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Vale's voice of Peppa Pig in running for BAFTA

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Harley and Olivia

Published on **Saturday 26 November 2011 09:00**

A CHILD star from the Vale has been nominated for a BAFTA award for her voice-over role in Peppa Pig. Harley Bird, nine, from Buckland Common, took over the role of the children's show character three-and-a-half years ago after joining acting agency Alphabet Kidz.

And in recognition of the role, Harley has now been narrowed down to the top four nominees in the performers' category of the children's awards.

"It's so exciting – we can't wait," said her mum Gill Riley.

"It's fantastic news, although I don't think Harley quite realises just how big it is.

"We're going to the awards ceremony and Harley's more excited about seeing JLS, who'll be there, than anything else – but who can blame her?"

"It's very stiff competition. She's up against some really, really good kids.

"I'm so very proud of her.

"There's hundreds of kids nominated for these awards, and to be narrowed down to four in her category is amazing.

"Harley's really very blasè about her role in the show – when she talks to people about it they're just amazed by her.

"I don't think she quite understands the enormity of it."

Harley, who attends Pipers Corner School in great Kingshill, first joined Alphabet Kidz just over three-and-a-half years ago – and got the role in Peppa Pig after just a month.

Peppa Pig is a children's television programme broadcasting on Channel 5 and Nick Jr. in the UK and Nickelodeon and Nick Jr. in the USA.

Each episode is approximately five minutes long and revolves around Peppa, a female pig, and her family and friends.

Harley will be competing against three others in her category at the awards on Sunday, including Daniel Roche from Just William, Martha Howe-Douglas from Horrible Histories and Ben Faulks from Mr Bloom's Nursery.

Other big names in the running for the awards include The Sarah Jane Adventures for the drama category, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part One and Tangled for the feature films category.

And Harley is not alone in her successful childhood acting career – as her six-year-old sister Olivia is setting out on a venture of her own. Also represented by Alphabet Kidz, Olivia starred in her first TV role Thursday night in BBC3 sitcom Rev.

“It’s a big part. The episode’s more or less all about her,” added Gill.

The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on Sunday at the London Hilton on Park Lane. For a full list of nominees visit www.bafta.org

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