

The Next Big Thing

Kendra Griffin is a young actress who is set to be the next big thing in Hollywood.

She was born in a small town in Norfolk about a hundred kilometres from London. Kendra always loved drama from a young age. She took part in all the school plays and concerts at her school. She was always encouraged by her teachers. Her parents realised she had a real passion for drama when she was eight and registered her for drama classes in Norwich. After a year Kendra was offered some part-time work as a television extra for children's television and small roles in two television adverts. One was for an insurance company and the other for a breakfast cereal.

By the time Kendra was old enough to go to secondary school she had a long list of work she had done as an actor. Her parents decided to send Kendra to drama school in London. She was lucky enough not only to get a place, but also to get a full scholarship. This meant her school fees and expenses were paid for by the school and her parents didn't need to pay anything.

Whilst at drama school Kendra studied all about drama and performance arts. She learnt how to sing and dance. She also learnt how to speak using different accents, how to project her voice to the back of a room and how to fight with swords for on-screen fighting. She started to become a familiar face in television dramas and was often stopped in the street and asked for her photo or autograph.

When she was sixteen Kendra had her first big break with a leading role in an independent UK film. It was a film about life in Victorian times set in about 1880. Kendra played the part of a young girl who returns to Britain from India after the death of her parents. She has to learn to make friends and live in a new country.

Following the success of this film Kendra's agent decided to put her name forward for various roles including some Hollywood films. Earlier this month it was announced that Kendra Griffin would be starring in the new film Interaction with Matt Damon. At eighteen Kendra is still very young, but her dedication and enthusiasm for the film world will ensure she has a bright future in years to come.

**Reading****1a Match the definitions (1 – 4) to the letters (a – d)**

- 1 Kendra's job.
- 2 An amount of money given to someone to help them study.
- 3 A person who manages someone else's career.
- 4 Someone who is not a main actor.

- a extra
b actor
c agent
d scholarship

**1b Read the text and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).
Correct the false statements.**

- 1 Kendra was born in London.
- 2 Kendra didn't get any encouragement from her school teachers.
- 3 Kendra was in an advert for breakfast cereal.
- 4 According to the article Kendra will have a long, successful career in film.
- 5 Kendra's first film role was in a Hollywood movie.

2b Write a paragraph about being a successful film star. Use the answers to the questions above to help you.

Writing: Over to you...**2a Answer the questions for you.**

- 1 Do you think anyone can be a film star?
- 2 What kind of skills are needed to develop as a film star?
- 3 Who can help someone else become a film star?
- 4 What type of experience do you think a film star needs?
- 5 Are successful film stars just lucky people?