

Logo! Extra: When the Berlin Wall Came Down

Logo! Extra: When the Berlin Wall Came Down was produced by ZDF, Germany. 20 years after the Berlin Wall came down. The two logo! – cub reporters Kaja (13) and Hendrik (13) try to find out about history: What happened in 1989, when they weren't even born yet? Why was there a Wall and what life in the GDR was like? Hendrik asks different famous people who grew up in the GDR about their experiences: Actress Yvonne Catterfeld, Soccer Player Michael Ballack and the Prime Minister of Brandenburg, Michael Platzeck. Kaja walks through Berlin and tries to find traces of the Wall and the GDR. "logo! – extra" also gives additional information and explanations about that special part of German history.

Logo! Extra: When the Berlin Wall Came Down was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010 finalists in the 7-11 Non-Fiction category.

International experts' opinions



Figure 1: The cub reporters.



Figure 2: They analyzed the destruction of the Berlin Wall.

topics that they were discussing were really more for adults. Having children hosts brought the level down for children that they were casting. It made it more understandable for the target audience" (female expert, Philippines). They cherished the fact that kids

Almost all the international experts loved the program. "It was well done. It is also a subject that is very interesting. I really like that it is about two kids that have two rooms and the Berlin Wall. One was just to ask and be in action, and the other one was to do research. I think it is good for the kids, because they know there is research behind it, and in the museum, you want to find something. I think it is a good idea" (male expert, Poland). There were experts who elaborated: "We also have these kinds of programs of news. We are doing it all the time: like you have children interviewing. I think they did it beautifully. The child was so good, and it was shot in a good way. And of course, like you mentioned, the information that you get is excellent" (female expert, Germany).

Many experts appreciated the role of kids as hosts, which they felt helped to tone down the intensity of the program and make it age-appropriate. "I think having children hosts was appropriate, because actually the



Figure 3: Berlin was divided by a wall into two states: East and West Germany.



Figure 4: Interviewing people who witnessed the breaking of the Wall.

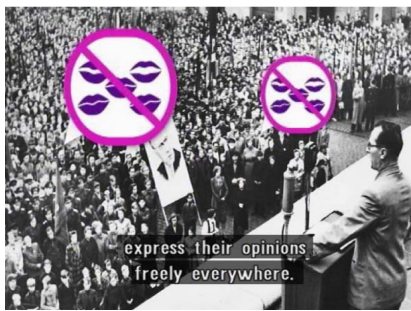


Figure 5: There were a lot of restrictions in East Germany.



Figure 6: West Germany was more liberal.

were interviewing, as they felt there was a bit too much talking. “It is a great topic, of course, also the graphics were very clear and humorous as well. I think there were a little bit too many voices with the kids, and there was a voice over and the adults were commenting, but the kids were interviewing. It was maybe a bit too many voices for me. I would have liked to have had the kids all over the place and speaking over it. Also, the interviews with those people who had the experience was very nicely done” (female expert, Sweden).

They also felt that difficult subjects like the Wall and also about the second world war and the camps were important themes and ideas for this age group. “To me it is important. You were talking about history, and the experience of the human race with war; maybe not necessarily the concentration camps, but in general, it is talking about the effects of war on the human race. It is very important for children to understand. It is just a matter of how to lower down the level of discussion for children. But, I guess the topic is important” (female expert, Philippines). They believed that the topic was important to discuss at an international level. “I think that that particular program internationally would be very beneficial, because there were certain facts, and you were taught about this in school: all sorts of world events in school, maybe in small amounts. But, other facts that were mentioned were very interesting. The way that it was done: the children seemed very comfortable talking about this particular event. I just thought it was very interesting how it was done. The effect: how different people had different perspectives of what was happening at the time growing up and how it affected them. It was engaging, interesting: all the little animated pieces in between helped to make and illustrate certain points. I thought it was effective” (female expert, Jamaica).

However, many international experts felt that the kids were scripted. “I had that sensation as well. I was also wondering if it wasn’t just too much text. It was kind of long, maybe, for that age” (female expert, Brazil). They were also questioning whether the program was appropriate for children. “Berlin Wall – I really think it is more adult program with a grown-up script” (male expert, Norway). “You can feel that it is scripted – the girl is not really searching” (female expert, Netherlands).

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Figure 7: Eventually the wall was broken.



Figure 8: People celebrated the event.