# *Alone Against Time*

***Alone Against Time*** was produced by ASKANIA MEDIA Filmproduktion GmbH, Berlin. 5 high school students are assigned detention on a Saturday. When the teacher supervising the detention class fails to return from a short break, our five heroes have no idea of the dangerous situation they are about to be pulled into. A mysterious gang of thugs has stormed the school and taken the students in an astronomy class hostage. Now, Ben, Leo, Jonas, Özzi, and Sophie must do the impossible and remain hidden from the dangerous intruders. Though they are different ages and come from different cliques, they will have to learn to work together to free themselves and their fellow classmates from the evil mastermind behind the invasion bent on pursuing a larger plan. They have only got 13 hours to escape and stop the gangsters from carrying out their evil mission. Episode One is the first in this new 13 episodes action series. Each 25-minute episode chronicles one hour of the day over which the story plays out. In Episode One, we meet our five heroes, their personalities, and come to know their place on the high school social ladder. The audience will get a taste of this action-packed series as it unfolds in a unique horizontal narrative style that drives the adventure all the way through the 12 episodes that follow.

***Alone Against Time*** was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the 12-15 category.

## International experts' opinions

The international experts liked the plot as it was interesting and fast: "I like the story, because you don't know what is happening really, but you know that there are the bad guys and the good guys" (male expert, Norway). Many international experts liked the editing of the program. "It was fantastic; I really liked that. The pacing is really superb. It's all public, I think, because I mean, the room was, yes, all audience, the room was perfect" (female expert, Malaysia). Some international experts thought that the program was very suitable for the age group and children would enjoy watching it: "I think it is suitable for that age group. It is fast paced, and it keeps you glued to your set" (female expert, Ghana). The program ended half-way through the narrative – which left many experts in anticipation of the next sequence: "We have to watch the next episodes – that will go on DVD" (male expert, Pakistan). The producer of the program *Alone Against Time* was present and he explained that the whole story was thirteen hours long and had another 12 episodes to go, something that was apparently not very clear to some of the viewers who were disappointed at not reaching "the end."

Figure 1: **The school where the action takes place.**

Figure 2: **The five heroes of the program.**

Figure 3: **The professor in astronomy class.**

Figure 4: **A gang of thugs preparing to enter the school.**

Figure 5: **A group of thugs has entered the school.**

Figure 6: **The students are taken hostage by the thugs.**

## International youth experts

In 2010 the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL included the votes of an international youth jury, organized in co-operation with broadcasters worldwide. Teens between 12-15 years of age in seven countries discussed and judged 16 programs in the category 12-15 year-old-category. Here is a summary of their discussions on the program *Alone Against Time*.

The international youth jury from **Canada** liked the program a lot for its direction, suspense, characterization, story, and idea. They found the program "captivating." "It was my favourite, the actors were very professional, captivating and perfect for our group of age" (female). Many of the youth jury members could relate to the characters and found them interesting: "I liked the characters very much, lots of stereotypes but it makes it easy for everyone to identify with one of them" (male). Over all the youth jury from Canada found the story interesting in spite of a predictable theme. "The story was kind of predictable and typical and as far as I know I could almost say where it was going but it was so well played and done that it kept my interest all along" (female).

All the members of the international youth jury from **Georgia** liked the program. They liked the program for its plot, characters, high production, and structure. "It was the best movie of all, top quality, and the plot was good" (male). The program invoked a sense of anticipation because of its story. "I was always waiting for something more to happen" (female).

All the international youth jury members from **Ghana** found the program interesting and adventurous. They liked it particularly because of its depiction of teenage life: "The plot of the film involved teenagers in action. It also talks about typical teenage life. It was real and interesting" (female). They liked the program because it kept them interested throughout in anticipation of action. "Movies such as this make you sit down and watch till the end so if more movies like this are produced, it would help us a lot. It was very, very, nice" (female). "You will be glued to it till it ends. It is something that everyone would love to watch because you don't know how it would end unlike other movies" (female). Some even found it to be the best of all the programs that they had watched in the festival.

The international youth jury from **Lebanon** liked the program for its action, suspense, characters and music. "I love action movies and this one attracted me all the way" (male). Everyone was curious

to know how the program ended. It was "captivating to us … we wanted to see the ending, was captivated by the whole movie. Very nicely done" (female). They could sense that the program was produced with a high budget and involved advanced technical production skills. "I guess it is a bit unfair for the other movies because this one is a high budget movie but I cannot deny that it was great fun watching it" (male).

Every member of the international youth jury from **Nepal** liked the program a lot. They liked the characterization and story of the program. "The acting of all the kids seemed very natural" (male). "The story of the film was also very nice and it encourages you to watch the next episode" (male). They also liked the production of the program: "Camera work, location, actors and everything was very good" (female).

The international youth jury from **Venezuela** liked the program for its technical aspects: "The video is well done, has good graphics" (male). Some were not too happy with the end as they thought that it was not specific and found the subject to be too conventional. "Well, I found that it was conventional, because it is a subject covered in many films, and it leaves no room for my education" (male).

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Figure 7: **The gang in the class.**

Figure 8: **The program is liked because of its high action drama.**

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