



A peek in the life of... A stunt woman

ARMI COLLINS (pictured), 31, has been a stunt woman for 23 years. *Discovered, she has two grown-up children, Jack and Marcus, and lives in Dorset.*

I LOVE my job, and though I've been doing it for more than 20 years, my energy levels certainly haven't diminished. One of my first stunts was on an episode of the TV series *Boys*. I doubled Amanda Burton and was her stunt double for scenes on show.

respect for danger. Two bad knee injuries in my career but, luckily, no broken bones. Since I was in a scene with an actor and had to fall from a balcony, he wasn't supposed to catch me, but forgot, and as a result I lost control and landed on my feet instead of my back, injuring an ankle and knee.

I used to run a riding school in Yorkshire and have always enjoyed sports such as hang-gliding, riding, windsurfing and water skiing. I was looking for a physically challenging career and a contact in the film world suggested I should try stunt work. I finished my training with a photo-graphic modelling, and creating a car through a fence and into a rubbish bin. I've worked on lots of TV shows, including *Top Gear*, *Doctor Who*, and *Eastenders*. I also do stunts for films, such as *Doctor Who*, and also lecture to schools and colleges on the subject, and run a company that organises stunt parties.

I was a dating show agent until I climbed out of the top of a 7m wall and then landed into a bed.

My children are used to seeing me on TV. When they were younger, their friends didn't believe I was a stunt woman. So they told me that when they were in an office because they don't want to be seen on TV.

But working in an office? That's definitely not for me.

Interviewed by **RICHARD WEBBER**



BEAUTY

As L'Oreal launches what it says is the greatest mascara ever, Elsa McAlonan tests the best brands in...

The ultimate mascara challenge

WE SPENT £100 million on mascara in the UK last year, and before we can blink, mascara mania continues with another big launch announced today. L'Oréal's new Volume Million Lashes is described as the 'gold standard' – a magic wand which claims to make lashes look three times fuller with just one sweep of its ultra-flexible brush. We put this and 24 other top brands to the test...

Yves St Laurent Mascara Effect Faux Cils, £2.50, counters nationwide

NOIR Radical is described as Yves St Laurent's deepest, blackest colour ever and it certainly is. It's a vitamin-enriched mascara we've never tried. It improves clarity and gives the distinct false lash effect, but disappointing hard to get off. **8/10**

Clonique High Lengths Mascara, £4.50, Sainsbury's nationwide

THIS fine, curved 'wisp' green wand separates the strands, and we've been told it's supposed to make it easy to separate and define. It's bendy and irritating, but once on, it did make the eyes look bigger. Overall, disappointing. **6/10**

Lo 2 de Guerlain Waterproof C23, nationwide

THIS super-REY mascara has two brushes: a longer one to coat and give volume and a tiny define one to get right into the corners. It takes a while to get into the tube, but the results are very good, with every lash defined. **9/10**

Avon Aweal Lash Transforming Mascara and Serum, £10, everywhere.co.uk

DUAL-ENDED mascara and lash-strengthening serum designed to strengthen lashes and increase volume. Two-step application. First draw a thin line on the serum along the line of the eye ball and let it dry. Then apply mascara to support and lengthen lashes. Lashes look thicker and healthier in four weeks, even after you take it off. **7/10**

Al J Waterproof Lengthening & Volumising Mascara, £3.50, everywhere.co.uk

RECENTLY waters this is good for those who want subtle coverage, without clumps of mascara. It's fairly good brush coats the finest lashes, but you won't get a lot of coverage. Good for day wear. **7/10**

Estee Lauder Hybrid Gel Effect Million Mascara, £28, estelauder.co.uk

A VIBRANT mascara that, even without the brand's micro-prising effect, works a treat. As first the vibrating brush is heavenly, but it does not really make a difference. **8/10**

Max Factor Lash Extension Effect Mascara, £10.99, Boots

A SPECIALLY tapered brush helps make lashes thicker and more plentiful. Two coats gives the effect of eyelash extensions. There's no weight, so it's perfect for those with brittle ones that you can get right into tidy corners. **9/10**

No 7 Extravagan Lashes Mascara, £11.99, Boots

THE brush is an unusual square shape, but it very good at covering the roots to the eye. It has an amazing polymer that sets lashes in place and claims to give up to eight hours' hold. We didn't have to re-apply all day. **8/10**

21stc Instant Volume Mascara, £10.99, Superdrug

THIS is a dinky size and perfect for your handbag. The brush is surprisingly good at covering the roots and after two coats has some great, it's not three great value and does exactly what it says on the box. **8/10**

IT Va Va Volume Mascara, £5.99, Boots

GOOD tube mascara that will coat lashes well, but doesn't dry or get in the ordinary. But it's here you through the day, and won't flake or smudge. However, don't expect miracles. **6/10**

L'Oréal Telescopic Expansion, £3.99, Boots

HAIR such a tiny brush that we found it didn't pump up the lashes enough. Coated the bottom of the lashes, but you still need a bit of brush to get into the upper ones. The packaging is eye-catching, but the product is too thin. **6/10**

Shor Mouthwash Black Out Backstage Makeup Spectacular Volume Mascara, £10.99, Boots

EASY to apply, having more than one shade, with 20 shades. The innovation was that it smudged quite badly after a short period of time. **4/10**

bareMinerals Flawless Definition Mascara, £14.40, department store

ANOTHER super-mascara. This beautiful lashes while lengthening, separating and lifting. The formula is paraben-free and infused with

CONFIDENTIAL

one **two** **three** **four** **five** **six** **seven** **eight** **nine** **ten**

the perfect ten

ONE: L'Oréal Paris Volume Million Lashes, £10.99, nationwide from May 1

LASHES look instantly longer and thicker – so if you've had extensions, you won't need to re-apply. One coat is enough for impressive, thicker lashes that last all day and evening.

TWO: Lancôme Hypnose Precious Cils, £22, nationwide from May

STEM cell technology makes lashes look longer and thicker naturally, but, amazingly, also helps them to grow. There's a waiting list at Harrod's.

THREE: Maybelline The Falsies, £3, Superdrug

'PROOF' brush makes application easy and creates a flared effect. It claims to grow up to three times more visible lashes, so, in a sense, with no pain there's no angle. One coat creates thick, black lashes.

FOUR: Boots Doublelift, £10, Boots

W/O-GEL brush gives great lash-building and coverage. Apply by sweeping the wand from root to tip, repeat on lid. Always finish off.

FIVE: Clinique Wonder Perfect, £7, debenhams

NOTHING fancy, but it's a treat to use. The brush coats and separates lashes while coating them with stays in place all day.

SIX: Lancôme Hypnose Drama, £19.50, nationwide.co.uk

AS 5-shaped curved wand makes this easy to apply and give flawless coverage. So amazing, changing of falsies, and it covers every inch. Close to perfection.

SEVEN: Ruppert's Lash Lashes, £10.99, Boots

THE most incredible looking brush. The underlying 12 rows of bristles grab every lash, coating them in a far layer. Goes on like a dream and lasts for hours.

EIGHT: No 7 Extreme Length Waterproof, £10.99, Boots

MAKED even short, stubby, flat lashes look long and fabulous. Stay put, surviving weepie moments and overnight flaking.

NINE: Mykonos Uplift, £10.75, Boots and mykonoscosmetics.com

MAKES you look as if you're wearing false lashes. Unlike many others in the price range, it doesn't smudge, clump or go spindly and thin.

TEN: Goth Intense Lashes, £3, Superdrug

PANTASTIC! The applicator brush separates and coats the lashes, even after a long day in the office followed by a gym workout. Tightly removed without rubbing.

2The Instant Volume Mascara, £1.95, Superdrug

THIS is a dinky size and perfect for your handbag. The brush is surprisingly good at covering lashes, and after two coats this looks great. It's fuss-free, great value and does exactly what it says on the box. **8/10**