

# My Dream

*My Dream* was produced by Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and was aired in the framework of “Kids Prime”, a half hour program that features different segments. The main segment is a short feature on talented children. *My Dream* tells the story of Miriam from Tanzania who is 12 years old and loves singing. Miriam is partially blind but manages to beat the odds and live her dream. She gave her first concert in front of the local congregation before her 3rd birthday and has already recorded some albums. With her father writing songs especially for her, Miriam makes use of her singing-talent to pass on her joie de vivre to her family, friends and local community.

*My Dream* was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010 finalists in the 7-11 Non-Fiction category.

## International experts’ opinions



Figure 1: Miriam, the main character of the program.

The international experts loved the character of the girl in the program. “There was something so captivating about that girl. She had such a little spark of life! I just loved it so much. Even though at the end – I don’t know if it is a problem with the tape, or if it was with the show that just ended – it was kind of abrupt, which took you out of it a little bit. It was such a nice portrait. I was just so captivated by her and her love for singing” (female expert, USA). “I really liked the story of this girl. I was thinking that the script was very well planned” (female expert, Sweden).

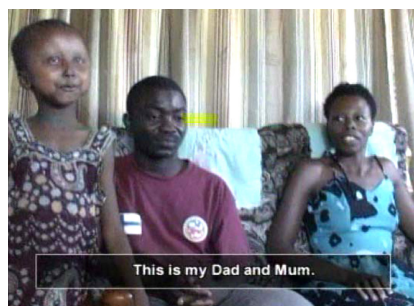


Figure 2: Miriam and her parents.

The experts also appreciated her love for family and friends. “She says good-bye to her brother- but then her friends were happy for her coming to the school. There was a lot of love in there” (male expert, Qatar). However, some were not convinced about the way the character of the girl was portrayed. “I am just not quite sure of having those shots of the girl. I just felt a bit iffy – not comfortable seeing her face. I am not saying anything about the eyes; it is just that I don’t know about what the effect of it is on the children watching.

I think that is another form of diversity, and I think children should be confronted with it. The more they see that as a beautiful thing, and then they will accept a blind child in their own school. But, she obviously didn’t go to school with all the other kids; she had to go to a boarding school. She shouldn’t have to do that” (female expert, Philippines).

Many international experts however were not convinced about the dream of the girl and thought that the so-called dreams were



Figure 3: She has been singing since the age of 6.



Figure 4: She has firm belief in the Church.



Figure 5: Her experiences when she first sang.



Figure 6: She liked singing in Church.

imposed upon her by her father. “I have a pretty strange feeling concerning this program. I thought that something is wrong, in a way. I am not sure why. I was not sure whether it is really her dream and not her father’s dream – writing songs for her, and more or less, forcing her to record them. When she said that she was afraid of the headphones, there were no more explanations about why she was afraid. I thought it was kind of weird, because for me it is not her dream; it is her parents’ dream. She seemed to me to be more or less instrumentalized by her family and by her church” (female expert, Germany). Some were also confused as they could not comprehend her real dream. “I wondered: what was the dream – singing for God, or being a lawyer?” (male expert, Chile). “Yes, I was missing the challenge. I didn’t know, because she was singing already, so what really was her dream?” (male expert, Germany).

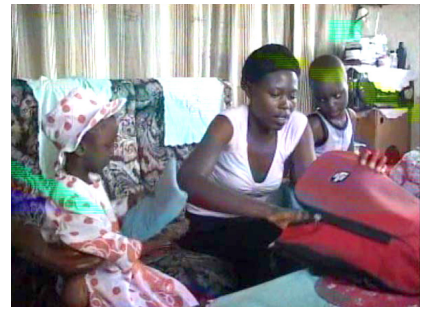


Figure 7: She was preparing to leave for boarding school.



Figure 8: Welcomed by her friends in the boarding school.

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