watch my love scene in *Commandments* which I did with Aidan Quinn. I thought it was a beautiful love scene but there was one shot I went nuts about and asked them to remove it and they didn't. There was no nudity involved in that particular shot, but it just seemed dirty to me and it didn't need to be there. I didn't like watching that part. I felt very vulnerable at that moment.

What comes into your mind at those times?
The weirdest thing just happened to me. I didn't hear your

no chance.

Can you sing well? Will you ever do a musical?
Oh, I have the worst voice ever. Really, there's nothing good about my voice. I'd only do something if I could lip-sync. Maybe you can do whatever you put your mind to, so I could try. If I had lessons then maybe I could learn to sing. But I think I would be too ashamed to sing in front of other people.

Do you have any other hidden talents?
I paint, using acrylics. I'd be too bored waiting for oil paints to dry! I had a lot of hobbies. I don't have time to do a lot of them now, between decorating my homes, painting, playing the piano and occasionally drums

“What if I got nude right now?”

question, I'm sorry. It sometimes happens when you're doing a lot of interviews and you're tired and you start entertaining yourself and you start day dreaming and thinking. I was thinking, what if I got nude right now?

Do you do that often in interviews?
My thoughts go that way sometimes. I think that everybody has really weird thoughts. My mind does a lot like that. But I think that's just normal. But I'm very happy. I'm not a depressed person at all.

Are you ever moody?
No, I'm not a moody person. I'm a Gemini and just about the only thing I can say about me being a Gemini is that I don't think we are moody people. I never get down. I can switch quickly. I can be ecstatic, the next minute after I feel low, I can be something else straight away. I do think I have it in my personality to keep happy.

Is it true you play the drums? Do you play them when you feel angry?
Yeah, I have a drum set at home. I guess I have a good go at them sometimes if I'm feeling that way. I also have a piano at home and I'm better at that than the drums. I used to think that I wasn't a bad drummer, but comparing it with my piano playing recently, it has

and playing with my dogs. I have a very busy and full life.

Are you crazy about shopping?
I'm a pretty fast shopper. I'll buy on a whim, probably because I'm pretty spontaneous. I love spontaneity. I cannot stand for my life to be planned out, to have it all worked out in preparation. It drives me nuts, but if I'm without structure then I become lazy. I'm weird like that.

Have you ever splashed out on something big for yourself since finding success in *Friends*?
I bought a Porsche after the pilot episode of *Friends*. It was a little presumptuous of me, because the show had not even been picked up by the TV station to continue as a series. It's just a silver Porsche Carrera. It was fun to buy and it's fun to drive.

What is the biggest misconception about Courteney Cox?
I'd have to say that it's people confusing me with Monica or presuming that I get bored easily about things, even though I might come across like that. Number one, I'm not a neat freak. Number two, I'm extremely entertained by what I do as a job. I don't get bored too easily, I just like changes every now and again. I hope that's straightened out!



COURTENEY COX SMASH HITS