

Kidsko doku

There are many documentaries made ABOUT children, few though made BY children...

--- Concept draft---

Children living in an institution, or in the streets, get enabled to produce a short documentary about their life/about what they care. While we call it a documentary because it documents the world of the kids, the actual artistic formats that appear in the piece may vary widely. In the production process, each child takes on many roles, such as writer, director, camera wo*man, actor, etc. thus learning many different skills, starting from media-related ones over the social ones to the ability to conceptualize, plan and realize a project. They are taken seriously and taking on responsibility for a part of the project, a reassuring experience. But most importantly, they are given a voice and the power of authorship. There are many documentaries about the lives of children, living in all kinds of conditions, however, to us it is crucial, that the children are depicting and not depicted, that their position is one of being able to show something to us and not only to be shown themselves by others. In that way the children can empower themselves to be authors, not only of a scene, but hopefully also increasingly of their own lives.

Each scene is produced and directed by a small team consisting of 1 to 4 children. If there is a great variety of ages, the groups should preferably be mixed-age.

It is essential, that the process is taken as more important than the product. Easy-to-use technical equipment should be given preference, as it becomes a tool of creative expression more swiftly.

The following action-plan is tailored to the setting of a children-home, where the children all live in the same place, go to school in the morning and have time in the afternoon. For other settings, especially to work with children in the street or in open care-institutions, steps will probably have to be strongly modified. Also more time to win the confidence of the kids and more flexibility for plan-changes due to the impulses given by the children, will probably be necessary. However, also in a more structured setting, like the one given here, I think it to be essential to be sensitive to the dynamics, that develop in and between the children and not to mute them by sticking to strictly to given road-maps. How much Input is needed in the scene-groups, can vary strongly from group to group.

Each film-team-conference starts with a ritual (song, game, ...) and a warming up (theater style).

Each scene-group maintains a scene-book, where the progress made and the tasks to do and sketches, notes, etc. are put down. At the end of each scene-group-meeting, tasks are formulated **by the children**.

In the daily meetings they tell if they completed the tasks and need a new meeting, or if they need more time, or help.

Some papier mâché - cams may come in handy at different points.

--- Modules ---

Takes place...		Approx. Time per session
With all children		
1x	Orientation - what will we do, presentation of the project, invitation to the children, presentation of different formats such as interview, home-story, performance, dialogue, show and tell-documentary.	120min
1x	Decisions. - Everybody chooses a format. Groups are made. Group-names are chosen. Group-notebook given.	60min
daily	Daily Film-Team-Conference, in the beginning of the afternoon, in which the teams give updates about their work to the others and ask for help if needed. Then it gets decided which teams will work this day.	20-60min
In medium sized groups		
As many as formats	Formats. Info blocks with all children that decided for the respective format. Mayor characteristics and stylistic means are shown.	45min
1x per group of five to ten	Camera – technical and technique	60min
In small groups		
repeated	Development of the scene What should be shown? Who will take which functions? Development of a narrative. How can we realize it? What will be needed? Creative solutions for missing equipment What kind of text and or rehearsals do we need? Are helpers from other groups needed?	15-30min tasks are defined at the end of each meeting.
1-2	Development of a rough screenplay	30min
1-2	Shooting	30-60min
1	Raw-cut, editorial decisions, sound decisions	20-60min
Maybe with a group of interested, older children		
As needed	Cutting, composition of the scenes and mastering	As needed

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--- Requirements ---

technical requirements:

minimal

- a device capable of recording moving pictures
- a computer with cutting-software (free software available for different platforms)

better

- such a device plus a attachable microphone...
- ...or plus an additional audio-recording device.

...plus whatever equipment available, although it is to be considered, that additional equipment requires additional know-how and can complicate, distract and slow down the creative process.

Feedback critique and suggestions welcome!



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