

MEETING OF TV YOUTH PROGRAMME EXPERTS

(Ponta Delgada, 12 to 15 November 2005)

SAARLÄNDISCHER RUNDFUNK
EBU DRAMA EXCHANGE:
LUCKY PUNCH (RONALDO BOXT SICH DURCH)

26 October 2005

Children's film by Sylke Rene Meyer, 14 mins. 30 secs., 16: 9

Synopsis

Ronaldo vs. Falco: A decision is in the making - not only in the boxing ring. Ronaldo, 9 years old, lives in the Marzahn district of Berlin. Tower blocks, shopping centre, playground with fountain, park areas. Ronaldo is a member of a boxing club. Because he isn't very good at boxing and is shy rather than brazenly self-confident, he has a problem with Falco and his gang. Ronaldo vs. Falco: the winner will be determined in the next boxing tournament.

During the workouts, Ronaldo gives it his best, but Falco and his gang are simply better boxers. Falco is skilfully landing blows on the punching bag, signalling: "Just wait, I'll show you." Ronaldo can only watch him sadly.

Ronaldo's dream can be found in the shopping mall: the silver Magic Fighters - extremely classy boxing shoes. Unfortunately, they're far too expensive: the price tag says €200. Ronaldo's longing eyes are covered by two hands. They belong to Isabella, who likes Ronaldo very much, and he returns her feelings. While the two of them are frolicking across the playground, a strange old woman with thick grey hair is watching from her window. With obvious effort, she moves through her flat, a beaded curtain tinkles, and the old lady pours something red into her bathtub. Blood?

Ronaldo comes home, heads for the elevator, but is detained in the entrance hall by the cat that belongs to Mrs. Zatopek, who lives on the 32nd floor. Ronaldo grabs the cat - only to find that the elevator isn't working. While the odd old woman shuffles through her flat, Ronaldo starts the long, long trek upwards - all 30 storeys. Great leg training! Arriving at the top, Ronaldo delivers the cat - and nearly falls over backwards in shock. Old Mrs. Zatopek only has two teeth left in her mouth. A dark abyss grins at him. Panicking, Ronaldo vanishes.

The next morning. While his mama is tidying up the house, Ronaldo practices his boxing. Then he jumps rope for a while on the roof. On his way back down, he encounters a box moving forward, as if assisted by invisible hands. Suddenly, the old lady appears directly in front of Ronaldo and throws down an empty beverage case at his feet. That means he is supposed to go shopping - at least that's how Ronaldo understands it.

While Ronaldo is lugging a case of drinks through the shopping mall, Falco appears with his gang, and they surround Ronaldo. Falco belches loudly in the ear of Isabella, who has just joined Ronaldo. Ronaldo feels compelled to laugh. Isabella, furious, runs off. Later, when Ronaldo calls to her from beneath her window, she pretends she doesn't hear him. Dragging the new case of drinks to Mrs. Zatopek, Ronaldo is ashamed of himself; he should have taken Isabella's part.

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More frustration at the boxing workout. Ronaldo can't even chalk up any points against the little fat guy in Falco's gang. The coach forcefully admonishes Ronaldo to train hard all the way up to the boxing tournament.

At night, apparitions plague Ronaldo in a dream: Mrs. Zatopek, Falco and the jeering Isabella. When the alarm rings in the morning and Ronaldo, bathed in sweat, wakes with a start from his dream, his glance falls on the Muhammad Ali poster hanging on the wall. That's the kind of boxer he wants to be!

Mama, who is raising Ronaldo alone, doesn't earn much with her sewing. Thus he dares not ask her for the money for the Magic Fighters. He folds the advertisement into an airplane and sails his dream into empty space. He flies away with it - and lands directly at the feet of the old witch Mrs. Zatopek.

Later, as Ronaldo is hanging out on the roof daydreaming, he hears a mysterious "Ommmmmm....ommmmm...." The old woman is practicing meditation. And presents Ronaldo, who is looking on in astonishment, with a small wooden box. Ronaldo takes it, but leaves it closed, and goes to his running workout.

As he discovers that Falco and his gang are harassing Isabella at the fountain again, a sort of magic appears to take effect. Ronaldo attacks Isabella's tormentors and forces the gang to flee. All is well with Isabella once more.

Later, in the entryway to the block of flats, the strange box is back again. Ronaldo screws up his courage and lifts it. With an angry yowl, Mrs. Zatopek's cat appears.

Then the big day arrives. The boxing match. Ronaldo imitates Mrs. Zatopek and breathes "Ommm...." with his hands folded. Then he remembers the little box. He digs it out of his sports bag and opens it. Inside is a mouth guard with gruesome monster fangs. That'll make Falco's jaw drop.

His enemy is already waiting in the ring, the ultra-expensive Magic Fighters on his feet. Ronaldo is wearing only his shabby old sneakers, but wins the match anyway, because he is concentrating hard and has gathered all his courage. The referee raises Ronaldo's arm: the winner! Victory celebrations.

In the locker room, a surprise awaits the winner: the Magic Fighters in gold. Mrs. Zatopek brought them, without Ronaldo noticing. Ronaldo won the fight anyway, in his old sneakers. That makes it doubly sweet.

Falco turns out to be a good loser and congratulates Ronaldo, who gives him a high-five. Ronaldo has boxed his way through the difficulties and perhaps acquired a friend. But in any case he now has a rival who respects him.