

All-Round Champion

All-Round Champion (Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, Oslo, Norway) is a 40-minute weekly reality series about 14-year-old athletes who are among Norway's best in their individual sports (cf. illustration 1). In 10 episodes, children learn and compete in each other's sports to see who will be the all-round champion. In this episode, contestant Julie (cf. illustration 2) teaches nine children to dive from springboard and platform. Program host Truls Pedersen introduces Julie's assistant coach and professional athlete, Daniel Jensen. The children arrive at the pool and assess their situation. They have two days to learn and compete in diving. Some are confident, some are intrigued, and many are fearful as Julie demonstrates an elegant dive from the high platform (cf. illustration 3). Julie describes the satisfaction she experiences while diving (cf. illustration 4). Theodor, a kart racer, wants to hold his nose while diving. He describes the skills needed for racing. He attempts a dive in the tuck position as Julie offers corrections and encourages him (cf. illustration 5). Gymnast Amalie feels she is getting sick and the coaches guide her through a practice dive while the contestants applaud her success (cf. illustration 6). Others tell about feeling dread, nervousness, self-doubt, excitement and determination. The program host checks in periodically with the coaches (cf. illustration 7). They share their comments about the competition, which requires an inward dive and a one-and-one-half forward dive. Some contestants want to win more points, so they dive from the 5-metre platform. The judges award points between 1 and 10 for style and height. Theodor is last, while everyone watches in anticipation. He focuses bravely and dives from the 3-metre board. He makes a bellyflop, but he's okay and he earns points. The points are tallied and the diving competition winners receive their medals (cf. illustration 8). Everyone is happy that they have learned to become pretty good divers in only two days.

All-Round Champion won the top prize in the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014 in the 7-11 non-fiction category.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS' OPINION

International experts shared their opinions about *All-Round Champion* during the discussion sessions at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014. In general, experts responded favorably to the program. Several remarked about how well they liked it. There was agreement that children would like this program also, because it addressed them on their own terms. Experts suggested the program was honest and respectful of the many emotions that children experienced in this episode. Part of the conversation focused on the perceived dangers of the sports on this program. There was concern about whether the children were safe and how they were making choices about engaging in the activities.

"We all like it but we say they are in real danger in a way." (female expert, Netherlands)

"I really feel the kids are genuine so I believe they have a choice." (male expert, Denmark)

"We love that it's not safe." (female expert, Slovenia)



III. 1: A variety of sports is featured in the program logo



III. 2: Julie will teach contestants her best sport-diving



III. 3: Contestants react to Julie's dive from the high platform

Screenshots from All-Round Champion © Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation



III. 4: Julie describes what it feels like to dive



III. 5: Theodor needs encouragement in order to dive



III. 6: Contestants applaud Amalie's fearless effort



III. 7: All-Round Champions host interviews the coaches



III. 8: Everyone celebrates the winners of the diving round

Screenshots from All-Round Champion © Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation

“The children will jump and if it goes wrong too bad.” (female expert, Czech Republic)

“It was very honest. Children were expressing their fears and showing support for each other. I enjoyed the girl giving the pep talk instead of the champion who was giving more tactical advice.” (female expert, United States)

“What I found great was that it was on the same level of the children, allowed pictures to express emotion. I would cut down the number of characters. I found the moderator to be weak.” (male expert, Mexico)

“I was thinking how it was so much like real life. If it was in the USA they probably would make the moderator scream and jump. It was so different from what Americans would have done with it. It was honest and so restrained.” (female expert, Germany)

“All-Round Champions is a very nice observation; a very nice show.” (male expert, Brazil)

“All Round Champions was absolutely brilliant....giving young people that were featured the opportunity to succeed and fail in a really supportive environment....showed what children can do as opposed to what they can't do.” (male expert, United Kingdom)

“They aspire to be the best.” (male expert, Denmark)

Elizabeth Spezia, PhD student, Southern Illinois University, USA

Target Audience 8.46

Idea 8.23

Script 7.75

Realization 8

Average Score per Category by experts' voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2014