

THE DOMINION POST

Schoolgirl crowned US film queen

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By SOPHIE NEVILLE

A Lower Hutt schoolgirl has been crowned queen of a major American film festival for her debut performance in the Kiwi movie Her Majesty.

Sally Andrews, 15, was back at Hutt Valley High School this week after a whirlwind trip to San Diego, where she collected the San Diego Film Festival award for best actress.

Sally spent a week in the city promoting the film and leading a movie star's life. She got used to TV interviews, autograph signing, manicures and pedicures, and being recognised.

"It was incredible. I was in a deli and I heard a girl whisper to her dad, 'there's Sally Andrews'."

Sally calls herself an "accidental actress". As an 11-year-old in Wainuiomata, she joined a talent agency only because her younger cousin did so. She very nearly didn't bother auditioning for Her Majesty because there was "so much script to learn".

Four years on, it was one of the best decisions she has ever made.

Directed by Mark Gordon, Her Majesty is set in New Zealand circa 1953 and tells the story of 13-year-old Elizabeth Wakefield (played by Sally) who is desperate to meet her namesake, Queen Elizabeth.

Sally says she couldn't believe it when she found out she had won the best actress award. "My mum texted me at school. At first I thought she was joking. It took a while to sink in."

Sally was flown to San Diego last week and says her time there was "absolutely crazy but really fun".

She is in the process of getting a Los Angeles agent, and has her sights set on an acting career. "But I'm quite relieved to be back to normal life."

Her Majesty will open in New Zealand on January 20.

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