Volt

Volt was produced by STV based in Denmark. Loaded with facts and experiments that you can even try at home, Volt presents science in a fascinating way to children. Through experimenting, the children learn that science is not only useful but also great fun. This episode is about phosphorus: Presenter Simon Bressendorff demonstrates how a match stick works and how kids at home can make their fingers smoke and even glow in the dark.

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

International experts' opinions

Figure 1: **Many experts liked the host of the program.**

Figure 2: **He demonstrated scientific experiements.**

Many international experts really liked the host of the program. "He is a fantastic presenter. He's quite riveting; it is like always messing around – a film about guys messing around, trying things that don't quite work or shouldn't work" (female expert, Ireland). "I think there is a demand for those kinds of programs for the boys. I want to give credit to the presenter, because it is easy to find somebody – an old man with a skateboard – but I think he solves his task very well" (male expert, Norway). They loved the playful nature of the host. "I thought he was fantastic – a really great presenter, really cool. I actually really liked the fact that the experiment didn't work, because that is the whole thing about science – isn't it? It changes, it evolves, sometimes things work, sometimes they don't. I thought it was great – really, really good" (female expert, UK).

Figure 3: **The program combined science and humor.**

They appreciated the combination of science and humor to educate young kids. "We have a hard time reaching boys in our channel, especially the oldest boys. I think this was a great example of how we can put some learning and education into a very funny format. I think it would appeal to the boys that we don't reach. I know it is kind of brave and maybe not everyone could air it, but I think it would be a great success for us if we have that form" (female expert, Norway). "And at the same time it is artistic – we have the mixture between arts and science" (female expert, Argentina).

Figure 6: **Another experiment was not so successful initially.**

Figure 4: **He used his own pee to experiment**

Figure 5: **Some of the experiments worked**

The experts also commented on the way experiments were shown in the program. "I thought it was fantastic. I agree that the experiment potentially might be difficult to show on BBC, but I think there is a real issue with actually reaching teenagers and also the 8, 9, 10 older kinds of kids with science. There is a real problem in the UK that kids have switched off from science" (female expert, UK). There were few reservations about the failure of the experiments, but also expressions of mixed feelings. "I liked the fact that the first one didn't work out, but I thought just showing kids how to blow something up and injure themselves is a bit irresponsible. I liked the idea of the big performance" (female expert, Canada). "The experiment thing that didn't work – the thing about glowing in the dark, but I think that was intended not to work, because the whole point was that it is not pure phosphorous. So, it was intended not to work, because it was making a point about chemistry" (male expert, USA).

Figure 7: **He tried again**

Figure 8: **Finally he was successful.**

Screenshots from *Volt* © STV

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