

Tanzalarm!/Dance Alert!

A church is a place full of life

The German children's channel KI.KA created the programme *Dance Alert!* with many different jobs in mind. The intention is to have children learn about various occupations and portray them in a fun and interesting manner. In the episode *Dance Alert! – at the Reverend's*, a group of eager children arrive at a church to see what a Catholic parish priest's regular tasks entail. He shows them, for example, how he sweeps the church floor on rollerblades. To a set choreography accompanied by peppy, enthusiastic music, the children dance together with the cleric to some songs. In another song, an actor in a robe mimics the daily tasks of a parish priest and sings about them in a funny, slightly exaggerated way.

This 10-minute programme was a finalist in the "Up-to-6 non-fiction" category of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONALE 2006.



Screenshots taken from *Tanzalarm!/Dance Alert!* (Germany 2005)

Praise

"I think they were trying to give the message to children that a church is an open room where everyone can go and where people can have fun."

"We [the producers] mostly tried to have fun. We found this parish priest, and he was a really nice guy and helped us a lot to do this. We have been to the fire station, to the police station, at the German Reichstag in Berlin – we had German politicians dancing. This was very funny! One of our best episodes was *Dance Alert!* at the church."

Critique

"I thought it was too structured. In Latin America, for example, there is no choreography. Dancing is about having fun."

"The dance didn't necessarily seem connected to what is happening in a church."

"I'm stunned that they were dancing in a church. Does this not show disrespect for religion?"

"What is the purpose of this show? How much is it dancing in fun places and how much is it learning about different jobs?"