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5th Kids Film Festival (Warsaw edition, 22-30.09.2018)

Another unique event that we participated in was held in the Praha Cinema and it deserves a more detailed note.

Beyond sections – the roots of cinema



On the second day of the Kids Film Festival, we watched the only festival performance, which was referring to the beginning of cinema – that was a show entitled **“Me and the Flea”**, performed by Lichtbende, the Dutch shadow theatre group, with live music. The adventure with a magic lantern and equally charming sounds lasted for one hour, and the spectators invited to the show were of the age of four and more. The story told with the use of lights, shadows and sounds created with various mysterious instruments or tools appeared both simple and surprising. Here is a homeless dog that seeks food in a garbage area, fighting against a local cat; an adult appears in the window of a nearby tenement house and he tries to silence the dog; and then a caring little girl looks outside. The dog and the child become friends; the story continues to the rhythm of the bike wheels, which the girl's father uses to give his daughter a ride. There are chasings, flea bites, an exile, loss and a rescue by the friend. The fleas, the perpetrators of most of the commotion, rule in the story until the last scene, and the ending is happy for each party to the clash. This story could be a successful plot for a good cartoon, and we received something more: live images penetrating from a small screen to a larger screen and further to walls and the ceiling, switching from one field of art to another, multidisciplinary – scientifically speaking. And after the performance, the young researchers could closely see the

workshop of actors, puppeteers, lighting engineers, and instrumentalists from the Netherlands, as well as to ask them lots of detailed questions. Then we could only recollect this extraordinary event whose form was comparable to the big festivals of "adult" culture, such as Malta Festival in Poznan (at times during the performance, I had such an impression that I had just moved to that festival). We will certainly not forget the "Me and the Fleas" performance, as most probably we will never ever be able to participate in such a show again.

Author: Boschonka



Piotr Guskowski:

"The essence of cinema in the simplest form. The performance which we can also watch from behind the scenes, as we observe the actors using various animation techniques and the live music played with the use of everyday objects, which further stimulates the imagination."