

Millicent Simmonds

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While auditioning for a deaf actress to cast a young Rose for the “Wonderstruck” movie, over 250 tapes were submitted. Millicent Simmonds, known as “Millie,” and Utah native, won a breakout role as a young Rose for the “Wonderstruck” movie. She was only 13 years old.

Millie loves to be in theater, and she loves acting. As a student at Jean Massieu School of the Deaf, under the wing of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in Salt Lake City, Utah, she was in a drama club. She performed at the Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, Utah. She also performed her first short film called, “Color the World” produced by a Deaf filmmaker, Juliette Hansen.



Millie Simmonds as Selznick’s Rose. MoviePilot.com

The “Wonderstruck” movie was produced in New York City in 2016. Basically, the novel, ‘Wonderstruck’ is about what it is like to be deaf in a hearing world. It was Millie’s first time acting on the big screen. Without any major film credits to her name, it was a huge accomplishment for a young Deaf girl. Millie was enthusiastic to play Rose and



Young deaf actress Millicent Simmonds seen on the set of ‘Wonderstruck’ on May 15, 2016 in New York City
Photo by Josiah Kamau



Millicent Simmonds on the set of ‘Wonderstruck’ in New York City. Instagram, 2016

to advocate for her community through the film. She said in an interview with the KSL News, “I love being deaf because silence is beautiful and peaceful and ASL is a beautiful language” (Crofts, KSL.com, April 15, 2016, Roselyn, MoviePilot.com, April 15, 2016). Utah is fortunate to have a young Deaf actress like Millie who represents the Deaf community and advocates for ASL as well.

Bibliography

Crofts, Natalie. "Bountiful girl cast in lead role for upcoming movie 'Wonderstruck.'" *KSL.com*, April 15, 2016. <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=1205&sid=39354436>

Roselyn." Everything We Know About the Must-See Film 'Wonderstruck.' *MoviePilot.com*, April 15, 2016. <http://moviepilot.com/posts/4027951>