

“ Now I understand why the credits are so long after a show, because there’s a large crew in a production. ”

Anastasia Feneri

nominated

for a Logie award



Anastasia Feneri - Sofia

Age: 10

Acting background: First production

What was your funniest or weirdest on-set moment?

When the eyes of the large plastic doll in my room (Sofia’s bedroom) started to blink from the vibration of the floor – f-reaky.

What was your favourite food from the caterers?

This was a hard one considering I’m a fussy eater, I guess the bread.

What did you learn from the My Place production?

There are so many things, one of these would have to be that there is so much involved in making a film, but it all looks so easy and natural when you see it on TV. You also have to pretend that nobody is in the room, even though there are loads of people around. Now I understand why the credits are so long after a show, because there’s a large crew in a production.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am 11 years old, I am Greek and I live in Wollongong. I am the eldest of 4 children, (and the only girl).

I have always loved to act and perform for the camera, I also love to dance.

I have just been nominated for a Logie award, the Graham Kennedy Award for the most Outstanding New Talent for my role as Sofia 196,8 in the childrens mini series “My Place”. The mini series also has been nominated for the Most Outstanding Childrens Program which I am also excited about, it was a great series.

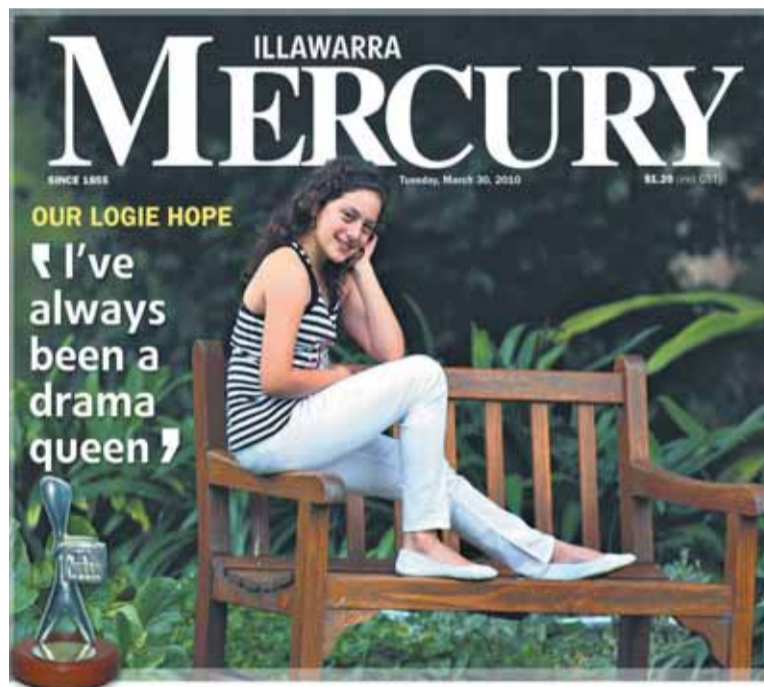
Both awards are judged by the industry professionals and not by public voting, and I am up against big names such as Anna Hutchison from Underbelly and Matt Preston from Masterchef.

How did it all start for you as an actress?

I have acted all my life. From as young as two I always loved to dress up and make believe.

I started drama classes when I was 6, and played in my school drama plays and con-

certs. My professional acting only started last year when I was offered the role of Sofia in the childrens series “My Place”. I auditioned for the part, and was called back 4 times and then the producer, Penny Chapman, rang to offer me the role, I couldn’t believe it was all happening, it was everything I ever wanted, to be on television. I felt so lucky and so privileged to work with such a wonderful producer, director, cast and crew, it was my first acting role, and they all made it so easy and so



much fun.

What were some of the challenges you encountered?

We live in Wollongong, 1 1/2 hr drive, and I had to be close to the where the program was being filmed, so I stayed with relatives in Sydney and had to miss out on school and all my after school activities for the 3 weeks we were filming. My poor parents had to leave Wollongong very early in the morning to get me to the locations by 6.30am sometimes.

There was a large script to learn, with updated changes, but I enjoyed that challenge since I love reading and memorising.

My biggest challenge was in order to play Sofia well, I had to understand the character and the time she lived in. I interviewed my mum and dad, my nana and other relatives and friends who lived in Australia, in a Greek environment, in the 60’s. It was a very different time to now and I think once I understood the pressures and beliefs Sofia had to live with, I could under-

stand her better, and play her better.

Has “stardom” changed your life in any way?

Yes and no. It has changed because all these people want to interview me and take my photo, and this is very flattering. I love it, it is so much fun. I’ve been on the front page of the local Wollongong newspaper, and on local radio stations as well as Greek radio stations. That wasn’t happening 3 weeks ago.

But it hasn’t changed who I am and who my true friends are. I am still the same person, I’m just now living out a dream.

Any message to your fans?

Yes. My biggest fans are my relatives and friends and I’d like to thank them for their support. Also for all the young people out there who have a dream to do something in their life, always believe in yourself and never let go of your dream, and one day it could very likely come true.

Have you been to Greece?

A few times. Since my baba is from Thessaloniki ke i mama apo tin vatili tis Kypros, I

· The program “my Place” has also been nominated for “the most outstanding childrens program”

· 2nd May are the Logies in Melbourne, and the ABC will be paying for Anastasia and mum to attend

· The 13 part series was played on ABC3 and seen through the eyes of the 10 year old children living in that one house every ten years, with the 1st episode starting in the year 2008, the next night 1998, then 1988 etc

· Now starting 22nd April the series will recommence with Sofia 1968, starting Anastasia Feneri played on wednesday 28th April, a must see episode

love going, because most of our relatives are there. Unfortunately though it is very far away, and so we cant visit every year.

How do you combine acting and school? Does it affect you in any way?

When I was filming for “My Place”, I was given homework from school, so I didn;t fall behind. It was hard though to do homework every night, because because some days were quite long and tiring, but the weekends were always free to catch up.

Tell me a few words about your personality.

My own personality, I am determined to reach my goals, confident and loud. I am fun-