

Abi: Clean your plate

Abi: Clean your plate was produced by KRO Youth, Netherlands. Abi is a 7 year old girl who lives with her parents, who come originally from Suriname, in an apartment in South-East Amsterdam. Abi's adventures teach her things about her neighbours, their culture, lifestyle and customs. In this episode Abbi is visiting an Ethiopian friend and his family for dinner. When the family starts praying, Abi cleans her plate.

Abi: Clean your plate was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the "up to 6 fiction" category.

International experts' opinions



Figure 1: Abi lives in a multicultural building with friends coming from different cultural backgrounds.



Figure 2: Abi decides to go to her friend's family to see how they pray.

The international experts had mixed opinions about the program. Some really liked the program and loved the character of Abi, the protagonist. "She was adorable. Abi was just one of these – I just really loved her, because she had a real sense of happiness about her. It was really nice to see all these gatherings – that every episode was about a different family that lived in her house that were having this experience with her. I just thought that she was really joyous. It was nice to see a really happy kid – besides all the other lovely stuff that went on" (female expert, Australia). "She was a very good actress" (female expert, Colombia).

Some also liked the story of the program. "I liked the idea of the series – that this is a girl who lives in this big apartment block. There are people with all different kinds of backgrounds. There always is that kind of some misinterpretation and then learning later what is right" (male expert, USA). There were other observations as well: "I found that the treatment of kids is very different from Japan, because: Ok, she made a mistake, maybe giving food to the cat. But nobody scolded her for that. But in Japan, maybe the girl would have had to explain what she did exactly and find out what was right and wrong before she enjoys a meal with the family" (female expert, Japan).



Figure 3: Her friend's family treat her with a feast, an Injera, and ask her to eat them all.



Figure 4: Abi eats happily on her own while the family members are praying inside.

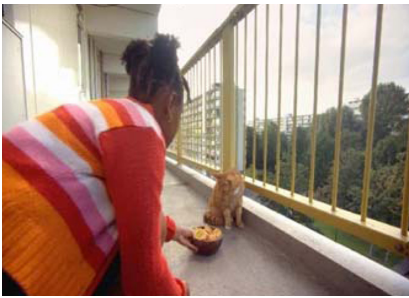


Figure 5: She gives a cat the leftovers of the Injera.



Figure 6: Abi's friend is surprised to find she really ate up the food, which was supposed to serve the entire family.

However, some experts were not happy with the story. "I think the story was too constructed. It didn't do anything for me, and I think it won't do anything for children, because it is so constructed" (female expert, Denmark). "It is a bit constructed. I found it just very Dutch when I saw it" (male expert, Germany). A male expert from USA tried to explain this. "I had the advantage of having seen several episodes from the series. I think the idea is great. I don't think this is the best episode. I think it is funny at times, but not that strong."



Figure 7: To make up for her fault, they make a new sort of Injera to serve the family.



Figure 8: The family is surprised at the new Injera at first but they decide to enjoy it!

screenshots from Abi: Clean your plate © KRO Youth

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