

Stikk!

Stikk! (NRK, Norway) is a dramatic series that follows Molly, a tough and defensive 12-year-old girl who has spent much of her life living in different foster homes. Told in a realistic and gritty fashion, the series explores themes of feeling like an outsider and the journey towards accepting oneself and taking the risk of being loved by others. The episode begins with Molly getting an award for having previously saved classmate Truls from a deadly river. Impressed by her bravery, Truls and his friend invite Molly to join their band (cf. screenshot 1). After returning home, Molly tries singing for the band (cf. screenshot 2) and, as a result, Truls and Molly end up spending quite a bit of time together practicing, dancing, and writing lyrics (cf. screenshot 3). At school, Molly's classmate Kathrine and a couple of other girls reveal to the whole class the secret about Molly's father – that he had been arrested for robbery. Upset, Molly attacks her. Molly then runs away from the classroom and returns home to her dog (cf. screenshot 4). Molly blows off steam by listening to her music on the top of a building where she thinks she's alone. A mischievous young man, Ebbe, appears and demands the money she owes him. She confesses that she does not have his money yet. Furious, Ebbe picks up Molly's dog and drops her over the edge of the building (cf. screenshot 5). Molly rushes the dog home to her foster parents, Georg and Lise. Georg brings the dog to the vet, while the Lise yells at Molly for attacking her classmate Kathrine (cf. screenshot 6). Later, Georg and Lise bring back her dog, and Lise apologizes for losing her temper (cf. screenshot 7). The episode ends with Molly leaving the house in the middle of the night (cf. screenshot 8).

Stikk! was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2012 finalists in the 12-15 Fiction & Non-Fiction category.

International experts' opinions

International experts shared their opinions about *Stikk!* during the discussion sessions at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2012. *Stikk!* was well-received by international experts. Most agreed that they liked the complexity of both its main character and of the world in which she inhabits.

“There were moral complexities and personal and emotional complexity. I appreciated the richness of the world that was presented.” (male expert, USA)

“Good writing and good setup, and especially good acting. It was natural and fit with the characters. The director did a pretty good job with his cast.” (female expert, Transylvania)

Many experts liked the complexity of Molly's character. They thought she was “different, more complex, and more independent in a way than just painting fingernails and doing your hair.” (female expert, Germany)

Another thought, “she was a very ambiguous and very interesting character.” (male expert, Germany)

Overall, experts found the show's handling of gender refreshing. And, although they acknowledged her complexity, some wondered whether her complexity made it more difficult for children to relate to her: “you couldn't really follow her – which is not a bad thing.”

Much of the discussion surrounded the startling scene where Molly's dog is dropped from the top of a building. Experts differed on the appropriateness of the scene: “My heart went into my throat when the dog was dropped.” (male expert, Canada)



Ill. 1: Molly gets invited to join a band



Ill. 2: Molly sings and the band members are impressed



Ill. 3: Truls and Molly start growing closer

Although most experts agreed that the particular moment was shocking, many were split on whether the shock was necessary. While many experts were fascinated with that particular scene, others questioned why exactly it drew so much attention: “Are we concerned about the shock because it’s scary and frightening to the children, or are we concerned about the act because there is a potential for children to imitate it?” Another asked, “why is the instance with the dog worse than parents drinking alcohol or children getting beaten?” (female expert, Germany)

Target Audience 8.04	Idea 7.51	Script 7.73	Realization 8.04
Average Score per Category by experts’ voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2012			

Opinions from teenagers in 7 countries



Ill. 4: Molly finds comfort in her dog

The PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2012 included the votes of an international youth jury, which was organized in co-operation with broadcasters worldwide. Teens between 12 and 15 in 7 countries discussed and judged 12 programs in the category 12 to 15. Here is a summary of their discussions on the program *Stikk!*.

Most of the youth jury in **Australia** liked *Stikk!*. They found the show quite relatable, mentioning that they were able to relate to Molly’s love for her dog and how she could start yelling at the people who were making fun of her: “If you think about being in her shoes, her actions make a lot of sense.” One jury member, however, thought the show was very similar to their shows in Australia and found it “kind of clichéd and not original at all”.



Ill. 5: Ebbe drops the dog from the top of a building

In **Cuba**, each jury member drew something different from the program. One thought Molly’s behaviour depended on the circumstances that pushed her to be so harsh. Another thought the program showed that love between adolescents can be complex “because love is often hard to confess”. Another thought the program showed the causes of violence among teens while another thought Molly “wants to give the impression of being the tough girl, but deep inside she really suffers”.

Jury members from **Egypt** liked the action, enjoyed the characters and liked the hint of romance. There was some uncertainty about the show’s depiction of love, however.



Ill. 6: Lise yells at Molly

Jury members in **Macedonia** liked *Stikk!*. They found it “dark but funny”. When the program finished, they said that it left them thinking about the topic. Molly’s acting was described as “excellent”.

Jury members in **Nigeria** thought *Stikk!* was “sort of funny”, “nice” and “interesting”. Although one member did not like the ending, another jury member thought it kept you in suspense: “Is she going to beat someone up or is she going to run away?” A couple of jury members commented on the show’s use of swearing and aggression. One thought that children underneath 14 would imitate it. Additionally, the music was described as “very nice”.



Ill. 7: Lise visits Molly in her room and apologizes to her

Several jury members from the **Philippines** had problems with *Stikk!*. They found it “incomplete” and “confusing.” Another did not think Molly behaved the right way, and did not think her portrayal was convincing.

Most of the USA jury members described *Stikk!* as “entertaining”, “dramatic and interesting” and “beautiful”. As for criticisms, one jury member thought Molly’s money deals with a “tattooed 19-year-old” seemed unrealistic while another thought the show felt incomplete and didn’t leave the viewer with a sense of closure.



Ben Kempf (Centennial College, Toronto, Canada)

Ill. 8: Molly leaves the house

Youth Jury 2012	Score	Rank
Australia	7.1	3
Cuba	8.5	5
Egypt	6.2	5
Macedonia	8.4	1
Nigeria	6.8	4
Philippines	7.3	9
United States	7.2	3