



FROM THE
NATIONAL FILM BOARD
OF CANADA

Live TV

TV loses
to reality
in this
live-action
comedy about
children
and media.



Live
TV



VHS



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Live TV



How TV Affects Us

TV is a big part of our lives. It can entertain, enlighten and educate us. It can also misinform, create stereotypes and distract us from other activities.

As parents, educators and citizens we have become increasingly concerned about the effects of media violence on children. Thirty years of scientific research have shown that television violence makes children:

- ◆ think that the world is a scary and dangerous place;
- ◆ think that violence is a normal part of life;
- ◆ think that violence is a good solution to all kinds of problems;
- ◆ less sympathetic to victims of violence;
- ◆ more interested in violence, both as a form of entertainment and as a real-life experience.

Becoming Media Wise is Part of the Solution

Researchers also tell us that developing media literacy skills reduces tv's impact on kids. The more kids think and talk about tv, the less influence it has on them.

Live TV is designed to be funny, entertaining and thought-provoking. The process of working with it should be fun too. Our objective is not to get kids to turn off the tv, but simply to remember who is smarter.

Thinking More About Live TV

TV's slogans and sayings

- ◆ In **Live TV**, TV uses slogans and sayings from all kinds of programs and movies. How many can you identify?
- ◆ What slogans and sayings from tv, movies and advertising are floating around in your brain? Draw a picture of your brain full of media slogans. Draw a second picture of your brain full of the slogans and sayings put there by real people, like your parents, teachers, coaches and friends.

MEDIA SLOGANS

REAL-LIFE SLOGANS

"You deserve a break today."

"The truth is out there."

"Hasta la vista, baby."

"Just do it."

"Make my day."

"Keep your eye on the ball."

"I before E except after C."

"Look both ways before you cross."

"Clean your room."



TV's world is all made up

- ◆ Cue the video up to the scene with a western feel. Can you identify the sounds and visuals that help create the Old West theme? What about the scene in which the kids are sneaking into the school? Can you identify the sounds and visuals that help create the feeling of suspense?
- ◆ Think of something you could add to:
 - Jamie's costume to show that he likes to watch a lot of tv;
 - Devon's costume to show that he's a funny guy;
 - Suzanna's costume to show that she's an animal lover.

What's OK in tv's world isn't necessarily OK in our world

Solving problems with violence is one of the most powerful themes communicated by television and movies. We can encourage kids to consider how violence on tv, in videos and at the movies makes them feel, and how it shapes their ideas about the real world.

- ◆ Talk about the scene in which Dev and Jamie fight. Do kids like it? Do they think it is realistic? Ask them why the boys fight. Is there one reason or are there several?
- ◆ Watch the fight scene a second time. After the scene, ask kids if they thought TV was trying to encourage the boys to fight. Why? Would real kids act that way?
- ◆ Get kids thinking about a different, less aggressive solution to Jamie and Dev's conflict, one where they don't fight. How might their new solution change the story?

CAST
in order of appearance

JAMIE
Myles Ferguson

SUZANNA
Crystal Crete

DEV
Chad Dormer

TV
Shawn Macdonald

NILA
Jane McGregor

SCHOOL CUSTODIAN
Christine Lipka

AQUARIUM NATURALIST
Ellie Harvie

DIRECTED BY
Annie O'Donoghue

WRITTEN BY
Jill Golick

CINEMATOGRAPHER
Danny Nowak C.S.C.

EDITOR
Alison Grace

ART DIRECTOR
David Roberts

COSTUME DESIGNER
Nancy Bryant

LOCATION SOUND RECORDIST
David Husby

COMPOSER
George Bondheim

SOUND DESIGNER
Gael MacLean

MEDIA CONSULTANT
Arlene Moscovitch

LINE PRODUCER
Scott Weber

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Kathryn Lynch

UNIT ADMINISTRATOR
Bruce Hagerman

PRODUCERS
JoAnn Harrison
George Johnson

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Svend-Erik Eriksen

-
- ◆ Compare: What would happen if Jamie and Dev had had that fight in your house? In your school hallway? How is it different on tv?
 - ◆ In **Live TV**, TV has a big influence on the boys. It tells them to fight and they do. If your television came to life and told you to fight, do you think you would?
 - ◆ Are there messages in **Live TV**? Think about what Jamie learns during the film. Does TV learn anything? How about Suzanna?
 - ◆ Many grown-ups believe that watching violent programs on tv has an effect on children. Ask kids if they agree. How has it affected them? Have they seen it affect other kids in other ways?

Can tv and movies make us think that some people are more important than others?

- ◆ Does television treat all people equally?
- ◆ What kind of roles do thin people get? What about fat people?
- ◆ What kinds of roles do young boys play? What about young girls? Who has more fun on tv and in movies: boys or girls?
- ◆ Do you see the same numbers of people with red, black, brown and blond hair? What about bald people?

“You gotta do something about that attitude toward girls.”

- ◆ Why does Nila say that to TV? Find examples in the film of TV's attitude toward girls. Does television have a different attitude toward girls than it does toward boys?
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Hero Watch

- ◆ Ask kids to make two lists:
 - Heroes they watch
 - Heroes they knowthen compare their characteristics. How are they the same? How are they different?
- ◆ Talk about what makes a hero cool. How many of their tv and movie heroes use violence to solve problems? When a tv hero uses violence, does that make violence cool? Why? Why not?



Turtles

- ◆ Ask kids to consider:
 - What would they do if they found out that an animal that belongs to their school was dying because of the conditions at school? Think of three solutions. Draw a picture of each one and the consequences of carrying it out.

Telling Your own stories

- ◆ Make a storyboard (with five or more pictures) telling what would happen if a television came to life in your house.

Working With Live TV

Live TV was produced to provoke kids to question and challenge what they see on the screen. Once children begin to form opinions about what they watch, they can begin to think about the differences between real life and tv's world, and to compare how problems are solved on tv and how they might solve them in real life.



Ask some Questions to Get Kids Talking

- ◆ What do you think about **Live TV**?
 - ◆ What part did you like best?
 - ◆ What parts didn't you like?
 - ◆ Were any parts confusing?
 - ◆ Would you like it if your tv came to life?
 - ◆ What parts of **Live TV** could have really happened?
 - ◆ Which parts could never happen in real life?
 - ◆ If you lost the school's turtles, what would you do?
 - ◆ Who was your favorite character?
 - ◆ Which character is most like you?
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Live TV

For children six to eleven, to get them thinking about how TV and movies influence their lives.

The school's two turtles have gone missing! Four kids and a humanoid TV are on the case. In this live-action comedy satirizing TV's violent ways, the four eleven-year-olds discover that TV solutions and real-life solutions don't always mix.

Live TV features a television that morphs to life as a goofy action superhero. He arrives to "save the day" and help the kids solve their mystery. This six-foot, live-action version of TV has lots of ideas, but none of them work in real life — especially the fighting stuff.

Finally, tempers fray. Egged on by TV, the four friends fall out — until they realize that TV doesn't have all the answers. When the kids take charge and use their wits, the turtle mystery is solved.

"By turning a TV into a live-action character, Live TV makes the subtext of television explicit for children in an engaging way."

Dede Sinclair
Media Education Specialist

Parents and teachers: Ask for the Activity Guide for Live TV, for suggestions on helping children become "media wise." Or, look on the inside of this videojacket for a few ideas to get you started.

Director: Annie O'Donoghue
Producers: JoAnn Harrison, George Johnson

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, Pacific Centre, in association with Health Canada, Family Violence Prevention Division, with the assistance of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

For sales information:
In Canada 1-800-267-7710
In U.S. 1-800-542-2164

Order number: 9196 008 Time: 21 min. 39 sec.

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