

Shelley schoolgirl Courtney George appears in film with Sir Ben Kingsley

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A HUDDERSFIELD schoolgirl will appear in a film with an Oscar-winning actor.

Courtney George, 15, of Shelley worked with Sir Ben Kingsley on the 13-minute piece which will be shown in museums across the world.

She said: "It was really good fun, it was an amazing experience."

The Shelley College pupil was not intimidated acting alongside Sir Ben, who won an Oscar for best actor for his role in the 1982 film Gandhi.

Courtney said: "I wasn't really nervous. Sir Ben was really nice and he gave me lots of tips, like relaxing when the camera is rolling."

Courtney beat off opposition from dozens of other girls for the role as one of three schoolchildren in the short film 1,001 Inventions and the Library of Secrets.

The film is running at the Science Museum in London as part of an exhibition on Muslim scientific achievements during the period known in Europe as the Dark Ages.

Courtney's mum Donna explained: "She plays Isabella, one of three schoolchildren who have to research the Dark Ages. They go to the library where they meet Sir Ben's character who takes them back in time to meet the great Islamic inventors."

The exhibition 1,001 Inventions runs at the Science Museum until April, when it will go on tour to 26 cities, including Washington, DC.

Donna said: "Courtney had to do an American accent for the film because it will be taken round the world."

Courtney auditioned for the part last September, winning through against more than 50 other girls. The film was shot in three days in London last November.

Courtney hopes the role will help her achieve her dream. She said: "I want to be on the West End when I'm older, but I've got to focus on my GCSEs at the moment."

Courtney has been dancing, singing and acting at her mother's theatre school since she was three. She trains at Georgie School of Theatre Dance at Barncliffe Mills in Shelley.

Courtney trains for four hours every weekday afternoon except Wednesday, from 9am to 5.30pm on Saturdays and from midday to 4.30pm every Sunday.

Her previous acting work includes appearances in commercials for Bupa and Woolworths.

To view the film visit www.1001inventions.com/media/video/library.