

'The Piarist Secret', a children's story of voice memos

SERIES BY WHATSAPP

Twenty-six four-year-old children from the Piarist School in Granada and their teacher star in a magical story in an imaginary country that has their families hooked. It is a beautiful experience of creativity shared between the school and the families, easy to replicate in other schools.

A mysterious box found in the classroom. A spell, that of Patitiflús. An imaginary kingdom called Sylvania, created by the three wise men from the East, can meet wise men, witches, magic police, elves, and fantastic creatures. This story is how the exciting series 'The Piarist Secret' begins, a kind of audio tale made with WhatsApp voice memos recorded by the 26 four-year-old students of the 2nd year of the Piarist School in Granada and their lady Bea.

Their tender and innocent little voices are intertwined with the careful narration made by an adult male voice. Music and special effects do the rest. The quality of the result is astounding, thanks to the scripts and technical knowledge of the promoter of this original, fun, and pedagogical initiative, Santi Brey, father of one of the students, the girl Eva.

He is the one in charge of stringing together the phrases the pupils (previously commissioned, of course) and received by his wife, Alicia Rodríguez, through WhatsApp. Both, once all the audios have been obtained, shape them. They are already going to chapter 13, and the idea is to go up to 17. The plot is the adventures that the students themselves run in that world without peer. The tone is that of mythical cinematographic works such as 'The Never-Ending Story' or 'The Goonies', and the format is reminiscent of old radio soap operas.

This novel children's audio series began as a game, an idea that arose when the children stopped going to 'school' and before the state of alarm was decreed. But in the end, it has become an enriching and entertaining learning experience.

Thanks to their dramatized phrases, the children give free rein to their theatrical and communication skills. Since classes were suspended, they have been able to keep in touch with their friends over the phone in an extraordinary way. «We were sorry that they lost contact, and since they (due to their young age) do not speak on the phone and when they speak they remain silent, it occurred to my wife and me to record audio and mount it with a program to talk to each other, and the voices were recognized, "explains Brey.

Once the light bulb was lit, Santi and Ali recorded their little girl and put together the first audio they sent to their best friend. She answered them with a phrase that they, in turn, incorporated into the first recording. Then they sent it to the parents, and WhatsApp did its magic: the pilot chapter was a complete success. And so, the story was conceived.

In the magical world of Sylvania, the children of 2nd A of the Piarists have a mission: to save a character named Kandor, whom they do not yet know. The story is already designed, and the children have to pass many tests and overcome the traps of their enemies. The lady has a fixed role; it is the common thread, who guides them according to the tracks they have.

Production

The truth is that, although its production takes considerable time and effort (both for parents, when it comes to rehearsing their interventions with their children, and for those in charge of collecting and putting them together, Santi and Ali). The recording has done much more enjoy these weeks of confinement to your mini-stars and their families, who have gotten so into history that they wanted to join it.

In fact, in Chapter 11, parents and older siblings of the 26 children have participated with episodic roles. Even the director of the school itself, Lino Ferrer, has made a cameo, as Santi reveals. And for having, there have been forays also of babies with their indecipherable babbling.

"The pilot chapter lasted two and a half minutes, and the 11th lasted 21 minutes," says Brey, who hopes that this initiative ends up being a beautiful memory for Eva and her classmates. "I hope that the children, when they talk about what happened to the COVID, remember that they made a story. And that they recognize each other when they are older. Parents are what they tell me: that it will be a gift for them, their brothers and their parents," he adds.

If, after reading this report, you have wanted to enter the kingdom of Sylvania and know what happened after the Patitiflús spell, it is available on all Podcast platforms (Spreaker, Ivoox, Google Podcast, Apple Podcasts, Soundcloud, etc.), Spotify and YouTube. It is over two hours of content and ... to be continued.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWJcncZGEDo&list=PLZ7bC1y5ZRvkAkL8Vlyqkvlv_xy_a3IXx

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