

Syndicated Interview with Holly Davidson by Emma Hamilton

Meeting Holly Davidson, it's clear she's a determined young woman with success on her mind. Holly is a person with enthusiasm for life, who bristles with get up and go. Apart from being a staunch vegetarian, there are very few things she's closed off to. "My life's motto is 'enjoy the simple things and always try something new'. Although I absolutely refuse to eat meat and I can be a little stubborn sometimes!" she admits, "I don't talk about something I just do it." So far this attitude has stood her in good stead.

Holly has learned from the drive of those around her. Despite often being linked to her famous friends and sister, Sadie Frost, she's always lived life and built her career on her own terms. When it comes to press attention, Holly is a past master, and has grown up reading about her family in the papers. "You never get used to it," she says, "it's always a shock to read lies about your loved ones, but I guess the attention can be useful."

In recent years Holly's face has become well-known on British TV, but she has been acting in prestigious company since she was a teenager, with roles opposite household names such as Richard E Grant, Sean Bean, Ray Winstone, Jude Law and Robson Green. She got her first big break at the age of sixteen, acting alongside Richard E Grant in *Food of Love*, a challenging film about communicating the timelessness of Shakespeare to modern teens.

Grant's talent, spontaneity and level of professionalism, had a profound influence on Holly and taught her much about her trade.

Nowadays she looks for her influences from actors such as Edward Norton and Christian Bale, who take risks and seek out roles that really challenge them, physically, emotionally and mentally.

-What's your favourite thing about being an actress and why? "It's the diversity. Every job is so different in acting. The locations, people and challenges change all the time and it makes the job really exciting."

-If you could choose your ultimate role, what would it be? "Of course some actors' dream of being in an epic blockbuster like *Titanic* or *King Kong* but to be honest I'd really love to play the lead in a classic like *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Vivian Leigh's portrayal of Blanche was such a powerful, classic performance, and really something I aspire to."

-Would you like to act on stage? "I have never been on stage in the Westend but it's something I would really like to experience. The theatre is so demanding but also hugely satisfying. I did a play at the Duke of York theatre a few years ago. I loved it and could really feel the audience's reaction and energy. I can't wait to get the opportunity to be on stage again!"

-What's the maddest thing you've ever had to do in an audition? "I once auditioned to be in an advert for a German cooking product and they had me dancing around the kitchen singing 'I Will Survive' and doing chores. It was ridiculous! Advert auditions can sometimes be a little surreal!"

-How do you unwind? "Exercise. I think it's a great way to de-stress! It clears your mind and helps you focus. And if that doesn't work, then I ring up the girls and have a good night out."

-What character traits do you appreciate in a person? "I think the best people are trustworthy, honest, open minded, respectful and enthusiastic. I also think it's best not to take life too seriously!"