



■ Rising star -but actress Kierston Wareing so nearly gave up before her big break.

Picture: Chris Yates Photography

Kierston so nearly gave up her dream

LEIGH actress Kierston Wareing, whose new film will be released next week, has told how she nearly gave up on her dreams before getting her first break.

Kierston is originally from Leigh but lives in east London now, struggled for ten years before getting her big break with Ken Loach's *It's a Free World*.

Since then, the 38-year-old has gone on to perform with big stars such as Idris Elba, Michael Fassbender and Dame Judi Dench.

Miss Wareing said: "I knew I wanted to be an actress since I was seven, but my parents didn't take me seriously until I was an adult. I wanted an agent as a youngster but they didn't take any notice.

"I had drama lessons in Leigh

By **ROBYN PIERCE**
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with Elizabeth Slater and we would perform in Leigh and Southend festivals. I always did quite well – but I never did well in any other subjects like science or maths."

Miss Wareing also took part in workshops at the Palace Theatre in Southend.

Talking about her career, she said: "I really struggled, I was studying as a legal secretary and then worked in the High Court and I nearly gave up.

"I had an agent when I was 21 and I struggled to get any work until my break. I was in one commercial and then got cut out of it. I couldn't believe it, but I did still get paid.

"I got an audition and for three months it went back and forth. But I got the role in *It's a Free World* and I was nominated for a Bafta alongside Dame Judi.

"I was about to give up before that audition, after trying for ten years and struggling, but you have to keep going and believe in yourself.

The actress has a new film coming out – *A Hundred Streets* – that will be premiered soon.

The gripping drama tells the story of a group of individuals in contemporary London, who all live within one square mile of each other but have very different issues.

Talking about the film, Miss Wareing added: "My character was very normal, it was quite different to anything else I have

played. Usually I play quite an eccentric, alcoholic, slightly erratic character, so this was different. It was a nice change.

"The film is fantastic, the cast, the directors, the writing, I am really proud to be part of it.

"I have worked with Idris Elba before, but I didn't have any scenes with him this time. I met him when we were in *Luther* – he is a cool, normal, nice person with a lot of talent.

"I am looking forward to seeing him at the premier next week.

"This is the first film I have been in that will be released in America. Knowing it will be on screens in America is fantastic."

A Hundred Streets, will be in UK cinemas on Friday November 11 and the US next year.



■ Filming - Kierston in *A Hundred Streets*, which will be her first film to be released in the USA.

Picture: Chris Yates Photography

Depeche Mode gig is a sell-out

DEPECHE Mode's "homecoming" concert at the Olympic Stadium in Stratford is now a complete sell-out.

The band, who originally hail from Basildon, recently announced they will be releasing a new album next year and will play a number of huge gigs in Europe, including the one in London.

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