

Nine-and-a-half: Blind

Nine-and-a-half: Blind was produced by “tvision GmbH” based in Germany. Children have the right to get understandable information. A difficult challenge, if you keep in mind that many broadcasted news are not even understandable for educated adults. **Nine-and-a-half**, a news magazine for children, meets the challenge to explain every week a topic, which is understandable for everyone. The entertaining elements – which stretch from sound effects to disguising politicians with masks – have an explaining function and want to enhance the attention of the viewers. The story that is shortlisted for this category deals with a girl Larissa. Larissa is 13 and blind by birth. Malin accompanies her for a day and experiences how Larissa lives. How she is reading, writing or watching TV without seeing anything; where she is going to school and how she copes with the life there. Furthermore, Larissa takes Malin along to a rehearsal of her band Fidibus. In this episode, the viewer find out when the Braille was invented and by whom.

Nine-and-a-half: Blind was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2010 finalists in the 7–11 non-fiction category.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS’ OPINIONS

The international experts had mixed reviews of the program. Some experts pointed out few shortcomings in the way the program was produced. “I think it was too much voice-over. She was never talking. It was just this voice-over all the time” (female expert, Sweden). Few also did not like the script of the program. “It seemed a little old fashioned. Effective, simple, to the point, but not a winner. This film is more like an item in the news, not done as a film” (male expert, UK).

There were few experts who thought that the program was interesting and appropriate for the age group. “Yes; it was interesting. I think so. It educated. I didn’t know – for me it was new” (female expert, Israel). They liked the host of the program compared with the hosts of the other programs in the same category. “I thought that the host was not as the host in the South African movie being irritating by always saying ‘Super,’ agreeing or disagreeing. I thought the one in Nine-and-a-Half was a little more just explaining; so I liked that approach more” (female expert, USA). There were suggestions for the host of the program to be closer in age to the protagonist’s age, rather than in the mid-twenties. “I think it is interesting to note from the Danish program: there was a host that was young and very articulated. Once you see that, you realise how kind of out of place these 18-25-year-old hosts are. If they could find people that were closer to the age, it would be so much more compelling



Figure 1: Host and the protagonist, Larissa.



Figure 2: She studies in a school for blind.



Figure 3: She is using her fingers to read.

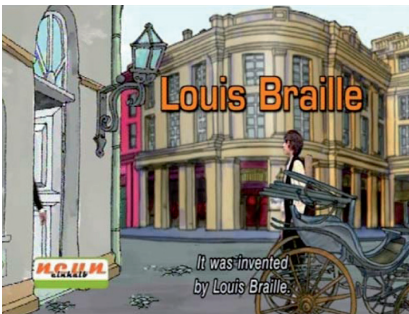


Figure 4: Louis Braille invented the reading/writing system for the blind.



Figure 5: The system was invented in France.



Figure 6: Larissa uses a special typewriter to write.

than having these mid-twenties” (female expert, USA).

Some international experts compared the program with another program. My Dream that also dealt with the story of a blind girl. “Both are very interesting to me. Both have taken their feeling and bond with the subjects in the way that they presented it. Both of the characters are young blind girls. I think that is really appealing for me, to watch the different way that they have been treated” (male expert, Pakistan).

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Figure 7: The blind students have a band called Fidibus.



Figure 8: They frequently perform on stage.