



5	Charlize needed money to pay for somewhere to stay.			
6	Charlize argued with the man who tried to help her.			
7	Charlize went to acting classes in Hollywood.			

### **Becoming Famous by Accident**

Most film stars become famous by working hard and being talented, but some stars are luckier than others!

Charlize Theron, star of many Hollywood films like *The Italian Job*, got her lucky acting break in a bank! It came after she got into an argument with a worker at the bank. She was only 16 when she moved to Europe to work as a model and dancer (she was born in South Africa). A year later, she flew to America and a year after this, aged only 18, she moved to Hollywood in Los Angeles to try and get acting work. She had almost no money left and was trying to cash her last salary cheque\* from some work she did in New York. The worker in the bank didn't want to give her the money because the cheque was from a different part of America. He and Charlize had a big argument!

Theron had to cash the cheque to pay for her room. If not, she had nowhere to sleep that night. A gentleman came over and tried to help. She had to fill out loads of forms, but she got her money.

The man who helped her, John Crosby, was a talent agent, and he worked with many actors. He offered to work for Theron. He organised acting classes for her and within months, she made her first Hollywood film.

\*cheque = a way of paying someone money