

## MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

TV & Showbiz

# THE 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM ROCHDALE WHO IS A GLOBAL TV STAR - AS THE VOICE OF PEPPA PIG

January 21, 2012



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Rochdale-born Harley Bird is the voice of hugely popular cartoon character Peppa Pig.

The 10-year-old has starred in more than 100 episodes of the show, which is broadcast in 180 countries.

Harley, who was born in Bamford but now lives in Buckinghamshire, said: "It is so funny that my voice can be heard across the world and my friends think it is very cool.

"They sometimes ask me to speak to them in character as Peppa Pig. And I think it is really sweet that my voice is the voice of the toy.

"Toys R Us has a whole aisle of Peppa Pig toys and I once spent the afternoon pressing the buttons."

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And unlike most girls her age, Harley has rubbed shoulders with TV celebrities when she picked up a Bafta award for her role.

Harley said: "It was absolutely amazing to win a Bafta. I enjoyed meeting people like the goblin from Harry Potter, Dick and Dom and Mr Tumble.

"It was quite weird because I would usually go up to famous people to ask for autographs but everybody was asking me."

She added: "Winning the Bafta is the highlight of my time as Peppa. I keep it at home and sometimes my dad puts it in front of a door to keep it open."

Last year Peppa Pig, which is shown on Channel Five and Nick Jr, made £200m in the UK through merchandising alone.

And one of the perks of her success means she has been given a season ticket for Peppa Pig World, in The New Forest in Hampshire, so she can visit the theme park any time she likes.

In December, she was interviewed as Peppa on Radio One's Chris Moyles breakfast show. But there is one celebrity that Harley, who still has family in Rochdale, would love to meet – her comedian heroine Catherine Tate.

She said: "She is my idol. I think she is a very talented and I would love to be a comedian one day too."

Harley's mum Gill Riley, a businesswoman who grew up in Rochdale, said: "At the Baftas famous people who have children were coming up to her saying 'it's Peppa Pig!'

"People approach her a lot more now that she has won the Bafta because they recognise her as well as her voice.

"She has always liked the show and people ask her to speak to the phone to their children as Peppa.

"I thought they would dub her voice over with an American accent for the show in America – but that is Harley's voice."

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**Clucking Feather**, (21/01/2012 at 09:02)

Goo stuff. I'd imagine there's more muddy puddles in Bamford than Buckinghamshire though.

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**hawkeye.oz, australia** (22/01/2012 at 01:06)

Absolutely brilliant. I wish you all the best for the future

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**AJ, a passively strong opinion, Manchester** (23/01/2012 at 06:38)

Fantastic News, wonder if it was based in Blackpool would it be a Donkey?

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