

LET'S DRAW THE OLYMPICS!

An animated film by Zuzana Jungmanová and children from the London Borough of Islington.

Žijeme Londýnem, České centrum Praha (31 May - 30 June 2012)



'Let's Draw the Olympics!' is an Olympic project by the Czech School without Borders, London for Czech-English bilingual children and children based in Islington, London. It represents a child's eye view of the world while mediating London reality and the idea of the Olympic Games to children who are not familiar with it. **180 Czech and British children** aged 2 – 12 from five London-based institutions created their own images of the Olympics during a series of **56 art workshops**. The children used recycled material and various techniques like drawing, painting, doubling/backing, frottage and collage to create **500 pictures and art pieces** for the visual aspects of the film. The resulting film by the artist Zuzana Jungmanova is a 2D art montage which uses the principles of animation to illustrate a child's naïve view of the world.



The film is **dedicated to Jessie, a former pupil of the Czech School without Borders**, who is seriously ill. The main character in the story is Jessie, a little girl who due to her illness cannot go and see the Olympics. A group of animals living in the neighbourhood of the British Museum - Cockroach, Pigeon, Squirrel, Fox and Mouse, decide to organize their own Olympic Games to make her happy. They build the Olympic stadium right in front of her window. Cockroach in red races on a bike, Mouse in green competes in the high jump, black fencers Fox and Squirrel fight fair, Pigeon in gold sprints and the grand finale is horse racing in blue when all the animals participate.

Five stories in the five colours of the Olympic rings are related to topics such as London, the Olympic Games and friendship. Even though the film takes place in London in summer 2012, it is inspired by the British Museum and especially by **Olympic scenes from ancient Greek vases**. Reimagined images of wrestling or disc throwing remind us of the ancient history of the games which intertwine with the modern event. Another inspiration comes from **František Kupka, especially from his painting Fugue in Two Colours**.

Another important element is the **connection between Czech and British cultural traditions**. Jessie is a bilingual Czech-British girl, in her bedroom there are both Czech and English books, in the telephone booth the ads are in both languages and the main musical theme is created through the Czech song *Pod našimi okny teče vodička* and the English song *Horsey, Horsey* sung by children. The film itself has two language versions. The Czech one is narrated by **Pavel Soukup**, the English one is accompanied by the voice of **Michael Griffiths**.



THE CZECH SCHOOL WITHOUT BORDERS, LONDON is a non-profit charitable organization for pre-school and school-aged Czech-English bilingual children. Its main aim is to teach and promote Czech language and culture. The core of the organisation is the Czech School currently offering Saturday education to students from Reception to 3rd year level who are following the Czech curriculum. The school is currently attended by over 100 children.

www.czechschool.org.uk

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Director: Zuzana Jungmanova. Produced by the Czech School without Borders, London and the Czech Centre London. United Kingdom 2012, 10', digibeta/DCP, Czech and English language versions.

The film was created thanks to a financial contribution from the Czech School without Borders, London, Czech Centre London, Cambridge Education@Islington and Islington Council's Community Chest. The project was created in collaboration with four Islington based partner organizations: Beckett House Montessori Nursery, Highbury Quadrant Primary, St Mary Magdalene Church and Academy, and Light Project International.

