

Winky's Horse Review

By Max Brinster, February, 2007

The motion picture Winky's Horse struck me regarding the film production techniques. Although, the angles and shots they used were very creative, the light was astounding. They started with basic film stunts but switched them around slightly. The beginning airplane scene where the little mechanical plane was flying across the globe from China to the Netherlands was basic but effective for establishing the setting. Incredible, how they could switch the lighting of close-ups, to landscape lighting, with a simple hill scene at the stable. How on the close-up scene's they would block off the light coming from the other side of the hill, then when they switched to a landscape, they made sure it was a perfect morning dim light piercing over the hill.

The story about this young six year old Chinese girl who had just been culture shocked from China to the Netherlands was fun and interesting to watch as well. The director really described his characters well in the picture. He captured their personalities, showing Winky as sweet at times and stubborn also. Another instance was the Saint Nicholas guy with a coffee addiction, hysterical! It made you laugh and cry even if it's in a foreign language! It also sucks you into seeing this little Chinese girl with a fortunate relationship with a horse. The way the lady sweeping in the street cleverly shows what Winky is up to, like if she's running by or riding, or horse riding; it shows you if she's happy, sad or in a hurry.

Tension builds between Winky and the store keeper woman, her teacher, her parents, and Saint Nicholas. You end up wondering whether Winky will get her horse, after seeing many attempts fail. This also brings definite culture change and a struggle in different cultures because of language, because of looks, and because of religion. Winky never had any idea of Saint Nicholas ever existing. This movie is probably appropriate for mostly kids six or seven, depending on how fast they read because of subtitles. The film itself is appropriate for children two years old, but the subtitles are difficult for most two year olds.

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Subtitled

This heartwarming Christmas movie is a great film to watch with the whole family. We think it definitely deserves 5 stars. Reviewed By Katherine Dolma, And Adella Sundmark. Winky Wong is played by Ebbie Tam

As our class sat and watched this film we were very engaged. Most of our class is not the engaged type. It shows cultural differences between the Netherlands and China. It is about a little Chinese girl who moves to Netherlands where her only friend is a pony, but her parents, who are afraid of horses, say she is too small to have one.

Her new school is hard, but she is a fast learner. The only one there who understands her is her best friend Maakie. We really liked this cute heartwarming Christmas film because we can really see the problems she faced and we could feel her pain. Her parents love her but the relationship between her and her parents is not always as strong as it should be.

Although this is a good movie for horse lovers and Christmas, it also reveals a close look at the problems immigrant children face. We think this movie would be great for ages 8 and up because the subtitles move quickly and are hard to read, otherwise it would be good for ages 4 and up.

The girl who played Winky Wong was a very good actor for this role, because we can connect and identify not only that she's cute but she's also funny, stubborn, smart, persistent, energetic, motivates, a problem solver and most of all she is determined. We thought the storyline was really great. Through-out the first two thirds of the film tension builds between Winky and every one. Everyone except, Uncle Siem, Aunt Cor, the teenagers, and Maakie.

The camera shots were pretty interesting. They did not just film people acting. For example instead of filming Winky climbing up the rope net they just filmed her cute little rubber boots climbing up the net. The music is okay but there isn't too much of it. It is mostly Chinese which puts more culture into the film.

We hope you enjoy this uplifting Christmas motion-picture just as much as we did.