

Firuze

Firuze was produced by KRO Youth in the Netherlands. Firuze is an 8-year-old Turkish girl, born and living in the Netherlands. Together with her parents she is having an untroubled life. Her big passion is jazz ballet and she is training hard and to committed to become very good at it. One day her grandmother is visiting from Turkey and has to stay with Firuze and her family for a while. Firuze is happy to meet her, but when the grandmother reacts unexpectedly to Firuze’s dancing passion, Firuze gets sad and angry. Why is she not allowed to be free as she was before? When her grandmother and Firuze are home alone, Firuze takes a decision that will change their lives ...

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

International experts’ opinions



Figure 1: Firuze loves jazz dance.

This program elicited a discussion of many related issues by the international experts.

The program is about the relationship between two individuals who are generations apart and still understand each other. “Although they had some disagreements, and Firuze did not like what her grandmother thought about the dancing, there was a kind of respect, we can feel that. She had that respect for her grandmother. All the time, the first priority is respect toward the adult. If there are conflicts, there is no direct battle between them, even if the child tried to cover the Barbies just to be like her grandma” (female



Figure 3: Firuze finds her Barbie dolls gone after practicing dance.



Figure 2: Grandma hugs Firuze and tries to drag her clothes to cover her belly.



Figure 4: Firuze uses colorful clothes to cover the nude Barbie.

expert, Iran). “The message is about the fact that it is all a new generation, but it is the same. The grandmother loves to dance, and the child also. The difference between them is 70 years or something like that. But, in the soul and the heart they are the same. It is a difference of a kind, but it is something common” (male expert, Poland).

Some international experts appreciated the relationship that was shown “between younger people and older people” (female expert, UK). The program was successful in making the two generations understand each other and hence adapt their ways of relating to each other. “What I found so sweet



Figure 5: Grandma peeps at Firuze's friend's exposed belly.



Figure 6: Firuze sees grandma dancing and humming while doing laundry.



Figure 7: Grandma is moved when she finds out Firuze was dancing after she secretly went out.

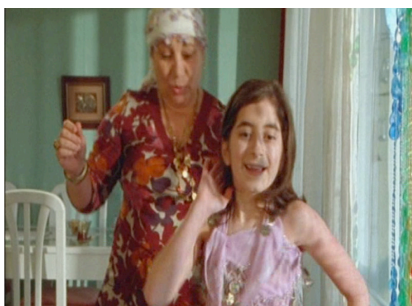


Figure 8: Finally, Firuze and grandma reach an understanding and dance happily together.

about that program was that at first I thought it was going to go down the road where she was going to really be shutting out her grandmother; like with the whole Barbie situation, she clothed them traditionally. She was trying to meet her halfway. I thought that was very sweet, and then at the end her grandmother met her halfway” (female expert, USA).

The experts also understood the importance of dance as a medium to reach children. “Dance is such a big thing now. It is everywhere. I did love, actually, that little film about the Turkish girl and her grandma. It was just very telling, and a small aspect of the community, but done very sweetly. Dance is so big now, isn't it, that is the way, whether it is drama, entertainment, or variety, it is just everywhere. The kids really wanted to get in through the music. It is a very current way of engaging” (female expert, UK).

There were also discussions about immigration and the issue of diversity that the program subtly highlighted. “I don't know, because this show has a program focused on the generational gap between grandma and kid. They don't speak about immigration, because they are Turkish in the Netherlands. I didn't see any Dutch in the film. This was only a Turkish family inside” (male expert, Poland).

Many international experts however were not convinced by the ending of the program. “At the beginning when grandma arrived, I can see, I can understand, pull down the shirts at the top, that is what happened to me. That is the way she is taught. She is now eight – so that was funny. At the beginning I thought that was rather natural to show that kind of cultural difference, but at the end of course grandma saw Firuze dancing in the studio alone at night, and it looked beautiful and she was more like the relation of great, still, like the panting sound, and her emotion, I thought that was a little bit too much” (female expert, South Korea). The ending did not seem practical to many experts. “In my experience there were many things that were not realistic in it. That is why it ended up well, and it is a nice story, but it is a fairy tale really. It doesn't cope with reality. For example, parents going to parent-teacher night – you wouldn't find any Turkish people in Germany – no. I am realistic” (male expert, Germany).

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