

# Homemade cinema: The boy with the blue eye

**A boy misses his bus, comes upon miscomprehension at school and is laughed at by his classmates. These are scenes from the short film *The Boy with the Blue Eye*. This is a realization of 5 and 6 Publicity of Campus Redingenhof in Leuven. Artforum developed the project and illustrator and photographer Vicky Bogaerts guided the class from storyboard to editing.**

"This collaboration was an initiative of Artforum," says Eva Coulommier, teacher of perception drawing and digital imaging. "Under the guidance of an artist, this art organization allows students to reflect on their education. What needs do they feel? What can make their school environment better? These are questions that are close to the world of these young people. "

## **Visualizing the message**

First the class brainstormed about the content. They wanted more understanding of their (home) situation. They opted for video, photography and illustration for the visual translation of the message. This fits in perfectly with the curriculum goals of their department.

We could have made a sculpture. Or a poem. But my students had been asking to work on film for a long time," says teacher Eva. "I don't have the knowledge to do that. So this was a huge opportunity." Luckily Artforum found a suitable supervisor. And so 5 and 6 Publicity could get to work for six Fridays with (video) photographer and illustrator Vicky Bogaert.

## **A task for everyone**

Eva wrote the script in advance with her class. "In the first sessions, we created a storyboard with the help of Vicky. Afterwards we started filming, composing the music and subsequently we did the editing."

Everyone took on different roles: from photographers who were responsible for a making-off, to graphic artists who designed the film poster. Each student also acted or stood behind the camera. Macalan was the director: "You have to keep an eye on so many things and sometimes you have to improvise. That is quite tiring."

## **Learning opportunities for pupils and teachers**

"I learned a lot about editing," says Kim. "I wouldn't get the hang of something like that on my own. I stay fairly easy with what I already know. This project was therefore quite a challenge for me." Lobke also remembers the editing. "And the stress everyone was carrying around then. One wrong and save and you can start again." An additional challenge for this class was good collaboration. "Everyone wants to do what they want and doesn't listen to each other enough," says Manon. "This was also a learning school in that area."

Eva sees other advantages of the creative approach: "You see talents that don't pop in normal classes. Who has a feeling for makeup? Who unexpectedly takes the lead or shows a great fascination for music? I know little about filming and editing and I sometimes functioned as a student between my students. As a result, you suddenly experience them very differently. The same applies if you take them outside the classroom. Fascinating to see. "

Whether she dares to make a film with the students herself next school year?  
"Definitely, I am a lot more confident in that area now."

### **Tips from Eva**

- Dare to let go. Monitor the process, but do not record it from A to Z in advance. Let it come from your students and don't take over.
- Give students clear deadlines and tasks for each component. They need such an overview. It reduces the stress and makes collaboration easier.
- Provide quality and sufficient material. The class regretted that there was only one camera for the film recordings.
- Brief your students clearly so that the expectations are realistic. When you say that they will make a film, they think of big film studios and special effects. Unfortunately it is not.