

Achu

Achu was produced by Solo Por las Niñas audiovisual for Televisión Nacional de Chile. A group of children discover a magical tree. With a sneeze, the tree opens and exposes the secret house of Domingo Happiness and Eusebio Grace, two musical explorers who show a world with a lot of songs, animated stories and many adventures. And what is the “Music-Exploring”? Find out in “Achu, music-exploring with Happiness and Grace”.

Achu was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the “up to 6 fiction” category.

International experts’ opinions

Achu, a musical exploration, is about two characters who introduce two musical videos. The program had a mix of live action and animation. The program was further sub-divided under the theme of “learning through fiction”. The idea behind the program is specific learning about music, poetry, dinosaurs, literacy, nature, opposites, and other things.

The power of good quality music is displayed in the program and this musical exploration highly appreciated by the experts. “It was like the kind of music that you almost never ever hear in children’s television all together. It was not condescending. It was real music” (male expert, USA).

The producers of the program conveyed their commitment to quality music and were successful in showcasing their love for it. “I really liked that the producers obviously love and honour music so much that they would give it that level. It is really good” (female expert, USA). They enjoyed the fact that the two musicians in the program presented an authentic portrayal of a well-known group.

However, the acting of the two children did not seem authentic. Many experts raised this point and asked “whether the kids were prompted to do their moves, or whether they were just actually responding to what it is they felt” (male expert, USA). The children seemed to display a lack of effort and not to try hard enough. “I think they were funny, but it would have worked to see them actually go a little bit further” (male expert, Canada). Some experts felt that the kids were “superfluous. The music itself could get kids viewing and to react” (male expert, USA). The kids did not have much of a role to play in the program and were “not authentic”

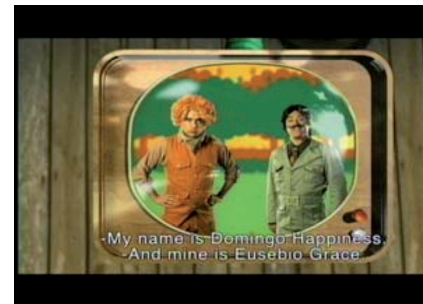


Figure 1: Happiness and Grace present Music Adventures.



Figure 2: A boy-worm and his girlfriend live in an apple house.

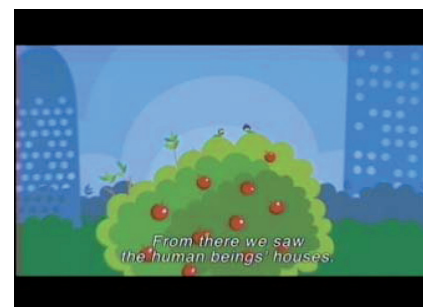


Figure 3: One day, the two worms climb a tree and saw human homes.

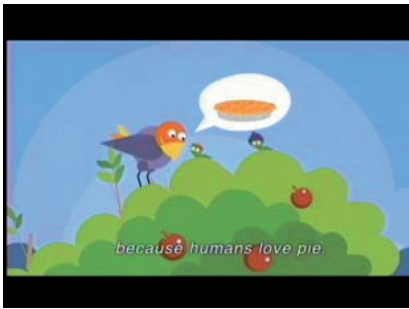


Figure 4: A bird warns them that human beings may turn their apple house into apple pie.

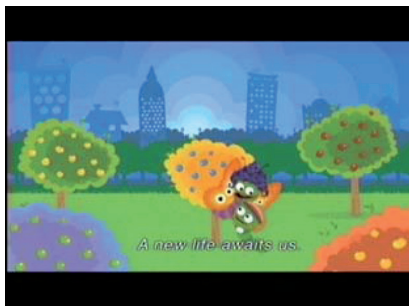


Figure 5: The two worms are not afraid of humans.



Figure 6: The other story is about friendship between a bird and a fish.

(female expert, USA). There was emphasis on the physical aspects of the kids rather than their acting or involvement. Many international experts believed that the educational goal of any kids show is to get kids active and so they were disappointed by that aspect of the program.

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Figure 7: The fish saves the bird from the waterweeds.



Figure 8: The bird and the fish watch the sunset together.

