Announcing the:

European Symposium:  
Documentary Films for Children  
Taking Stock - Best Practice - Perspectives

21st - 23rd September 2001, Cologne, Germany

Children are a much sought-after media target group. Their viewing and consumer habits are permanently analysed to achieve the best possible ratings, stimulating their buying power to the fullest. Children, in this context, are regarded merely as a consumer group, not as individual viewers with a right to aesthetic and formal variety.  
Children's programs are dominated by animation films; even feature films have a hard time there - let alone documentary films.

The Symposium wants to draw attention to documentary films for children. What documentary formats for children exist? Where are they shown? Who produces them? How are they supported and promoted? How can producers and creators work towards a greater diversity of documentary formats? What can television and cinema distributors do to make these accessible to children?

From 21st to 23rd September 2001, five workshops will take stock of the current situation, develop perspectives for the future and present best practice examples from Germany and its European neighbours at the International Film School Cologne (Glückauf-Haus, Werderstr. 1). Arguments and strategies to broaden the range of documentary formats for children are to be discussed and developed. In addition to this, international cinema and television productions will be presented.

The Symposium is intended not least as an appeal for a more adventurous artistic discussion on how to generate a broad range of viewing habits in children. Filmmakers, producers, editors, distributors, film funding institutions, festival directors, teachers, students and journalists from Germany and its European neighbours are invited to take part.

The event is organised by the Dokumentarfilminitiative (dfi) im Filmbüro NW, the North Rhine-Westphalia Government Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Culture and Sport, the Goldener Spatz foundation, the Bundesverband Jugend und Film (Federal Association Youth and Film) and the European Children's Film Association (E.C.F.A.)

Participation fee:
DEM 110.- (DEM 70.- for students)

Contact and further information:
Petra Schmitz (director) • Stefanie Görtz • Bettina Schiel (press)  
Dokumentarfilminitiative im Filmbüro NW  
mail: dfi(at)filmbuero-nw.de