



Wilimina: Kid Reporter

Pre-school live-action/animated series
22 x 7 minute episodes

Follow 5-year-old cartoon goat Wilimina, Kid TV's ace reporter, as she gets the scoop on real world investigations assigned to her by primary age children.

THE SCOOP

Wilimina the Goat is high-spirited, adventurous and insatiably curious about the world, the universe and beyond. Her favourite words are who, what, where, when, why and how. She's Kid TV's investigative reporter – a news program produced by Wilimina and her little brother Jasper for pre-school kids of all kinds.

INTERACTIVE ANGLE

At the top of each episode, we join Wilimina and Jasper enjoying their afternoon snack (just so you know – kid goats are always up for a snack!) when they get their latest assignment from a real, live, young viewer (projected on their computer monitor). Their assignments will be questions about people, places and things.

Pre-schoolers see how things work and why things happen along with Wilimina as she literally bounds off on her adventures in the real, non-animated world. Jasper follows her by remote camera from their bedroom-based studio. Just call him "Master Control".

ACTION MEETS ANIMATION

Wilimina: Kid Reporter will mix live action documentary (and archival) footage with animation. Creative editing will put Wilimina in the middle of the action – whether that's entering a beehive, trying a pirouette in ballet class or hitching a ride to the moon with astronauts. Wilimina's reports will be peppered with interview clips from real people related to the investigation. Asking questions to find out the who, what, where, when, why and how are key observational skills that are essential to a child's development and education. Wilimina will also interact directly with her young viewers at home as she learns new and interesting facts.

Wilimina's natural curiosity and drive to get all the facts will lead to some mishaps but her ingenuity will always come to her rescue. For example: if she's learning the rules of ice-hockey, Wilimina might find herself flat on the ice but quickly catches a ride on a whizzing puck and get a birds-eye view of scoring on net.

Like all children, when Wilimina sees something that looks like fun, she wants to give it a try. For example, while she's investigating instruments that make up a symphony orchestra – Wilimina won't be able to resist blowing on a tuba – with funny and loud results that startle brother Jasper right out of his swivel seat and make him drop his foot-long veggie kebab! Humour is big in Wilimina: Kid Reporter.

Wilimina: Kid Reporter is a pre-school series where real kids get an all-access-pass to the wide world around them with little goat Wilimina as their intrepid guide.

EPISODE BREAKDOWN

HIP – HIPPO – HURRAY!

WILIMINA is in the bedroom, aka “the Control Room”. She taps her foot and watches the cuckoo clock on the wall. The clock strikes four and a cuckoo shoots out, cheeping “Snack time, snack time!” Wilimina calls for JASPER, “C’mon Jasper, it’s snack time and I’m starving!” Jasper enters the room carrying a towering triple-decker sandwich on a tray. Wilimina does a little hop of excitement. “Is that a tuna, coleslaw, and gooey cheese triple-decker sandwich on whole-wheat bread with olives on the side?” Jasper nods “Uh-huh” and as he walks forward, he trips and the food goes flying. Wilimina grabs the tray and manages to catch the sandwich (as it reassembles itself) on the tray. But something’s missing. They look up and the olives are stuck in the ceiling. The goat siblings jump up and down, causing the room to shake, and the olives come tumbling down – right into Jasper’s mouth.

Wilimina and Jasper chomp their snack in a few quick bites and slurp at their drinks as they settle down in front of the monitor, putting on their mic/headsets. It’s time to get to work.

Jasper turns on the monitor and on screen a real live CHILD comes into focus who asks the question: “How come hippos can breathe underwater when they’re not fish?”

Wilimina adjusts her cargo vest, does a little goat dance and heads for the door, “I’m off to get the story!”

As Jasper turns towards the monitor, the camera pushes in and we go full screen to Wilimina touching down onto the banks of a real African river. “I’m here on the bank of a river in Africa. And I’m on the look out for a hippopotamus, or two or many.” Wilimina scans the riverbank and we cut to the shallow banks of the river where a herd of hippos wallow in the mud. Wilimina is thrilled. “Wow, they look really ginormous and they obviously like playing in the mud. We have something in common! I’m going to ask the hippo expert from the Metro Toronto Zoo for the skinny on these guys. Jasper – take it away!”

Cut to Jasper pushing buttons at the computer and bringing up the HIPPO EXPERT on the monitor. Inter-cutting with visuals of hippos in the wild, the Expert explains to Wilimina that the name hippopotamus comes from the Greek words “hippos” meaning

horse, and "potamus," meaning river. The hippo is the third largest land mammal in the world. An adult male can measure up to 17 feet long and weigh as much as 9, 900 lbs!

Back to Wilimina, now perched on top of a hippo's head. "These big guys spend most of their day in the water, with their eyes, ears and nostrils above water. But how exactly do they breathe when they take a dive? I'm going in to find out. Hang on!" Wilimina whips on flippers and a snorkelling mask from her cargo vest pockets and puts them on as the hippo begins to submerge. Wilimina sinks into the water with a final salute of her hoof before completely submerging.

Cut to underwater, where Wilimina swims alongside the hippo, which propels itself through the water with porpoise type leaps and high-stepping prancing steps. Cut to a full screen animation/graphic of a hippo drawing. In voice-over, the Expert explains that a hippo can't really breathe underwater but that the muscles in their nostrils and ears close so no water can enter. Arrows are drawn to make his point.

Back to the hippo as it surfaces wagging its small ears furiously to clear them of water. Beside the hippo, Wilimina's head pops to the surface. She looks at her wrist-watch (a nifty investigative reporter model with lots of features), "Hippos can hold their breaths for up to 5 minutes underwater. Astounding!"

Cut to the hippo lumbering out of the river to the shore where it grazes on vegetation. Wilimina lands beside the hippo. "I'm going to interview him about what he likes to eat. I wonder if he likes gooey tuna and cheese sandwiches like Jasper and me?" Wilimina approaches the hippo. "Excuse me sir, but viewers want to know – what's your favourite thing to eat?" The hippo makes a loud bellowing sound and its huge jaws open wide to reveal sharp upper and lower canines which are tusk-like and made of ivory.

Back in the Control Room, Jasper bleats at the sight of the hippo's enormous teeth and shoots off-screen in his swivel chair on wheels. Wilimina appears on the monitor. "According to my source, hippos are "herbivores" which means they eat plants not meat. But watch out for their chompers – they're super strong!"

In the Control Room, Jasper rolls back into view, tentatively. Cut to Wilimina signing off. "Thanks for coming along on my investigative report on the "water horse" aka the Hippopotamus. This is Wilimina your super curious Kid Reporter signing off. See you next time!" She waves at camera. Jasper swivels around on his chair and waves to camera as well.

CREDIT ROLL: As elementary age children appear in a cartoon monitor (in split screen), Jasper and Wilimina sit in the foreground watching the kids make comments on what they learned from the report.

MORE INTREPID INVESTIGATIONS

Wilimina's investigations are far-ranging and diverse, like:

- visiting the dentist
- the workings of public transit
- finding out what makes clocks tick
- what happens to our brains when we fall asleep seeing
- how maple syrup is manufactured
- finding out why we get the hiccups and sneeze and yawn
- witnessing the artistry and mythology of totem making
- going behind the scenes of a dairy farm
- visiting a family of beavers
- what makes up the sun

...just to name a few.

With the magic of animation, Wilimina can go where it's impossible for real, live humans to go....like into the mouth of a shark, or walking on the sun.

MULTI-PLATFORM LEADS

- Companion interactive website with games, activities and stories
- Workbooks with CD ROMs
- Children's reference books as presented by Wilimina & Jasper
- The Wilimina: Kid Reporter investigative reporter kit

CREATOR BIO

Award-winning writer and filmmaker Christine Alexiou is a graduate of the Carleton School of Journalism and Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre Prime Time TV Program.

She won the **Shaw Media Writers' Apprentice Program** (2010) and interned with the Showcase/Syfy drama **Lost Girl**. Her interactive live-action/animated web project **Citizen Autistic** won the pitch competition at the DocShift Summit 2011. Most recently she was the winner of the Raindance Live Ammunition Pitching Competition with her psychological thriller **Entwined**.

Christine has worked extensively as a writer, story editor and development consultant. Selected credits include: the animated kids comedies **Chilly Beach** (CBC) and **Yam Roll** (CBC/Cartoon Network); the youth drama **Degrassi: TNG** (CTV/ Nickelodeon); the lifestyle series **Property Brothers** (HGTV), the docudrama **Mayday** (Discovery Channel); and the pop culture documentary **The Secret History of Knitting** (Blue Ant Media).

Her films have been broadcast on Canadian and Australian television including **Telling Lives, Hello Dolly?** and **Who's Afraid of Happy Endings?** In 2008, she won the Reel Asian International Film Festival "So You Think you Can Pitch" Competition for **Travels With My Brother** that depicts the unique relationship she has with her autistic brother and uses animation to show how he perceives the world around him. The film has since been screened in festivals and won awards around the world. In 2012, Christine won the **Shaw Media Fearless Female Director Award** (National Screen Institute Online Film Festival).

Christine created the youth supernatural action drama **Maiden** (2 scripts & bible available) and the half-hour tween live-action/animated comedy **Alter Egos**.