Picture Our World
A Documentary
By
Jeremy Bryant

FADE IN:

INT. SFU HARBOUR CENTRE CAMPUS – PHOTO EXHIBITION

CBC – RADIO HOST (V.O.)
Get a kids eye view of the world from a new exhibition opening tonight in Vancouver, Paul Grant has the details.

STILL IMAGE OF SEVERAL SMALL GIRLS HOLDING DOG IN THE STREET WITH SMALL PHOTOGRAPHERS SHADOW IN FOREGROUND

TITLE: Picture Our World

CBC – PAUL GRANT (V.O.)
The project is called Picture Our World, Nuestro Mundo en Foto. It’s an ambitious project involving several dozen elementary school kids in Vancouver and in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

STILL IMAGE OF BOY IN VANCOUVER CLASSROOM HOLDING CAMERA

TITLE: The Project?

EXT. E. HASTINGS STREET, VANCOUVER WITH BLURRY PEOPLE WALKING – C.U. OF STREET SIGN READING: E. HASTINGS

BE GOOD TANYAS – "JUNKIE SONG" (V.O.)
Took a walk in my neighborhood.

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM

TRACI
OK, Start? Hi my name is Traci and I’m ten years old and I’m from Dr. A. R. Lord Elementary School.

ALEX
I’m Alexander and I’m 10 years old.

CHELSEA
My name is Chelsea and I'm from Vancouver, B.C.

MEGAN
My name is Megan and I'm 11 years old.

TYLER
What project? What are we doing?

ALEX
We will be taking pictures and sending them to Argentina.

CHELSEA
It's going to teach us a lot about the people we're going to take pictures of ourselves and our families, it's going to teach us a lot about them and about ourselves too.

TRACI
I'm going to learn about how we communicate and how it's going to turn out to.

EXT. BUNEONS AIRES STREET — CARS AND BUSES GOING BY AND PEOPLE WALKING

TITLE: Buenos Aires

D.J. ERIC JAG — "FUNKY LATIN HOUSE MUSIC"

INT. BUENOS AIRES CLASSROOM

DALMA
My name is Dalma.

CELESTE
My name is Celeste.

FLORENZA
My name is Florenza.

LETICIA
My name is Leticia.

SCHOOL HALLWAY
My name is Facundo Gabriel Lopez.

How old are you?

Nine

What grade are you in?

Four B

And what are you doing now?

A project. Two friends came from a school. What school?

From Canada?

They came from a school in Canada. And it is a project with drawings and questions

Are you going to work with photography?

Yes

I'm going to work with photography.

How do you imagine the other country?

Vancouver

Title: How do you imagine the other country?

Title: Vancouver

Be good Tanyas - "Junkie Song" (V.O.)
Saying 'I too am human, you could easily be here, Easily be here'

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM - STUDENTS DOING A DANCE ROUTINE

TYLER:
Where's Argentina? Never heard of it.

INTERVIEWER:
In South America

TYLER:
Where's America?

INTERVIEWER:
South America

TYLER:
South America? I've heard of it but I don't even know where it is.

MEGAN:
I think they're like French people.

ALEX:
It's the second largest country in South America.

INTERVIEWER:
What do you think the kids there like to do?

BAILEY:
I don't know? They usually like to go shopping sometimes, I guess. They have lots of candy stores around the houses I see. So they probably like just go to the candy store whenever they want or something. I have one near my house but not that close.

MEGAN:
They like eating English food and stuff, and that's all.

TYLER:
Right now we are drawing a picture of Ardetina. As you can see we are drawing
all kinds of different things: Houses, people, a little bit of fog, and buildings in the background.

INTERVIEWER:
What do you think it would be like to live there?

TYLER:
I don’t know. Well with all the fields it would be a great place to play soccer.

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM - STUDENTS COLOURING WHAT THEY IMAGINE ARGENTINA IS LIKE

WAGON REPAIR - “DUMP TRUCK” (V.O.)

INT. BUENOS AIRES SCHOOL - COMMON AREA KIDS SITTING AT TABLES

TITLE: Buenos Aires

DJ ERIC JAG – “FUNKY LATIN HOUSE MUSIC” (V.O.)

EXT. SCHOOL ALLEY - FOUR GIRLS SINGING SONG:

CELESTE, FLORENZA, DALMA, LETICIA
Hello, hello, how are you? Hello, hello, how are you? It’s a happy day, it’s a happy day! Hello, hello, how are you today?

INT. CLASSROOM - STUDENTS ANALYSING PHOTOS OF VANCOUVER AND COLOURING WHAT THEY IMAGINE CANADA TO BE LIKE

DJ ERIC JAG – “FUNKY LATIN HOUSE MUSIC” (V.O.)

EXT. BUENOS AIRES SCHOOL - TEACHER SITTING IN DOORWAY

LEONARDO - SPAN. WITH ENG. SUBTITLES
Hello my name is Leonardo Buzano, and I am a primary school teacher here is the school number 25 district 1, Banderita, Argentina. I think this is a great project that will enrich the children
culturally and artistically. Culturally, they will get to know more about other cultures, and artistically, they will get to know a world that is beyond their reach, a world of photography, a world of images. For them, this world may be limited to a drawing or a movie, but there is a lot more than that. Having access to this world gives them an opportunity for their future.

INT. CLASSROOM BUENOS AIRES AND VANCOUVER - STUDENTS LOADING FILM INTO CAMERAS AND BEING GIVEN INSTRUCTION ON PHOTOGRAPHY

CBC - PAUL GRANT (V.O.)
The idea is to get the kids to take photos of their world: neighborhoods, families, friends, pets. And then have them share these images with each other. Marina Krawczyk and five other communications students at Simon Fraser University came up with the idea. They put point and shoot cameras in the hands of kids in poorer neighborhoods in both cities. And they spent a day with each group of kids explaining the basic concepts of colour, contrast, and composition. After that says Krawczyk it was kept pretty simple.

CBC - MARINA KRAWCZYK (V.O.):
We gave them the cameras and we told them to take pictures of 'what is it like to be me'.

EXT. BUENOS AIRES SCHOOLYARD - BOY LEANS ON A POST

TITLE: What is it like to be me?

BE GOOD TANYAS - "JUNKIE SONG" (V.O.)

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM - MARCO READS JOURNAL ENTRY TO CLASS

TITLE: Marco
MARCO
I have two nanos called Luigi and Tony. Right now I’m talking about my grandpa Tony. He always comes at lunchtime during school. When we don’t like the food he gives us treats. We are very lucky that he does this. Like my grandma, nano gives us lots of things. On Sundays our dad takes us to his house for lunch and sometimes dinner. I am very lucky he survived a heart attack.

MARCO LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHS

MARCO
My grandpa taught me everything about a stop sign, what happens when you see one and what to do and how to spell stop. So when I was two I actually learned how to spell stop as my first word.

INT. CLASSROOM BUENOS AIRES GIRL COLOURING

TITLE: Celeste

SUBTITLE: Celeste’s grandmother supports the family through a small convenience store in her home. Celeste is worried because she has become quite ill.

STILL IMAGE OF ELDERLY LADY STANDING IN CONVENIENCE STORE

BE GOOD TANYAS – “JUNKIE SONG” (V.O.)
And what am I supposed to do?

INT. CLASROOM VANCOUVER – BOY SORTING THROUGH MAGAZINE CLIPPINGS AS PART OF FRAMING EXERCISE AND SORTING THROUGH PICTURES

GARY
My Grandmother that died a few months ago. So I went there.

INTERVIEWER
Which is the picture of the cemetery?

GARY
(Pointing to photo) This.

STILL IMAGE OF VANCOUVER CEMETERY WITH LANDSCAPE VIEW IN BACKGROUND

INT. SCHOOL ARGENTINA – GIRL IN HALLWAY

INTERVIEWER SPAN. WITH ENG. SUBTITLES.
Are you learning about photography?

LETTICIA SPAN. WITH ENG. SUBTITLES
I am learning it soon.

INTERVIEWER
And what do you want to take photos of?

LETTICIA
My mom and dad.

STILL IMAGE OF FAMILY PHOTO PINNED TO A CONCRETE WALL

BE GOOD TANYAS – "JUNKIE SONG" (V.O.)

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM – GIRL READS FROM JOURNAL TO CLASS

TITLE: Dani

DANI
Yesterday I took my two sisters and brother and my sisters boyfriend in a nice picture and funny picture too. I took this picture because it shows some of my family and it shows a boyfriend.

EXT. ARGENTINA SCHOOLYARD – BOYS PLAYING

TITLE: Julio

EXT. SCHOOL BOY IN ALLEYWAY

JULIO SPAN. WITH ENG. SUBTITLES.
I like watching T.V..

INTERVIEWER SPAN. WITH ENG. SUBTITLES.
What do you like to watch?

JULIO
The news.
INTERVIEWER
Why do you like the news?

JULIO
Because I’ll know everything that’s happening.

INTERVIEWER
And what do you like to take photos of?

JULIO
Strange things. Like the little plant in my backpack.

INTERVIEWER
You have a little plant in your backpack?

JULIO
It’s tiny. It makes sure nothing bad happens.

INTERVIEWER
It gives you good luck?

JULIO
(nods)

INTERVIEWER
And you’re going to take a picture of it?

JULIO
(nods)

INTERVIEWER
And what else?

JULIO
Things that are important to me.

INTERVIEWER
And what do you want to show the kids in Canada?

JULIO
The Province.
STILL IMAGE OF ARGENTINE CITY SQUARE WITH STATUE OF CATTLE

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM – GIRL LOOKING AT PHOTOS

TRACI
This is my downstairs renter. She has a baby.

STILL IMAGE OF BABY LYING IN BED

VANCOUVER CLASSROOM

TYLER
I think I know how to take a picture. You click a button (laughs). First you wind it up, then you click a button.

INTERVIEWER
What if you had to take pictures to show someone about your life, what would you take pictures of?

TYLER
Um, maybe my animals.

INTERVIEWER
What kind of animals?

TYLER
Are you sure you want me to tell em?

STILL IMAGE C.U. OF DOGS FACE

TYLER (V.O.)
Four birds, six cats, five fish, one hamster, and I think that’s it.

INT. CLASSROOM BUENOS AIRES AND VANCOUVER – STUDENTS LOOK AT PICTURES WITH TEACHERS

CBC – PAUL GRANT (V.O.)
The children are nine and ten years old and many of them had never before had a camera in their hands. The results are outstanding.
CBC - MARINA KRAWCZYK (V.O.)
Usually children have this natural way of being and maybe doing things that they like with out thinking too much. It’s how they actually have a possibility to show their realities, things that they can’t tell us. For most of them this was the first time that they had taken a picture.

STILL IMAGES OF CHILDREN, PETS, AND NEIGHBORHOODS FROM VANCOUVER AND BUENOS AIRES

BE GOOD TANYAS - "JUNKIE SONG" (V.O.)
And what am I supposed to do? There are too many of you, too many of you. And sometimes they look you straight in the eye. Saying 'I too am human, you could easily be here. Easily be here'.

STILL IMAGE OF CHILDREN ON SWINGSET UNDER GIANT NIKE BILLBOARD IN BUENOS AIRES

TITLE: Globalization?

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM

TITLE: Gina

GINA (TEACHER)
Think of what you learn just from the eyes of that person your communicating to. From someone you’ve never met and it’s not based on friendship it’s getting to know them. So it’s a new experience that’s really rich because there’s so much to discover that you don’t know.

INT. BUENOS AIRES CLASSROOM

TITLE: Bernardo

BERNARDO (TEACHER) SPAN. WITH ENG. SUBTITLES.
For several years the main objective of the school has been to work with the possibility of opening doors to socialize. Socializing in terms of
culture, the development and access to different forms of cultures. Cultural expression.

(V.O.)
From this perspective, the idea of working with photography and photographing our world is very important because it gives us (the teachers as well) the possibility to open a field, a world of possibilities and relationships.

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM – SHOTS OF KIDS LISTENING TO INSTRUCTION

INT. BUENOS AIRES CLASSROOM – KIDS ANALYSING PHOTOGRAPHS TOGETHER

CBC – MARINA KRAWCZYK (V.O.)
We want to create social integration. We want to educate kids to be more aware, to create empathy about other kids around the world. The main goal is to become more of like a world citizen.

CBC – PAUL GRANT (V.O.)
That positive result came from something that’s had alot of negative press, globalization. Krawczyk wanted to put globalization in a positive light.

EXT. BUENOS AIRES SCHOOLYARD – KIDS PLAYING

CBC – MARINA KRAWCZYK (V.O.)
It was really important for us to use globalization in a positive way. Being a communications student at SFU we are really used to criticizing globalization and the effects that globalization is having on the world. To meet these kids and give them the opportunity to use the advantages of globalization because they don’t actually have it in their daily basis.

STILL IMAGES OF CHILDREN, PETS, AND NEIGHBORHOODS
BE GOOD TANYAS — "JUNKIE SONG" (V.O.)
Although we all hover between apathy and compassion. Fill up all our days with so much distraction. Whatever makes it easier to see what we don't want to. But we all live here, we all live here, we all live here don't we?

EXT. ALLEY AT BUENOS AIRES SCHOOL — GIRLS RUNNING THROUGH ALLEY AWAY FROM CAMERA

TITLE: The end?

INT. VANCOUVER CLASSROOM AND BUENOS AIRES CLASSROOM — CHILDREN ASKING QUESTIONS, LOOKING AT PICTURES, AND LISTENING TO INSTRUCTION

GINA (V.O.)
I think that everyday is a success because I see the children don't want to leave, they want to hang around, they want to ask more questions. They want you to explain things. They share with you, you see that, they share with you. They welcome you in here. So I don't think you can ask for more. And if I had to do one thing over again the first thing I would pick in my next year's project with my children. I'd give them a camera, same thing you did, and I'd say go out and tell me about your life. Come back and let's learn about one another. That above everything else. Here's the camera. Go. Tell me your story. What a rich experience for the children.

INT. SFU HARBOUR CENTRE CAMPUS — PHOTO EXHIBITION

WAGON REPAIR — "BIRD SONG" (V.O.)

MICHAEL (PROFESSOR)
For the inaugural gallery presentation of Picture Our World (Applause). You see around you in this room...

TITLE: Picture Our World
MICHAEL (V.O.)
The Power of saying yes to an audacious idea. Audacious means: an idea that's well worth trying out.

STILL IMAGES OF KIDS, FAMILY, PETS, NEIGHBORHOODS

BE GOOD TANYAS — "JUNKIE SONG" (V.O.)
And what am I supposed to do? There are too many of you, too many of you. And sometimes they look you straight in the eye, saying 'I too am human, you could easily be here, easily be here'. Although we all hover between apathy and compassion. Fill up all our days with so much distraction.