Bricknell Primary School & David Bunting Present

“I wish I went to Ecuador”

Short Film RT 6’02

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**Synopsis:** An immersive, animated documentary taking you into the heart of the Ecuadorian rainforest. A child’s eye view of a life changing expedition by their teacher, Mrs Jones and their joint mission to preserve these vital forests. Presented in Cinemascope surround with surround sound.

“A terrific commentary on climate change and its devastating impacts upon our planet”

*Al Gore*

“Charming... inventive... A strong call to environmental action”

*John Lemmon, Animation Director*

"That this film was made at all is a major achievement. That it is so good is a cause for celebration."

*Barry Purvis, Animation Director*

Aspect Ratio - 2.35:1

Available in 5.1 surround sound and stereo

Screening formats – DCP, AVI, DVD PAL & NTSC
**Film Description**

An immersive, animated documentary taking you into the heart of the Ecuadorian rainforest. A child’s eye view of a life changing expedition by their teacher, Mrs Jones and their joint mission to preserve these vital forests. Pupils at Bricknell Primary School collaborated with animator David Bunting and local campaigning organisation, *One Hull of a Rainforest*, to create this animated campaign film. The Maquipucuna Reserve is a privately owned reserve covering over 6,000 hectares in North Eastern Ecuador. The area in which it is in is ranked as one of the world’s top five “biodiversity hotspots”.

**Background:**

Pupils at Bricknell Primary School collaborated with animator David Bunting and local campaign organisation *One Hull of a Rainforest* to create an animated campaign film about the Ecuadorian rainforest. The film is inspired by one primary teacher’s life changing visit to the Cloud Forest, the Rain Forest and the Andes at Easter in 2010. Victoria Jones was given the amazing opportunity alongside eleven other teachers from the UK, with an engineer from BP. They travelled to Ecuador for a once in a lifetime trip to see deforestation first hand. This then enabled her to share her real life experiences with children from her home town. Her story enthralled her pupils so much, they decided to make an animated film to tell her story, helping create awareness of rainforest conservation.

Details about One Hull of a Rainforest can be found at

[http://www.onehullofarainforest.co.uk/](http://www.onehullofarainforest.co.uk/)
Directors Biography

Made by children in a collaborative filmmaking environment, Molly Nicholson (8) and Jaydon Sutton (9) interview their teacher Victoria Jones and jointly star in this child’s eye view of their teacher’s life changing expedition to Ecuador. The third film to be made out of a unique collaboration with animator David Bunting and Bricknell Primary School to use filmmaking as an educational tool. “I wish I went to Ecuador” has screened in the world’s biggest environmental film festivals and won critical acclaim from critics filmmakers and politicians including Al Gore. David’s professional credits including Disney’s “The Tigger Movie” and Aardman Animations BAFTA winning “Shaun the Sheep”.

AWARDS

Hollywood International Family Film Festival, Best Foreign Film, Youth Fest award, USA 2012

Young Animators Award, Bradford Animation Festival, UK 2011

BAF jury

“We were so impressed by the epic cinematic quality of this film, not only with its glorious colours, but with its inventive technique. On top of this was a very powerful and moving message presented with such charm and infectious energy.”

2 Grand Prizes for Best Overall Film, Kids for Kids UK Film Festival 2011

Professional & youth Jury (6-12 category)

Kids for Kids UK Professional Jury

“There were several contributing factors that made this film stand out from the rest in its category. The level of detail in the set design and the clever use of materials created a fantastic landscape with lots of depth. This combined with the imaginative use of the camera to really get down into the world made the viewing of the film feel like a really immersive experience. Most importantly the overall environmental message was handled very intelligently without it feeling like you were being lectured to, more like you were part of a discussion.”

Kids for Kids UK Youth Jury

“...for sharing a very personal message through excellent animation and a wonderful use of narration.”

3rd Prize, We the Peoples Film Festival, UK
CREDITS

Cast

Mrs Victoria Tuthill Jones (playing herself)
Molly Nicholson (playing herself)
Jayden Sutton (playing himself)

Story

Arthur Loades
Caitlin Hewson
Emily Rowe
Esmahan Mohammed-Ali
Evie Gallagher
George Long
Harry Crawford
Hollie Goodwin
Iris Cagney
Jack Gregory
Jayden Sutton
Jennifer De Hautville Bell
Josie Litten
Julian Coglan-Kowalski
Lucy Ketley
Matthew Ingram
Molly Nicholson
Niall Redgrave-Close
Nicholas De Hautville Bell
Reanna Wilson
Robyn O’Brien
Sadie Choudhury
William Marshall

Animation Mentor

David Bunting
Animators

Abigail Thompson  Emily Rowe  Leah Hartley
Aiden Whiteley  Ethan Morrod  Louis Tatten
Alexandra Green  Evie Kirkross  Midhawy Alabri
Ali Abdullah  Furkan Tarhan  Molly Nicholson
Alisha Johnson  George Leonard  Natalie Jackson
Amber Mitchell  George Long  Nathan Maher
Annabel Redgrave-Close  Georgina Gilmour-Harris  Noah Gill
Arthur Loads  Gregory Jackson  Reanna Wilson
Ben Welsh  Hamim Ullah  Richard Dennis
Benjamin Salter  Hollie Goodwin  Robert Stockton-Garner
Bromwyn Field  Hollie McDougall  Robyn O’Brien
Callum Foster  Jack Crawford  Roni Clarkson
Cameron Cammish  Jack Stead  Sadie Kerridge
Carys Nichols  Jake Norman  Thomas Frankland
Charlie Gittins  Joseph Frankland  Thomas Kipling
Claudia Marshall  Joseph Simpkin  Thomas Tatten
Daniel Molasiotis  Joshua Johnson  Tommy Mallory
Dillon Taylor  Julian Coglan-Kowalski  Urshula Akester
Ecaterina Smith-Alistari  Katlan Robinson  William Brady

Drawn animated credits by children at Marianitas School, near Maquipucuna, Ecuador
Teaching Support
Sarah Newton
Lyn Ellis          Jessica Wolff

Music Supervisors
Thurston Binns
Ben Newton

Musical composition & performance
Alex Iline          James Finn
Alexandra Musgrave  Jasmine Copeman-Bell
 Alfie Broadbent
 Alfie Murphy
 Daisy Innes
 Hannah Waring
 Hollie Goodwin

Construction and set
All the children and staff in:
REH, RCB, RJW,                4LB, 4JWi, 4SC,
1HR, 1AB, 1JWo,                5AC, 5SH, 5AH,
2CF, 2LS, 2HP,                6JWa, 6BY, 6RJ
3JD, 3KC, 3CD,
Mr. Harry Mounce
Mr. Dr. Chris Newton

Lee Hardcastle
Sound Mixer
Dave Aston

Editor
Adam Kirk

Thanks To
Kudlian Software
AT Computers
The National Media Museum
Natasha Banke
Symon Culpan
Tony Cutts
Duncan McGregor
Tom Vincent

Filmed in CinemaScope using Pro Animate
Filmed at Bricknell Primary School Hull, England

Compositing & Digital Cinema Mastering by
Digital Keyframe

Mixed in 5.1 Surround Sound at
The Digital Audio Co

Support One Hull of a Rainforest at
www.onehullofarainforest.co.uk

Copyright © Bricknell Primary School 2011
IT WAS created in a small classroom tucked away in the heart of west Hull. And now an animation made by youngsters is taking the international film industry by storm. A little piece of Hull is now enjoying major success in Hollywood – thanks to the children of Bricknell Primary School.

I Wish I Went To Ecuador has been nominated for the Hollywood International Film Festival in the Youth Fest Awards for best animated film 8 to 13s category, which is being judged in March.

This news comes hot on the heels of the film's USA premiere in LA this month at the Wild Scenic Film Festival and a further nomination for Best Animated Film in the world's biggest children's film festival Kids First in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The film has already grabbed the grand prize for best overall film by professional jury and best overall film for youth jury at the Kids First UK Film Festival.

It also won best film by young animators at the Bradford Animation Festival and third prize in the We The People Film Festival, both held last November.

The youngsters will be told about their award nominations in a school assembly on Thursday.

Bricknell's headteacher Tim Attwater said: "The whole thing just seems to be snowballing – it seems it gets good reviews at one festival then another festival hears about it. "I keep getting e-mails from the animator, David Bunting, saying 'You won't believe where it is going now'."

"Hollywood and Bricknell don't meet very often – but with this film they are becoming firm friends."

The entire student body of Bricknell Primary School – 630 youngsters – worked on the film.

It was inspired by a teacher's visit to Ecuador as part of the One Hull of a Rainforest campaign.

Victoria Tuthill-Jones, who teaches at Bricknell, visited Ecuador and saw first hand how deforestation is devastating the area.

When she told pupils about the visit and the One Hull of a Rainforest project, they wanted to help.

After three months of animation, to make six minutes of footage, I Wish I Went To Ecuador was born.
Animator David Bunting was invited into the school to help the children create the artwork, alongside teachers, including Mrs Tuthill-Jones, and teaching assistant Sarah Newton.

Although it is up against some strong competition in the Hollywood International Film Festival, school teachers and David have their fingers crossed it will do well.

David said: "I would never pre-judge any award, but to be honest, to just be nominated and join some of the biggest film festivals in the world is an amazing achievement.

"The prize for us is that it is being shown and the message about deforestation is being put across."

The One Hull Of A Rainforest project was started by a group of primary school teachers.

Their focus is the Maquipucuna Reserve – a privately owned piece of land covering more than 6,000 hectares in north eastern Ecuador.

The reserve harbours more than 2,000 species of plants, along with 350 species of bird of 45 species of mammals.
An animated conservation film made by Hull school children is set to make history during its world premier on Europe’s only Cinerama screen, Pictureville Cinema at the National Media Museum in Bradford this Saturday at 12.30pm.

‘I wish I went to Ecuador’ tells the true story of a life changing expedition by a primary school teacher, Mrs Jones, to the Andes, the Cloud Forest and the Rain Forest. Her story enthralled her pupils so much they decided to make an animated film to help create awareness of rainforest conservation around the world. It is believed to be the first film made by children to be presented in the new industry standard high definition Digital Cinema Format and surround sound. Filmed in Cinemascope, over 600 children worked on the film in collaboration with animator and filmmaker David Bunting. The film plays alongside ‘This is Cinerama’, the first 3-strip film ever made and the pupils will see the film for the first time at the premier.

‘One Hull of a Rainforest’ is a project started by a group of primary school teachers, including Victoria Toothill Jones, with the vision of inspiring the children of Hull through a sustainable curriculum and direct action. The project aims to raise approximately £250,000 to enable One Hull of a Rainforest to purchase and protect 100 hectares of land which lie adjacent to the Maquipucuna reserve. By creating their film in Cinemascope, the young filmmakers hope to show the scale and beauty of the rainforest. In showing their support to One Hull of a Rainforest, the museum is granting free entry to children to see the film.

Animator David Bunting said, “The sights and sounds Victoria mentioned seemed beyond a TV experience. I am a huge fan of big screen cinema and you don’t get any bigger or influential than Cinerama, the grandfather of Widescreen cinema. I asked Tom Vincent, the National Media Museum’s film programmer, if he would ever consider showing a film made by children alongside “This is Cinerama”. Tom’s response and that of his whole team have been so generous and supportive and have allowed us to allow children to experiment with state of the art filmmaking technology. I just can’t wait to see the children’s reaction at the premiere!”

The film has attracted support from Kudlian Software and AT Computers who provided state of the art computer technology to make the film. Dave Aston from the Digital Audio Company, who is known for Sound Design for ITV classic dramas ‘A Touch of Frost’ and ‘Wire in the Blood’, worked with children in Hull to mix their film in 5.1 Dolby Surround Sound. James Betts, managing director of Kudlian, spoke about their decision to back the project: “Supporting ‘One Hull of a Rainforest’ and providing the tools for this film really was an easy decision to make. The children have produced a wonderful animated film on a subject close to their hearts and their passion for the subject comes across in every frame. They should be incredibly proud of what they have accomplished!”

The film is big in every way. Teacher Sarah Newton said, “We had 61 animators, 23 researchers and storyboards, 13 musicians and about 630 set builders… I think it must count for some sort of record! The project is helping children to raise their skills within their own classroom – It’s an enormous confidence booster for the children, making them feel really worthwhile, sometimes for the first time in their education.”
Quotes from children include:

“I’ve watched a lot of animation but never done it before, and now I want to do more.”

“I feel really special having been selected to be part of this”

“Before animation, I was OK at storytelling, but this is making me much better”

“This has helped me work in a team. I am a co-leader of filming”

‘I wish I went to Ecuador’ will be donated to One Hull of a Rainforest as a resource to further their inspiring conservation campaign. If only takes each primary and nursery pupil within the city of Hull was able to raise £12, to reach their target.

About ‘One Hull of a Rainforest’

The Maquipucuna Reserve is a privately owned reserve covering over 6,000 hectares in North Eastern Ecuador, and the area in which it is in is ranked as one of the world’s top five “biodiversity hotspots”. The reserve harbours an astonishing array of life – over 2000 species of plants have been identified, alongside more than 350 species of birds, 45 species of mammals and countless invertebrates. The project aims to raise approximately £250,000 to enable One Hull of a Rainforest to purchase and protect 100 hectares of land which lie adjacent to the Maquipucuna reserve. This would be donated to the foundation to be restored and managed, hopefully supporting the local people through providing a means for sustainable micro-enterprise.

Details about One Hull of a Rainforest can be found at http://www.onehullofarainforest.co.uk/
AWARDS

Best Foreign Animation Hollywood International Film Festival, USA (Youth Fest!) March 2012

Grand Prize for Best Overall Film by Professional Jury Jury at Kids First UK Film Festival 2011

Grand Prize for Best Overall Film by Youth Jury at Kids First UK Film Festival 2011

Best Film by Young Animators Bradford Animation Festival, UK November 2011

3rd Prize, We the Peoples Film Festival, BFI November 2011

NOMINATIONS

filmambiente Festival September 2012

Wild and Scenic Film Festival, California USA January 2012

SCREENINGS

8th International Travelling Film Festival on Water, Bangalore, India Aug 2013

Green Film Festival in Seoul April 2013

IFFF Community Project, USA Nov 2012

London Festival of Education Nov 2012

FILMAMBIENTE 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Sept 2012

Harrogate Festival July 2012

International Wildlife Film Festival May 2012

5 Point Film Festival, Colorado, USA April 2012

The Light Factory, Charlotte USA Spring 2012

Environmental Film Festival, Washington USA March 2012

Colorado Environmental Film Festival Feb 2012

Kids First! Film Festival (4th Quarter) USA Dec 2011

Short for “This is Cinerama” 1952 Picturville Cinema, UK, July 2011