



FilmEd Classroom
Films to Engage Students in
Meaningful Conversation

FILM GUIDE

CHIN UP

GRADES 3-5

JoAnne Salmon | United Kingdom

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM | ANIMATION | 4:41 MINUTES | 2019

Subtheme: Self-Acceptance, Perseverance, Differences, Self-Identity, Girls POV, Gender Constructs

PART IV

BEHIND THE SCENES

LEARN ABOUT THE FILMMAKER & FILMMAKING PROCESS

The filmmaker of **CHIN UP**, JoAnne Salmon, created this autobiographical story about her path to becoming an artist and a filmmaker.

CONSIDER THE GENRE & STYLE

- Have you ever seen a **documentary** before?
- Briefly describe a **documentary** you've seen. What was the subject?
- How could you tell it was a **documentary**?
- How is **CHIN UP** similar to or different from other **documentaries** you have seen?

CONSIDER THE FILMMAKER'S UNDERLYING MESSAGE

Help students understand that all of these details were decisions that the filmmaker, Halima Lucas, made to convey the character and the story to us, the viewers.

JoAnne Salmon calls this film “*An animated story of self-acceptance.*” Use the questions below to explore some of the decisions that JoAnne made to convey the story to us, the viewers.

- Why do you think JoAnne Salmon might have wanted to tell this story?
- Why do you think JoAnne might have chosen to tell this story as a documentary?
- How might the film be different if it was told as a fictional story with actors?
- Why do you think she might have chosen to use animation in her documentary?
- Discuss the film's title, **CHIN UP**. Ask students to think and expand on the meaning of the title.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER: JOANNE SALMON

JoAnne Salmon is the director of **CHIN UP**, an animated documentary about her own life and her experience with Treacher Collins Syndrome. Growing up in the UK, she dreamed of becoming an animator and now she works at LoveLove studio creating animated films, shows, and advertisements. In her own words, “It is a dream come true!”

Q&A WITH THE FILMMAKER

Let students know that while the filmmaker might have had a message or idea in mind, we are all welcome to interpret the film in our own way.

How or why did you become interested in filmmaking?

I have always been interested in the art of filmmaking and animation. It seemed so limitless and free. When I was little I would spend hours pausing cartoons and live action movies and tracing over the characters with cling film. I loved dynamic movements and poses.

What do you like most about animation?

The limitless creativity! In animation there is no limit to storytelling. It's the most expressive way to create for me and it's a great way to express myself. I do like drawing myself as a character as it lets me go through adventures without even leaving the room. I always draw my features as they are as it's fun to see someone look like me in fun adventures such as riding a unicorn or swimming like a mermaid. I have

had some heart warming comments from others with Treacher Collins saying how they like seeing a character that represents them in fun illustrations.

What is something that you think people don't know about being an animator?

I suppose some people maybe don't see how hard we work and the amount of time, effort, and passion goes into our work. For an animation to be made there are so many stages it has to go through and each stage is very important. It's a huge team effort and every role is hugely important in the creative process.

What small moments have brought you joy recently? What new hobbies and interests have you discovered?

I have found great joy in the moments I have had time to create my own illustrations and projects. I enjoy illustrating and writing as well as animation. ■

classroom.nyicff.org

© 2020 New York Int'l Children's Film Festival