

Can you ... ?

Can you ... ? was produced by Mongolian National Public Television. Soos lives in a small village in the Mongolian steppe. Every day she plays with her little sister Sainka. Everything suddenly seems more exciting when a boy moves into the village. Quickly the sisters make a plan how to attract his attention. But it turns out things are not as easy as the girls thought. The first attempt is not quite successful, but giving up is not an option ...

Can you ... ? was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010 finalists in the 7-11 Fiction category.

International experts' opinions

Almost all the international experts admired the program. They agreed that the program was a good fit for the desired target audience. "It is very children angled. It is not adult thinking" (female expert, Denmark).

A female expert from Korea shed some light about the production of the program. "The Mongolian one *Can You ... ?* They don't have any provisional writers for children's drama. The director herself writes her own stories and goes hunting and does auditions – everything." They liked the scripting of the program. "What I loved about this piece is that it told the story with next to no audio, and I was still compelled to watch it from beginning to end. It was a very sweet story" (female expert, Canada). They also liked the narration of the program. "It is very, very nice visual storytelling. It is a wonderful way to pick up on the reactions of kids among themselves. There are so many twists and turns that are really great" (Male expert, Germany). The story of the program was also noticed by the international experts. "I think that it was a simple story that was very common to them as Mongolian children, that might not be so common to other kids from western countries; just like the kids who still don't know that milk comes from a cow, but actually how it gets out of a cow. It had such a great story. I loved it, because I have never seen a cow eat a loaf of bread. (*Laughter*) I think the whole thing, I think a lot of kids wouldn't understand that, unless they saw it, that the cow needs to eat to make milk- such a silly notion, but I just really hope that Australia picks it up and shows it" (female expert, Australia).

Several of the experts praised the production of the program for its low budget. "This to me showed how you can tell a story very simply



Figure 1: A little boy arrives at the town.



Figure 2: Soos and her sister meet him, but he just passes them without greeting.



Figure 3: Soos is irritated by his arrogance.

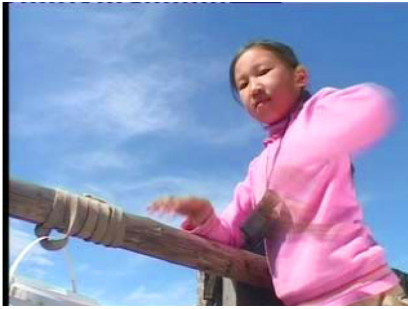


Figure 4: Soos decides to trick him but the little trick does not work.



Figure 5: Soos challenges the little boy and asks him to swing the bucket.



Figure 6: Soos spills the little boy's milk and they panic.

with no budget. The pace was a little different than they are used to, but the story developed, it had a solution to it, so there are a lot of good pieces in it. The kids solved it themselves. I thought it was really charming” (male expert, Canada).

Almost all the international experts loved the children in the program. “I think the children were really adorable – actually really fantastic” (female expert, Germany). They appreciated their natural acting. “They are quite open to anything in a way. That is why they can naturally act, because they don't have any professional acting class. They just do it for fun. They can create all the emotions of the characters so openly. And the acting is not cliché” (female expert, Korea). More praise was poured in by the international experts. “About the children actors: on many occasions, we hired a very cute girl with big eyes and outstanding figure, but in this case I am impressed that the main character is a normal girl” (female expert, Japan).



Figure 7: Soos takes all her money to buy milk but finds it is sold out.



Figure 8: Soos tries to milk the cow but gets nothing.



Figure 8: Finally, they get milk with the help of a calf.

They found the program universal in its approach. “I find it quite refreshing actually, I think they made an improvement ... and this could be happening everywhere actually. It is being kids and solving a problem” (female expert, Netherlands). The fact that the production has improved was mentioned by others as well. “I saw the same producer, I guess. In the suitcase I saw the previous works they had done. It was a tremendous growth. You could see that the person had some potential, because they told good stories, I thought before. So this production value improved, and the story went a lot smoother. But, it was very enjoyable – these kids trying to solve this problem. I enjoyed it” (female expert, Jamaica).

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