

Take Me Out (Leve-me Pra Sair)

Take Me Out (Coletivo Lumika/Sesc TV, Sao Paulo, Brazil) is a 19-minute program about gay teenagers and their vision of the world (cf. illustration 1). Testimonies of 10 young people from Sao Paulo, Brazil offer viewers a connection to this new generation of teens. The program provides insight into the development of emotional intelligence as these young people, ages 16 to 18, try to regulate, express and evaluate their emotions about being gay. The interview platform gives them a voice to express what they think about identity, sexuality and prejudice (cf. illustration 2). The program begins with clips of teens describing the discovery of their sexual identity. During the interviews, these teens say that being homosexual is not a choice but instead is who they are naturally (cf. illustration 3). They discuss terms used for homosexuality and express individual reasons for preferring gay, dyke, lesbian, queer or something else. They describe contexts of use and impacts of these terms (cf. illustration 4). In responding to questions, the teens come to acknowledge that being gay influences their identities and interactions with those around them (cf. illustration 5). They describe prejudice in strong language, using human rights and political terms (cf. illustration 6). Sharing with others about their homosexuality is difficult. The internet, friends and parents play important roles in their decisions about coming out. There were different reactions from the people closest to them, but each of these teenagers gained a sense of relief and deepened trust when they came out (cf. illustration 7). At the end of the program, they express optimism about the directions their lives are taking (cf. illustration 8).

Take Me Out was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014 finalists in the 12–15 category and nominated Gender Equity Prize.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS' OPINION

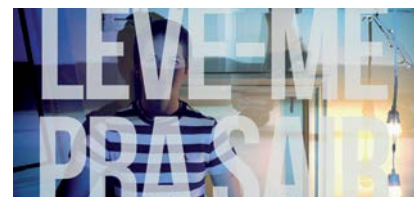
International experts shared their opinions about *Take Me Out* during the discussion sessions at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014. Experts exchanged general ideas about documentary formats such as *Take Me Out*. There was a range of opinion on whether this interview program would be broadcast on television in different countries. Experts also varied on their views about whether programs such as this one about sexuality would be accepted in their cultures.

“A fiction program might be easier. We saw a few years ago the boy who wants to go to the parade.” (female expert, Slovenia)

“We can think that the format is not interesting for children at this age but the subject is so strong.” (female expert, Colombia)

“It was very static—visually not interesting. I was still compelled because of the kids.” (male expert, Canada)

“Kids are watching shows, calling friends on Skype. Their attention span is different. Kids are watching TV as radio now because they have other distractions. They can watch the show and tweet at the same time. We must think about how kids watch TV now.” (male expert, Chile)



Ill. 1: Title screen for *Take Me Out*



Ill. 2: Is sexual orientation a choice?



Ill. 3: Being gay is a natural condition

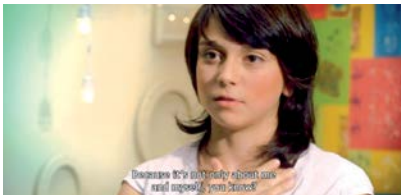
Screenshots from *Take Me Out (Leve-me Pra Sair)* © Coletivo Lumika/Sesc TV



III. 4: Gay terms are individual preferences

“In smaller towns it is hard for them to have information. When they want to hear about other teens they come to the internet.” (female expert, Brazil)

“Some of my perception is by the youth jury. They and I found it really engaging, because they were talking honestly about sexuality. It felt old fashioned but an honest approach. I normally wouldn’t have gone for that but the children connected with it, and that is what it is important.” (female expert, New Zealand)



III. 5: Interactions shape our identities

“I think teenagers can relate. This spoke to teens in a down-to-earth way. I liked the program. The political explanations are too much for a younger audience.” (female expert, Switzerland)

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 *Take Me Out*.

Members of the youth juries in **Canada, Colombia and New Zealand** appreciated that gay culture was presented from different points of view. They thought the teen interviews in the program represented diverse perspectives on being gay.

Youth jurors in **Montenegro, Namibia and New Zealand** mentioned that *Take Me Out* helps viewers to break through stereotypes about the LGBT population.

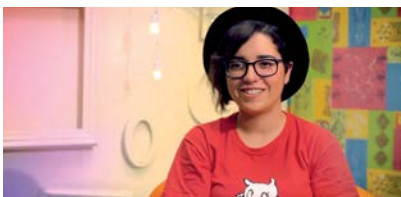
Youth jurors in **Canada and Colombia** liked that this program reveals a subject that usually is not discussed. Youth jurors in **Colombia and Montenegro** emphasized the importance of this topic.

Youth jurors in **Canada, Colombia and Montenegro** agreed that the program is suitable for their age group because they can relate to sexuality and their search for identity.

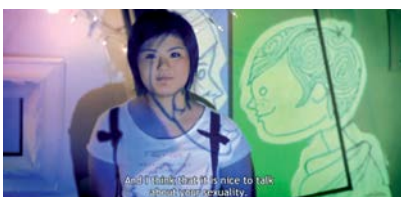
Colombian jurors questioned the setting for the program as well as the interview format. They suggested that performances and messages be interspersed with the interviews to make the program more engaging.

Malaysian youth jurors felt the program was inappropriate for their age group because for them, sexuality is not a public concern. However, these jurors understand and value the program’s message of diversity and authenticity.

By broadcasting the program on television, gay teens have a platform to voice their opinions, according to **Namibian** youth jurors. Although they consider the subject to be controversial, rough language in the program is not a problem in their culture.



III. 6: Standing up for human rights



III. 7: Sharing about sexuality with others



III. 8: Together during the interviews

PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014

The youth jury in **New Zealand** enjoyed how the program conveyed the feeling of being gay--what people say and how people live--without making it too heavy. This youth jury found they could relate to many of the interviews in *Take Me Out*, although their sexual orientations might be different.

Elizabeth Spezia, PhD Student, Southern Illinois University, USA

Target Audience 7.72	Idea 7.80	Script 6.85	Realization 7.11
Average Score per Category by experts' voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014			