

Ancient Pillow Children

Ancient Pillow Children was produced by Public Television Service Foundation, Taiwan. Did you know that many 1000-years-old children live inside the National Palace Museum in Taiwan? Ancient Pillow Children brings us to the forbidden corners of the museum to meet these playful kids from the past. A pair of twins from the Song Dynasty tell the secret of why they look the same, but have different colourings. A hundred boys in the garden show us the games they play in different seasons. These collections also reveal the ancients' desire for bearing numerous sons and bringing prosperity into the family. This program strays away from academic speak or deep analysis. "Fun" is the backdrop to educating our young audiences about the beauty, the insights, and the cultural importance of the National Palace Museum.

Ancient Pillow Children was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the 7-11 Non-Fiction category.



Figure 1: The program depicts the stories from ancient times.



Figure 2: An ancient pillow



Figure 3: The story of why people used different shape of pillows.

International experts' opinions

Many of the international experts liked the story of the program but did not like the way it was produced. "It was very interesting. But, the duration and style of animation and the combination with the hosts: I thought it was a little bit uncomfortable with the driven scenes in the introduction. But, the rest of the story is very interesting. The cultural approach is very obvious there. If this issue was in another country, it would have been, of course, very different" (female expert, Turkey). While this expert found the idea to be "very interesting and charming" she thought the presentation was too long and too detailed, more geared to adult-style. However, she also added: "But, in this program, it wasn't like that; so it was a surprise for me" (female

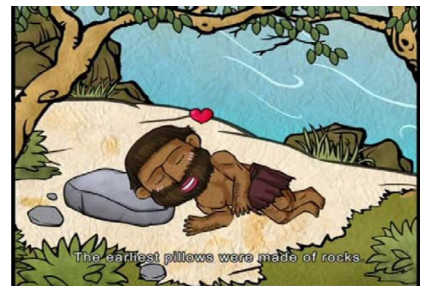


Figure 4: The first pillow was made of rocks.



Figure 5: In ancient China, people started demanding popular pillows.



Figure 6: The story of ancient pillows is demonstrated in the museum.

Screenshots from Ancient Pillow Children © Public Television Service Foundation, Taiwan



Figure 7: There is a story behind every custom and belief.



Figure 8: The kids enjoying themselves after hearing the ancient tales.

expert, Turkey).

Some experts thought that the program was too planned and structured and thus lacked the spontaneity of other children’s documentaries. “What I didn’t like about this program was that it was all set up. It was sort of like scripted, and the whole party situation and the adult with the children in the museum was all set up – it was just paper; you could hear the paper. It didn’t come to life” (male expert, Germany).

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