

# My Crazy Granny!

*My Crazy Granny!* (Evangelical Broadcasting Corporation, Netherlands) is a short drama. Saäda is thrilled that her grandma from Surinam (cf. screenshot 1) is moving to live with her family in Holland (cf. screenshot 2), only weeks before her birthday. The two enjoy spending time together (cf. screenshot 3), but due to her dementia grandma seems to be confused, making Saäda think her granny is crazy (cf. screenshot 4)! Saäda wants her grandma to get better (cf. screenshot 5), and helps to take care of her (cf. screenshot 6). When it's time for her birthday party (cf. screenshot 7), Saäda makes sure her granny is there to liven it up (cf. screenshot 8).

*My Crazy Granny!* was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2012 finalists in the Up to 6 Fiction category.

## International experts' opinions

International experts shared their opinions about *My Crazy Granny!* during the discussion sessions at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2012. Many of the international experts liked *My Crazy Granny!* very much, pointing out especially the production quality, characters, and acting.

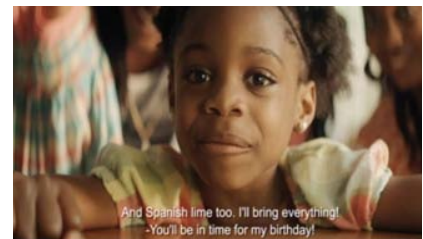
One of the experts thought the “production values” of the show were “just extraordinary”, referring to it being a live-action program. “When you get to shooting live action of young kids”, he said, “usually, the production values become very, very low, which implies a certain lack of respect for this age group”. Programs such as this one, he continued, “reflect great respect in the writing and how they’re shot and how they’re cast”. (male expert, USA)

In addition, many of the experts liked the characters: the granny, the kids, the parents. The casting and acting, they thought, were also very good. One of the experts thought the acting was “very natural” (female expert, USA), while another mentioned that “it felt like the relationship between the girl and the grandmother was very convincing”. (female expert, UK)

One of the experts said she thought the script “was really well-written from the perspective of the child... just very innocent around her birthday and the excitement around her birthday”. (female expert, USA)

Others pointed out the film-like quality of the program. One of the experts, referring to the series to which *My Crazy Granny!* belongs, said that the programs have “the language and grammar and technique of films, which gives them a very different feel”. (male expert, UK)

Many of the experts liked the family in *My Crazy Granny!* One male expert from Norway said he “liked the atmosphere of the family”, and that the production team did a good job in creating an atmosphere that was “a little bit different” than what he was used to. Other experts liked that the family was black, but that the program was not about them being black: “*My Crazy Granny!* was fantastic... it was this black family, and it wasn’t at all about that they were black and that this is a problem – which I think sometimes we tend to do if we make a film like that. It was about... friendship between generations and acceptance of who you are.” (female expert, Sweden)



Ill. 1: Saäda speaks with granny before her arrival



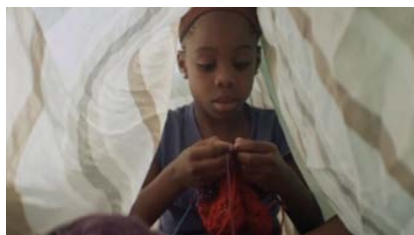
Ill. 2: Saäda's family



Ill. 3: Saäda and granny spend time together



Ill. 4: “Your grandma is just like my granddad”



Ill. 5: Saäda knits a hat for granny



Ill. 6: Helping take care of granny



Ill. 7: Saäda's birthday party



Ill. 8: Dancing with granny at the party

Some of the experts thought the humor in *My Crazy Granny!* was good and appropriate for this age group. “With humor for preschoolers,” one female expert from the UK said, “a lot of the humor maybe is just a feeling that they get. It’s one of the most important feelings they get,” and some of the live-action programs, of which *My Crazy Granny!* is a good example, she said, “got that really well”. In addition, one of the most memorable moments for some of the experts was a humorous segment in which one of Saäda’s friends, whose grandpa was shown earlier wearing a mismatched pair of socks, turns to her and says “your grandma is just like my granddad.” One of the experts thought this “just showed that kind of recognition between children”. (female expert, UK)

One of the most discussed subjects among the experts was the representation of grandparents. *My Crazy Granny!* was one of several live-action programs in this category to have grandparents in prominent roles, and many of the experts were very pleased to see “this generation span” (male expert, Norway). Another expert said she thinks “it’s so important – especially for this age group – to have the fantasy of an environment where you can grow, that there is somebody who loves you just because you’re there, to give them this kind of a fantasy is so important.” (female expert, Germany)

The subject that ignited the most discussion, however, was the complexity of dealing with the issue of dementia in a program for this age group. Some of the experts thought the issue was too difficult, and wondered about the message of the program. “I wondered what a child watching that would think and what they would actually understand about dementia or what was actually going on”, or whether they would “be more worried by that situation because it wasn’t explained.” (male expert, UK)

Others thought the message was more subtle. “I just wonder, do they really need to understand? Wasn’t this film about making them feel that there is no danger in it?” and that “you can love people like that without understanding, and to accept them”. (female expert, Switzerland)

Another expert agreed that “kids learn understanding, acceptance, rather than the facts about dementia... the more important is the subtle way they deliver the message of the understanding and the love”. (female expert, Hong Kong)

Some experts raised the issue that there was no resolution. “It was muddled for me. It didn’t really explain to the audience why, what was going wrong with grandma,” and that it had “the wrong outcome because she looked like she was perfectly normal. She was just dancing away... it felt like she got better”. (male expert, UK)

“I think the film should be longer, like a fiction film, then you can explain more, because it feels that they want to resolve it very quickly by just... having finally the grandma dancing.” (female expert, East Timor)

In order to deal with the complexity of this subject, and this type of resolution, many experts agreed about the need for additional discussion beyond the program. “It seems to be the kind of thing you’d watch and then discuss”, one of the experts said, referring to viewing the program in a school setting, “and then the information would be given to you in that discussion.” (female expert, USA)

Erga Lemish (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, USA)

Target Audience 5.70

Idea 7.28

Script 6.53

Realization 6.95

Average Score per Category by experts’ voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2012