

Ooglies

Ooglies was produced by BBC Scotland for CBBC. Ooglies is a quick blast stop-frame animated sketch show, presenting intrepid boggle-eyed stars who crash, bang, and wallop themselves around the Ooglies house.

When the humans are away the Ooglies play! It is slapstick comedy at its best as the Ooglies embark on a series of adventures that will find them slip, sliding, and splitting onto the screens. In this episode, lonely sprouts are on the hunt for a friendly veggie chum and when the fruit gang go down to the swimming pool today, they are sure in for a BIG surprise! ... and as the Scramblers rev up for egg-y action, will the see-sawing Grapes avoid an invasion from clumsy Melonhead?

Ooglies was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the 7-11 Fiction category.



Figure 1: A watermelon crushes grapes while they are playing seesaw.



Figure 2: Eggs cut in pieces after having a motorcycle accident.



Figure 3: Fruits are turned into juice by a mixer.

International experts' opinions

There were engaged discussions about the production of the program. Some international experts appreciated the concept of fantasy in the program “I think there is a lot of fantasy put into the making of it. I think everybody puts eyes on everything. It is a good idea” (female expert, Denmark). Many international experts enjoyed the program for its humor. “It made me laugh the most; it was very funny and creative” (female expert, USA). “I think it is hilarious. It is really well made, and it made you want to see what is happening next all the time. It was very well produced” (female expert, Norway). Some found the program comforting. “I liked it so much. I think it is so important from the high quality drama series and ... this is made for children as well. It is well made and it is funny and relaxing” (female expert, Netherlands). “It also seems more surprising than some typical sort of kid slapstick jokes. It did surprise you, which I thought made it funnier” (female expert, USA). Not all were impressed with the use of comedy in the program. “To me it was very, very different: some things I really didn't understand what the point or joke was, and also I had the impression that it sort of wore off over the time” (male expert, Germany).

Almost all the international experts loved the animation in the program. “Good animation: stop motions is always fun to watch. It was really creative, innovative – the things that they can do with a vegetable” (female expert, USA). Some also liked the way fruits and vegetables were used in the program. “They just got a lot of fruit and vegetables and (*Laughter*) and just played it. It was brilliant. It did really well” (male expert, Canada).



Figure 4: Flashlight detects and bundles dancing carrots during a night.



Figure 5: A tomato crushes itself after playing mischievously in a kitchen.



Figure 6: Beans panting after rolling down from a pile of mashed potatoes.

There were discussions about the length of the program. “I think it is a little too long. I think it should be shorter” (female expert, Norway).

The international experts had mixed reviews about the use of violent elements in the program. Some of them did not like it for the kids’ program. “I found some of the violent and nasty elements a bit disturbing. I couldn’t really grasp those. It had the creative idea that I thought to myself: this is a little bit too nasty, and sometimes violent” (female expert, Germany). Some international experts appreciated the sound track of the program which toned down the violence in the program. “I just loved the sound track. I thought the sound effects probably went against all of that. If it was violent, then it was a softer way of the vegetable finding itself munched or something like that. It was a very wonderful sound track” (female expert, New Zealand).



Figure 5: Knives smiles evilly at the helpless sausage.



Figure 7: Banana skin crushed by a jar after playing near a trash bin.

Screenshots from *Ooglies* © BBC

squashed in this horrible way. I also pushed it even further than we went, into the voices, and it was a big consideration on keeping the characters alive – even though they are squished, cut, or sliced. There is pizza slicer that does a bit of damage. You know the blender we saw: we had to have the eyes blinking” (male expert, Scotland).

Some also found the program to be even brutal. “I thought it was a bit of cruelty – how do children feel about it?” (female expert, Japan). They also compared the program with *Tom and Jerry* where cruelty was also used. However they concluded, “That is one thing that is different than Tom and Jerry- the characters in Tom and Jerry get alive again. They are smashed, but they get up again. But here they are in the liquid, mixed, mixed ...” (female expert, Germany).

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