

# Summer Night Adventures

*Summer Night Adventures* was produced by Hakka TV Station, Taipei, Taiwan. The program is about conquering one's fear. Under the guidance of an animal expert, an 11-year-old boy sets foot into the forest for the very first time in search of cute frogs and venomous snakes. Not only does he have the adventure of his life, he also gets a chance to confront his fear of snakes. Will he be able to conquer that obstacle? What other interesting creatures does he meet? A children's expedition is about to take place as the night falls.

*Summer Night Adventures* was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the 7-11 Non-Fiction category.

## International experts' opinions



Figure 1: An eleven year old boy who has gone out to conquer his fears.

Many international experts admired the character of the boy. "This boy is so good. He has such a good personality, and he is also so passionate about the frogs and the snakes. I think that is a reason why it was also successful" (female expert, Sweden). They admired his courage as he was in the middle of the forest following his passion. "You could identify with him, if you are afraid of snakes. Every time he fought and then he kept overcoming in the process. It was very well expressed. He was very cute all the time" (female expert, Slovenia).

They admired his passion and dedication to pursue his dreams. "His interest was really genuine as well. He wanted really to learn this. No one had told him: you have to learn this. He wanted it from his heart. You could feel and see that" (female expert, Sweden). Many experts also appreciated that the program dealt with a child facing his fears: "It was great when the child faced the fear of the snake – the first time. It was a good point of facing your fears" (female expert, Macedonia). "It was very natural. It is not easy to work with a child who is in that kind of story. I think it was just very natural" (female expert, Malaysia).

Many international experts appreciated the script of the program as it was presented from the perspective of a child. "It is not like a documentary where you see the sea and different animals – and an animation would pop out explaining things. It is not like the Discovery Channel. It is more a child discovering things, touching things. It is not species, and this animal belongs to this, and the kingdom of that; it



Figure 2: He loves taking pictures of frogs in the forest.

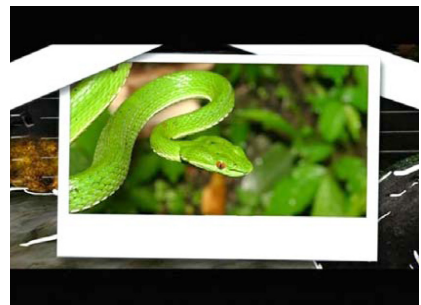


Figure 3: He also took pictures of snakes.



Figure 4: His mentor.



Figure 5: He went out in the night with his mentor to click photographs.



Figure 6: He learnt the art of photographing animals.

is just knowing what the animal is, where to find it, how to find it, how to take a beautiful picture of it” (male expert, Qatar). Some admired the technology used in the program. “I think to give the camera to the child was also a very good idea, because then we could look at these animals closely, because they were moving quite quickly” (female expert, Sweden). Some also commented positively on the special complexities involved in the production of the program. “The filming, and also the stills, you had both – he was taking the pictures: it was beautifully made. There were such difficult things – the shooting in the night, and they were getting all these beautiful pictures. I was just stunned” (female expert, Norway).

There were, however, few questions raised about the narrative as the experts would have preferred the child to narrate other than the adult. “I would make this kind of program by his own narration – or interviewer only – because there was narration from an adult. That was kind of a pity for me, because I was so into him when I was watching that program. Then, all of a sudden, an adult narrator. That was a kind of a pity for me, but other than that I really enjoyed this program” (male expert, Japan).

Many experts had some suggestions to offer. “I liked the boy but I had a strange feeling watching it, because I thought it is a bit fake. They said they drove into the jungle and then I saw this studio setting – there was a green wall, which was artificial. Sometimes I thought that they are not telling me something. I also think that it was too long. I think one part, the frogs or the snakes, would have been enough” (female expert, Germany).



Figure 7: He was happy to conquer his fears.



Figure 8: His parents supported him in his endeavors.

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