



Sounds Like Teen Spirit



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Vital Statistics

Director - Jamie Jay Johnson born London 1976
Released 8th May, 2009, Warner Bros
Running time 100 mins
Genre - Documentary

Synopsis

This British-made documentary takes an ironic look at the Junior Eurovision Song Contest, which differs from the adult competition in one major aspect: all of the 10 to 15-year-old amateur contestants must compose and write their own entries and sing them in their national language. Not knowing who will make it through the national selections of the 17 participating countries, the film crew travels from Belarus to the Ukraine, Cyprus to Belgium and Malta to Sweden to see who is selected by each nation to perform at the final in Rotterdam.

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Did you know?

- This is Jamie Jay Johnson's first full-length documentary feature.
- Johnson's inspiration for the project came when he was at home with two broken legs and saw the latex-wearing Finnish act 'Lordi' winning the Eurovision Song Contest. Thinking it would make a great comic documentary, he began researching Eurovision and discovered Junior Eurovision.
- Former Pulp front man Jarvis Cocker was approached to provide narration for the film, but he suggested that it would be more appropriate to have the director's own voice on such a unique film. The producers agreed, and Johnson's voiceover made it to the final film.
- Sounds Like Teen Spirit was nominated for a British Independent Film Award in the Best Documentary category and won the Hitchcock D'Argent audience award at the 2009 Dinard British Film Festival.

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Tasks

- Think about how this documentary differs from a feature film - can you spot three major differences in the way it's filmed?
- How would a documentary film be approached differently to a scripted film?

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