

Nicole Kidman: *New Hollywood Royalty*

Scan the article. Where was Nicole Kidman born? Where was she married? When did she win an Academy Award?

Actress Nicole Kidman was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1967. Her father, an Australian, was a student in Hawaii at the time. When she was 4, the family returned to Australia, and Kidman grew up in a suburb of Sydney.

Kidman became interested in acting early on. Her first experience came when she was 6 years old and she played a sheep in her school's Christmas pageant. She trained in drama and dance through her teen years. She got a couple of TV parts before she made her breakthrough: In 1985, the Australian Film Institute named her Actress of the Year for her role in the TV miniseries *Vietnam*. She was only 17.

In 1989, Kidman appeared in the creepy thriller *Dead Calm*. This performance earned her the lead role in her first American movie, *Days of Thunder*. Her costar was Tom Cruise. Following a whirlwind romance, Kidman and Cruise were married in Colorado on Christmas Eve, 1990.

During the marriage, Kidman's career continued to grow. She and Cruise adopted two children,

and they worked hard to balance their careers and family life.

Unfortunately, the marriage didn't last. Kidman and Cruise divorced in 2001. After the divorce, Kidman threw herself into her work. She starred in a number of high-profile movies, including the musical *Moulin Rouge*. Then, in 2003, she won both an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for her role as Virginia Woolf in the film *The Hours*.

And what does she think of her fame? "It's a fleeting moment," she has said. "How long will it last? Who knows? But it's here and it's now."



One of the most fascinating actresses of our time

A Read the article. Find the words in *italics* in the article. Then circle the meaning of each word or phrase.

- When you make a *breakthrough*, you experience a sudden **advance** / **accident**.
- When something is *creepy*, it gives you a feeling of **joy and excitement** / **fear and disgust**.
- A *whirlwind* describes something that happens **slowly** / **quickly**.
- When Kidman *threw herself into* her work, she **worked very hard** / **stopped working**.
- When something is *fleeting*, it lasts a **short** / **long** time.

B Number these sentences from 1 (first event) to 10 (last event).

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| a. She divorced Tom Cruise. | f. She won her first award. |
| b. She had her first acting experience. | g. She adopted two children. |
| c. She won an Academy Award. | h. She was born in Hawaii. |
| d. She moved to Australia. | i. She studied drama and dance. |
| e. She made her first American movie. | j. She married Tom Cruise. |

C Pair work Who is your favorite actor or actress? What interesting details do you know about his or her life and career?