

# Pedro and Bianca

*Pedro and Bianca* (TV Cultura, Sao Paulo, Brazil) is a drama series about 14-year-old miracle twins of different colors (cf. illustration 1). This episode, „Between Birth and Death, We Grow Up“, begins early in the morning on the first day of secondary school for *Pedro and Bianca*. Granny is in the kitchen preparing a special cake for the twins, who have expressed fear about starting their new school. Bianca awakens and discovers her hair is frizzy instead of straight, like the magazine pictures. She appeals to her mother and they go into Zuzu’s Salon together to fix it (cf. illustration 2). Mom’s treatment triggers another hair disaster and Bianca is outraged. Dad wakes and the yelling escalates into a family argument, with animated illustrations depicting the electrifying situation. Pedro has been sleeping through it all. Granny wakes him, and he spends a happy moment with her. *Pedro and Bianca* walk to the bus stop together, but argue and part ways before getting to school. Through sound effects, the audience can hear the voices inside their heads, as if they are thinking aloud (cf. illustration 3). When Pedro arrives at the new school, he is happy to see an old friend Çiça; but feels threatened by a group of older boys (cf. illustration 4). They haze Pedro, spraying him with paint and powder (cf. illustration 5). Embarrassed, Pedro tries to hide in the restroom. He washes his clothes and hangs them to dry. Meanwhile, Bianca arrives late to school and is reprimanded when her cell phone rings in class. It is Pedro calling desperately to get help, since the older boys stole his clothing. When the bell rings, Pedro is without clothes in the school yard and all the students are gathered around him taking pictures with their cell phones. Bianca comes to see what the fuss is about and defends Pedro, who is sent to the principal’s office (cf. illustration 6). When this awful first day of school is over, *Pedro and Bianca* are dismayed to learn that Granny is dead. That night, the family sits together crying quietly in the kitchen. Pedro cuts the cake that Granny made and shares it (cf. illustration 7). The episode concludes with a flashback to a party earlier in their lives, a happy time when they also shared the cake Granny made for them (cf. illustration 8).

*Pedro and Bianca* won the top prize in the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014 12–15 fiction and non-fiction category. The program was a second place finalist in the International Youth Jury Prize.

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS’ OPINION

International experts shared their opinions about *Pedro and Bianca* during discussion sessions at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014. Many experts enjoyed the program immensely. Several questioned the number of different issues (i.e., birth, identity, bullying, death) that should be raised in a single episode. For many, this program appropriately addresses the concerns of teenagers. Experts liked the character development and agreed that use of special effects in this episode was effective.

“All the elements came together to make something really special. I think everything was real. It didn’t suffer from the fantasy elements. It added to the complexity; it just added to the emotion.” (female expert, New Zealand)

“I like it a lot. I think it has a lot of elements for success. Good characters. Complex environments. You have fantasy. The dad who has the power. Things very real. The school director, for example, was very real and serious.” (female expert, Colombia)



Ill. 1: Fourteen year old twins Pedro and Bianca



Ill. 2: Mom tries to straighten Bianca’s hair

Screenshots from *Pedro and Bianca* © TV Cultura

## PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014

"I am very impressed they managed to make 52 episodes with this many characters. These characters are very complex." (male expert, Norway)

"The acting was the truest of everything we saw today." (male expert, Canada)

"First time I saw this. Quirky and original mix of social miscues. I really liked the idea of the miracle. They are really different and they are twins." (male expert, Brazil)

"It's possible...one in one million. We know many twins in the same situation." (female expert, Brazil)

"There are mean guys in school but in the meantime they get to be really deep. I don't think they are stereotyped." (female expert, Slovenia)

"If we are talking about emotions the film is very strong and powerful. We love the grandma." (female expert, Brazil)

"We try to work on these kinds of things like identity, freedom. It is „mas importante.“ In each chapter we have the challenge." (female expert, Colombia)

"Something very funny is the hair question. Some girls that are Africans...it is so hard for them. It is very important for them." (female expert, Brazil)

## OPINIONS FROM TEENAGERS IN 7 COUNTRIES

PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014 included the votes of an international youth jury, which was organized in cooperation with broadcasters worldwide. Teens between 12 and 15 in 7 countries discussed and judged 16 programs in the 12 to 15 category. Here is a summary of their discussions about the program *Pedro and Bianca*.

Nearly all of the youth jury members thought *Pedro and Bianca* was among the best programs they saw because it portrays real situations in a touching, meaningful way. The youth jury in **Colombia** wants to see this kind of program again. Youth juries in **Colombia** and **Malaysia** appreciated the topics of family togetherness and sibling love. Youth jury members in **Jordan**, **Colombia**, **Namibia** and **New Zealand** commented on the range of dramatic elements presented and integrated in the program. Many found the story interesting to watch, especially **Malaysia** and **New Zealand** youth jurors. Youth jurors from **Jordan** and **New Zealand** loved the emotional parts and connected to the program when it was funny or sad or serious. "I was crying when the grandma died and usually I don't get emotionally attached to characters that I've seen within a few minutes," said a **New Zealand** viewer.

Differences of opinion centered on program originality and special effects. Youth jurors in **Canada** felt that this was "like any other kind of teen show; a lot like what you would see on YTV or Disney channel." Youth jurors in **Colombia** and **Montenegro** admitted that the theme of first day at



Ill. 3: At the bus stop before the first day of school



Ill. 4: Pedro feels threatened by older boys at school



Ill. 5: Pedro tries to get his stolen clothes back



Ill. 6: In the principal's office



Ill. 7: Pedro shares Granny's cake with Bianca

Screenshots from *Pedro and Bianca* © TV Cultura

school was typical and even repetitive on television, but the treatment was something new, original and fresh. **Canadian** youth jurors said the lighting effect was irrelevant and seemed like an add-on to the story whereas members from **Montenegro** felt the special effects were cool.

A consensus understanding emerges from youth jury remarks about seeing things on the program that commonly happen to teenagers. A youth juror from **Namibia** said, "They touched the problems that teens can have like you get embarrassed on your first day of school or you get bullied by the higher grades." Another youth juror from **New Zealand** said, "I think it related to teenagers because a lot of these things happen to us." Many of the youth jurors described *Pedro and Bianca* as "honest," "cool" and "relatable."

*Elizabeth Spezia, PhD Student, Southern Illinois University, USA*



III. 8: Flashback to a happy birthday with the family

Target Audience 8.21	Idea 7.83	Script 7.64	Realization 7.79
Average Score per Category by experts' voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014			