

What's your News?

What's Your News? was produced by TT Animation for Nick Jr based in England. **What's Your News?** is a show for children where the news is their news. Hosted by Grant the Ant and Antony the Anteater (who thinks he's an ant), featuring ant reporters talking to children about their news! WYN helps children make the home-to-world transition feeling connected and respected. The series celebrates a child's experience of just being a child while introducing children to the vocabulary and style in the new format. Today's news is that Millie Mazzone is going to play the piano with both hands! The news anchors, Grant and Antony, despatch Gi Ant, the "**What's Your News?**" roving correspond-Ant, to the scene.

What's Your News? was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the "up to 6 non-fiction" category.



Figure 1: Antony presented What's Your News.



Figure 2: Grant joined in to present the program.



Figure 3: They first reported a boy who could make two rolls at a time.

International experts' opinions

Almost all international experts had positive things to say about the program. "I thought it was fabulous. It was really good" (female expert, USA). "I just loved that program. The three characters: the two on the set, and the reporter; it is fantastic. I loved the show" (female expert, Columbia). "I also really enjoyed it. I liked the concept, and I like the way it was presented" (female expert, Israel).

The whole concept of the production of news and presented by kids really impressed international experts. News which is an important aspect of television is commonly considered an adults' program, however this program allowed kids to venture into this territory and gave them an opportunity to explore the world of news. "Children are always watching news - so they know that the news is so important to their parents, but they don't know what is going on there. That is why they wanted to have a little adult context, but then putting children in focus there" (female expert, Germany).

The program involved a lot of participation and interaction by kids as it allowed them to experience the process of news making. "I just loved kids delivering their little pieces of news. It was very real" (female expert, USA). "They make the little things big. They really take children serious. I liked it. I think it was quite a nice kind of humour. It was entertaining for small kids" (female expert, Canada). "The interactivity in their work was so great for me. They are giving some time for the children to talk about what had happened maybe during the day, and what is important for them - for example, playing piano with two hands and things like that" (female expert, Iran).

TELEVISION Up to 6 Non-Fiction



Figure 4: They got a call from Millie who could play piano with both hands.



Figure 5: Gi ant was sent to record Millie's piano-playing.



Figure 6: Millie made a mistake and refused to play again.



Figure 7: Experts gave suggestions on how to deal with mistakes.

The program was about kids making and telling their own news which really fascinated international experts. "I loved those elements at the end where you just have the children, and they are telling their news. For me, that is the beauty of the show: it is the children's news" (female expert, Wales). The female expert from UK who was also one of the producers of the program explained, "That was their news. We didn't change the news. We were really sticking with the news that children told us. What we would do with the main story is that sometimes we would add a problem. That was the other idea: babies can be experts. The whole idea that it doesn't have to be somebody that necessarily speaks."

An additional aspect that really impressed international experts was that the whole program was made from the perspective of kid, not only specific news items. "It would empower the children in our country, especially, and will make them realize that they are a part of the society and that they are given the time - I think it would work in our country" (male expert, Pakistan). "It is their viewpoint. I think this is connected to the real news. It is a good message, because very often children get lost in this news world. That is something that I really liked" (male expert, Italy).

They specifically related to the fact that the program focussed on kids' experiences and they were the real protagonists of the program. "It is absolutely beautiful and clean, entertaining, educational; I thought that the child is in the centre, and really they are the heroes of the stories in each news item" (female expert, Colombia). "I also really liked the segments toward the end, particularly when you had the animated character engaging with the live action kid when he did the roly-poly summersaults. It was very simple, very elegant, and beautifully produced. I thought it was very funny" (male expert, UK).

The program allowed kids to make mistakes and recover from them which was greatly appreciated by the international experts. "I think it would really work in Pakistan, because the way they present the news, the way they present the children, and they are encouraging that if you made a mistake it doesn't matter: try again" (male expert, Pakistan). "It really has got some very nice messages about making mistakes - that all link together. I thought it was really nice. I thought it was nice that it kind of treated what kids are interested in as the most important events of the day" (male expert, UK).

However there is another aspect of the program which was taken up by few of the international experts. They felt that the program was more inclined towards adults than children because of its content. "There was an underlying kind of humour that was really for adults



Figure 8: Millie tried again and played the piano with both hands.

and not for children, with the whole concept of ‘breaking news’. There are all kinds of humour elements there that are more geared towards adults” (female expert, Israel).

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