

ENE MENE BU (*And It's Up To You*)

ENE MENE BU (KiKA, Germany) is a short, non-fiction program that invites children to create art, send it in, and exposes children to new creative techniques to enhance their own artistic process.

In this episode, a young girl named Hannah draws a life-size version of herself on big paper (cf. screenshot 1), while checking the mirror to ensure she's accurately reflecting her image (cf. screenshot 2). A group of children work together to build a wood house using saws, nails, hammers (cf. screenshot 3), and even a stick for the chimney (cf. screenshot 4). Young viewers are brought through a gallery of 3D viewer-submitted artistic versions of elephants with voice-over of child commentators on the materials, colours, and techniques used (cf. screenshot 5). A boy named Hannes utilizes animals and machinery on the farm to create unique stamps for his mud painting (cf. screenshot 6, 7), and at the zoo, two boys check out their favourite creature; a lion. The boys focus on the lion's physical characteristics and how to make a 3D rendering of it (cf. screenshot 8). As the show wraps up, children are encouraged to send in their own 3D paper lions to be shown on future episodes.

ENE MENE BU (And It's Up To You) was the recipient of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL award in the Up to 6 Non-Fiction category.

International experts' opinions

International experts shared their opinions about *ENE MENE BU* during the discussion sessions at the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2012. Many enjoyed watching the program as it was presented by children, with a lack of any adult host, which went against the norms many international experts – most notably those from the UK, US, and Canada – were used to.

“In the UK, we would've done that in a way, which is, 'Here's how you can do it. You take your bottle. And then you do this to your bottle. And then you do that to your bottle.' And then you can kind of be creative within those confines.” (male expert, UK)

The humour and pacing in the show enhanced the experts' positive opinion of the show.

“I mean, it was so joyful to see that little boy, as you said, on the tractor, and the horse and the dog and bringing that kind of element of comedy into it as well.” (female expert, Australia)

While the program was well received, some international experts pointed out that the use of saws by preschoolers might not be seen with such enthusiasm in their own countries. Other experts pointed out that the artistic viewer submissions are restricted to just an elephant that children can colour in, which could be seen as limiting.

“Every time you have an animal which you have printed out of your computer, and it's always the same.” (female expert, Germany)



Ill. 1: Hannah enlists the help of a friend to trace a life-sized version of herself



Ill. 2: Hannah makes sure her cutout nose is true to size



Ill. 3: A group of children use saws to make a wooden house



Ill. 4: One child proposes using a long twig as a chimney for the house



Ill. 5: Hannes uses his quad bike wheel as a stamp for a mud painting



Ill. 6: Hannes tries to get the horse to provide a horse hoof stamp for his paper



Ill. 7: Children's elephants are showcased in a 3D gallery



Ill. 8: Characteristics of a lion are observed to create a paper pop-up version

A word that came up across discussions in reference to *ENE MENE BU* was 'empowering':

"It was the creativity in it, but it was the way they were kind of empowering children with the creativity. And there were no adults in it at all. I just loved it." (female expert, UK)

"[Children] can get dirty, they can mess up, but this is just for them to have fun." (female expert, Kenya)

Experts enjoyed that the show itself as well as the activities conducted on-camera were novel in nature.

"I thought this was a massive jump forward in anything I've seen on how you present art to preschoolers. I thought it was stunning." (male expert, UK)

"[It felt like] a children's piece, because the little boy was doing the mud painting. It wasn't fast cut, he was doing it again and he got it over – you know the tractor going over and the horse going over. It was just – it felt like a children's piece." (female expert, UK)

Kristen McGregor (Teachers College, Columbia University, USA)

Screenshots from *ENE MENE BU* © KiKA, Germany

Target Audience 8.21	Idea 7.47	Script 7.35	Realization 7.91
Average Score per Category by experts' voters at PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2012			

Winner of PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2012