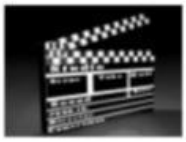
Teenage actor

Journalist Elisa Franklin talked to young acting star Sonia Haddin.

Sonia Haddin is only fourteen but she has already made her first film! She explained to me how her interest in acting began, "I never volunteered to act when there was a school play. Mum and Dad took me to the theatre regularly, but I preferred the cinema. Then one weekend, my cousins visited. We spent a long time recording funny scenes together on our phones – it was great fun being in front of the camera and I wanted to find out more. Recently, I saw an article about an actor who did exactly the same thing at that age!"

Then Sonia began acting lessons at a drama school and performed at a local theatre. When I asked her about her first film, she said, "My drama teacher put up an advert. A film company was looking for actors for a film called 'Magic!'. I knew the story well – it's one of my favourite novels – so I applied enthusiastically. I was not terrified to act in front of the director because he was very kind, and, in the end, he loved my performance!" Sonia got a main role and was delighted when a friend also got a part. "It was funny because she played a character who's quite like me," Sonia said.



While Sonia was filming, she couldn't go to school or finish her homework on time. She wanted to **keep up with her schoolwork** to learn the same as her classmates, so she decided to have an online tutor. "I thought having all my lessons on the Internet would be fun," she explained. "But I missed my classmates. I didn't always know when I had to film, so it was sometimes difficult to organise when I could do my online lessons. On film sets, there are often times when everyone's waiting around, doing nothing. The other actors found that quite boring, but I didn't because I used that time to do schoolwork. Now the film's finished and I'm back at school, but I can't wait to start working on a new project with a different director next month. It'll be an amazing opportunity!"

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