

Educational material

SAF, Unite!



CLASS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: 7th grade

TEACHING AREA: Culture and media

TEACHING UNIT: *SAF, Unite!*

CLASS TYPE: Analysis of a short documentary film

DURATION OF A TEACHING UNIT: 45 minutes

SAF, UNITE!

School of Animated Film Čakovec, Čakovec, 2025

MOTIVATION

Conversation with the students

1. How would you define an animated film?
2. Have you heard of SAF (School of Animated Film Čakovec)?
3. Would you attend workshops or a school where you could learn how to make animated films?
4. Do you know any film schools offering workshops where participants take part in making films?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FILM

You will watch a short film *SAF, Unite!* produced by the School of Animated Film Čakovec.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WATCHING

1. Pay attention to the animated segments in the film.
2. Who are the protagonists? In what ways are they similar and how do they differ?
3. Pay attention to the characteristics of documentary film.

WATCHING THE FILM

STUDENTS' IMPRESSIONS

What do you think of this film? Be sure to provide arguments for your impressions.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FILM

1. How does the film start?

The film starts with a shot of a workspace into which two protagonists (a man and a woman) enter.

2. How do they show they're aware that they're being filmed?

The man asks if they may enter, and then asks about whether they're recording a video.

3. How are the beginnings of the School of Animated Film Čakovec presented?

They are presented by using archival footage along with a narrator's voice providing basic information about SAF's early days.

4. What do we call a narrator's voice that is not visible and is "added" to the visuals?

It's called a voice-over.

5. Explain the use of animated segments in the film.

There are animated characters in the film, representing the children that are making the film (e.g. the scene where they enter the SAF workspace and talk about film strips), as well as clips from animated films made during SAF workshops (e.g. a clip from SAF's first film from 1975).

6. Who are the protagonists of the film? How are they similar and how do they differ?

The protagonists are members of SAF from different generations (from elders to young children). What makes them similar is that they made or are currently making animated films, they see SAF as a second home where they feel calm, free and safe, they have been able to express and/or develop their creativity there, and they formed friendships and gained new experiences there. This is the central idea of the film; not just to present SAF's famous past, but to show the community they created and their shared love of animation and artistic creation, regardless of age.

7. What do the first generation of SAF members and the 2010 generation talk about?

They discuss the differences in creating animated films in the past (the first generation started in 1975) and the present (2010), particularly how technological developments changed the animation process.

8. How is the love for SAF passed on, and who motivates younger generations to attend SAF workshops?

The love is passed down from generation to generation, new generations are often encouraged by grandparents, parents, or older siblings, who were also once part of SAF.

9. What kinds of shots are mostly used when members explain their motivation to make films, or they talk about awards, or discuss inspiration?

Mostly medium shots or medium close-ups are used.

10. How does the film end?

The film ends with a shot of a former SAF member saying that everyone should find a "little wizard" within. This is followed by archival footage of SAF members playing, accompanied by an off-screen voice-over explaining that she views life through animation. A dissolve transition follows, showing her in a medium close-up saying she has become that "little wizard", over which we see archival footage of children playing in a park.

11. How were the end credits made?

On the left side, the names of the film crew appear, while on the right side we see archival footage of former SAF members. These shots pay tribute not only to SAF and its longlasting tradition but also to all past and present members. A shot of the current SAF workspace appears, followed by a shot of a pile of photographs from SAF's past.

12. Which characteristics of documentary film are present in this film?

The interview method (real people sharing their experiences), archival footage (shots and photographs), and authentic locations (the current SAF workspace and the homes of some former SAF members).

EVALUATION

- monitoring student activities while watching a film
- checking the understanding of the film by asking questions
- teaching sheet (quiz)

THE TEACHING SHEET (QUIZ) is available on the Film EDUcation website.