

Puberty: Daniel's Dream

Puberty : Daniel's Dream was produced by Cuban Institute of Art & Cinematography Industry (ICAIC) for ICRT based in Cuba. Puberty is a very difficult period for boys and girls as they experience constant changes in their bodies and personality. How the adolescents and parents experience this stage is the focus of this series.

This episode is about ejaculations teen males have with erotic dreams and how to handle the embarrassing situations they create.

Puberty : Daniel's Dream was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010 finalists in the "7-11 Fiction" category.

International experts' opinions

The international experts were impressed with the theme of the program which is to impart information on sex to children in a healthy and direct way. In most societies talking about sex to children is still a taboo which contributes to all kinds of misinformation and speculation among young people. "It is something that we do not talk about. It was quite all right. It was a very good program" (male expert, Germany). The idea behind the series is to explain sexuality to children at an early age before they find out about it from less reliable sources available on the Internet and start developing misconceptions. The hope is that if they had a better understanding early on, they would be less susceptible to confusion and shock. "The idea behind it gives them a positive feeling before it starts. This is from an educational part really interesting – before they got into it and sometimes the wet dream happened – and they don't know what to do. Let us make it fun in advance. Then it happens and then they can deal with it a little bit better" (female expert, Germany).

The program employed animation to discuss this sensitive topic as this genre is perceived as attractive to children and allows more freedom. "I think it was fantastic. We used animation and are really interested in doing that more around sex education" (male expert, USA). According to the experts, the program was successful in presenting sensitive information to children through animation: "It would be hard to do it any other way" (male expert, USA).

The experts noted that most programs that deal with children's sex-related issues usually focus around girls. This program was special as it dealt with the crisis faced by young boys. "The thing that was greatest about it was that it is very rare to see a show about health and development issues for boys" (male expert, USA). Boys normally could not discuss their personal issues with their parents or with anyone in the family. The program was also unique in showing both parents talking about sex to boys, not only the



Figure 1: Puberty is a program discussing sensitive issues.

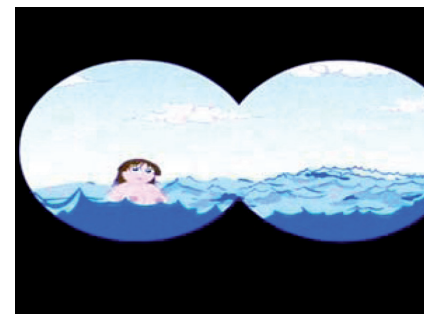


Figure 2: Daniel has a dream of a naked mermaid.

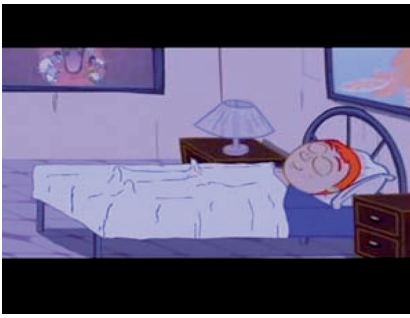


Figure 3: Daniel has an erection while dreaming.

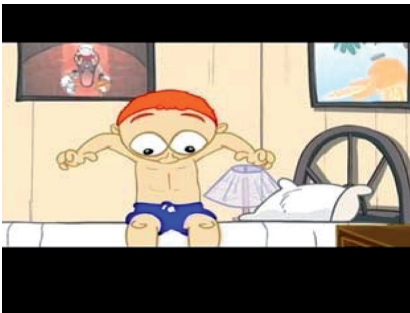


Figure 4: In the morning, Daniel finds semen on his underwear and the bed sheet.

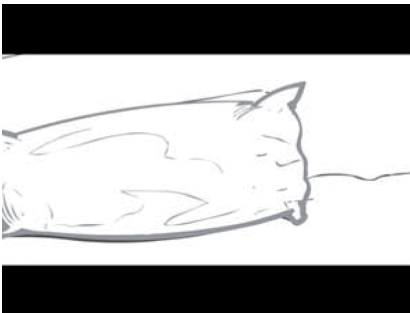


Figure 5: Daniel tries to hide the semen to avoid embarrassment.

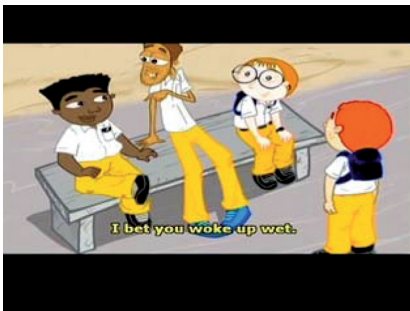


Figure 6: In school, the boys find out they all had ejaculations during the night.

fathers. Indeed, this concept of the program on boys' maturation and sexuality appealed very much to the international experts.

The program also received much appreciation for showing incidents in a very matter of fact and natural manner without too much drama in it. "It is really made in a kid's perspective" (female expert, USA). "It was natural and it was positive. So the kids will look at it in a positive way" (female expert, Philippines). "In America you talked about very clinical things, but not about anything emotional" (female expert, USA).

At the same time the experts also recognized that different countries have different rules and norms regarding the airing of programs that touch upon sensitive issues such as sex to children. Even countries leading the media production for children, like USA, admitted that they did not produce programs dealing with sex for the children. "It is something that we would not be able to show in America" (female expert, USA). Other countries also expressed ambivalent reactions: "I think in British television they might think about it. Maybe it would be for showing within school, but I don't think they could show it on the mainstream TV" (female expert, UK). "I think around ten or eleven it comes up in their curriculum. It would be great, but I know a lot of people would protest that that was being shown to their kids at school. It just wouldn't work, I know, in the States and Jamaica – definitely not" (female expert, Jamaica).

Some experts raised doubt about the target audience. "Is it too early for kids between 7 and 11 to talk about this?" (male expert, Iran). Others also questioned whether this program is best suited in the "fiction" category given that it actually providing relevant factual information about a natural topic such as sex. "You are getting a lot of facts. So I think it is more of an educational program rather than fiction" (female expert, Germany).



Figure 6: The boys share their experiences and knowledge on how to cope with ejaculation.



Figure 7: Back at home, Daniel and his parents are also talking openly about his ejaculation.

Screenshots from *Puberty: Daniel's Dream* © ICALC

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Target Audience 7,8	Idea 7,7	Script 7,2	Realization 7,1
AVERAGE SCORE PER CATEGORY AT PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010			