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KID TIMES

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Movie Shows Value of Dreams, Courage

by Reporter **Rebecca Wendt**
Home Schooled - Phoenix - Central

Dan Harkins found a gem at the film festival in Sedona. "Her Majesty" is a movie for all ages. This film about meeting the queen is a limited engagement at Harkins Shea, so don't miss this award-winning movie!

This story takes place in New Zealand in the 1950s, when every girl's dream is to meet the new Queen of England. When the queen comes to visit Middleton, New Zealand, we share the trials and tribulations of the townspeople, especially those of our young heroine, Elizabeth Wakefield.

After watching Queen Elizabeth's coronation, Elizabeth is mesmerized. She begins a writing campaign inviting the queen to her little town. It finally happens, and all the townspeople work to make Middleton stand out on the map.

Naturally, there are many disagreements as to what sites and people should be highlighted. This story is not about the queen, but about the preparation and its snares. Interwoven in the story are many subplots that keep your interest throughout the movie. The lush emerald rolling hills and the leafy trees are spectacular in the eyes of desert dwellers.

In the movie, Elizabeth helps the town learn their true history through Hira, the old Maori woman who turns out to be the target of unexpected attention. Even with prejudice and ridicule, Elizabeth stands up for her new found friend who teaches her courage. There are

lessons taught and history learned, but kids won't realize it as they become drawn into the story.

Girls will love the awkward crush of Elizabeth, while boys will laugh at her mischievous brother's troubles. Parents will be glad to see that justice prevails, and everyone will enjoy the ending.

To create the story, director/writer Mark Gordon admits that he was looking for an excuse to visit New Zealand when inspiration struck. He manages to convey many emotions in this film, giving it a wide audience appeal.

I also had the chance to interview Sally Andrews (Elizabeth), star of the film who lives in Wellington, New Zealand. She enjoyed filming, but her favorite scene was when it rained in front of Hira's house. In between takes, the crew would rush up to her to give her towels and hot chocolate!

Sally is also a normal girl. She is 14 and a sophomore in high school. Her favorite subject is drama. In her spare time, she does tap, ballet and rock n' roll dancing. It's possible that she will come to the United States for the opening of "Her Majesty."

"We spread the word all over New Zealand for the cast," says Gordon, "and Sally, we thought, was the most authentic looking and honest girl in all of the auditions."

Gordon mentioned that everyone in the cast is nice, even though the brother is a brat in the movie.

This movie had excellent acting, a great story and beautiful scenery. I give it five stars and two thumbs up!

"Her Majesty" opens at the Harkins Shea May 7. I hope to see you there!

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