**The Last Flight of Petr Ginz - review**

Until I watched this 66-minute film, I didn’t really know who Petr Ginz was, and until 2007 neither did most people. But, when one of Ginz' drawings was chosen to go on the space shuttle Columbia, and it was mentioned in reports of Columbia's fatal crash, his name got out. His sister, Eva, two years younger than him, survived the holocaust and discovered his illustrated diaries and they were published in book form in 2008. Through masterful direction and the creative use of animation (to bring Ginz's story to life), directors Sandy Dickson and Churchill Roberts have told the world about this "genius", who, at age 6 was making drawings, by age 14 had written five novels and by 16 produced 170 drawings and paintings and edited an underground newspaper in the concentration camp in Terezin. At age 16 he was transported to Auschwitz where he died in the gas chamber.

As the film progressed - using many archival family photos provided by Eva and excerpts of recent interviews with her (she now lives in Israel) - l sat glued to the screen. The scenes of life in the concentration camp were mixed with Petr's illustrations and words from one of his novels, an allegory about a prehistoric monster which told the story of Hitler’s rise to power as well as another colourful and optimistic one about a spaceship. Petr had devoured all Jules Verne's books and this was his tribute.

Petr Ginz was an amazing person. Had he been lucky enough to live, his art and writings would have been of a great talent. It's hard to believe how vivid and wonderful his imagination was as that is a rare talent. It saddens me that such a creative mind was snatched away by the Nazis. I wish that there would be no hate and no wars because we can all learn love and respect for one another. Imagine how peaceful life could be. My most favourite part is how well and respectfully Petr's writings and illustrations were made magical by adding movement without detracting from Petr's work.

Ema Balent 8.b