

Göng!

My spectacular Life



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ABOUT

Format:

10 × 10' and 1 × 83'

Focus

Autism, Neurodiversity, Friendship,
Self-confidence, Diversity

Target Audience:

Kids 9+ / Family

zdf-studios-presents.com/gong



A HEARTWARMING JOURNEY INTO THE EXTRAORDINARY MIND OF A GIRL WHO SEES THE WORLD A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY – AND A LOT MORE VIVIDLY.

SYNOPSIS

A German series is making waves internationally – Gong! My SpectRacular Life, a production by KiKA, has been honoured with a nomination for the prestigious international Emmy Awards, one of 56 nominees across 14 categories. This heartfelt dramedy dives into the unique experiences of Eileen, a 10-year-old girl with autism, and the story about how she navigates life, offering a refreshing perspective on neurodivergence. Nominated for the „Kids: Live-Action“ category, it stands out as the sole German contender in the children’s section. In 10 episodes, Eileen’s extraordinary worldview is authentically brought to life by involving neurodiverse individuals as well as experts on autism, child development and education, who play various roles in the project, for example, as members of the writing team, consultants, or child carers.

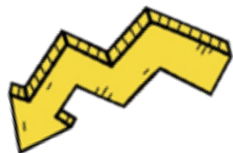
Eileen is autistic and she is supposed to go on a school trip – a concept that fills her with dread. That’s why she wants to sabotage the trip. However, thanks to her brother and his best friend, she discovers the thrill of embarking on adventures alongside good friends, and her goal changes. She too wants to find a BFF before she has to go on the school trip.

**GONG! THE SERIES FOR CHILDREN
ABOUT AUTISM & TOLERANCE**





CHARACTERS



EILEEN

Eileen is called “Alien” by other children because she doesn’t seem to fit into the system of a “normal” child. She also feels like a stranger because the “normal” world doesn’t meet her needs. Eileen is on the autism spectrum, but that’s not really the point. Therapy helps her quite a bit in managing the “crazy” everyday life.

Eileen collects her experiences and observations on the topic of friendship in everyday life in a blog. It’s called Friendship Captain Eileen’s Logbook. Sometimes she also writes about ants or prisms, because she likes those too. But her main goal is to find a true best friend, which can be quite stressful given her unique way of engaging in social interactions.



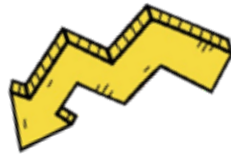
LENNI

Eileen's little brother is the favorite of all the adults. He behaves strangely eloquent and speaks unusually articulately (for a 9-year-old). Another of his talents is his ability to instantly grasp someone's emotional state and the problems behind it. He seems to be the perfect child: popular, good in school, super empathetic, but he often goes a bit overboard. Eileen sometimes gets annoyed with this little know-it-all and is also a bit jealous of him. And then Lenni insists on going to therapy too, because fair is fair.

When it comes to personal criticism, whether justified or not, he's very sensitive and can easily take it the wrong way. His best friend Zlatka then helps him snap out of that mood because she doesn't care at all what other people think of her. That's why she has some "great" tips for Lenni, which he likes to try out on others.



FRED



As a true klutz, Fred always wears a helmet to protect himself from injuries. If you see smoke rising from the school building, you can be sure Fred had something to do with it. He's always unlucky, has a respectable collection of worn-out casts, is a proud "Visitor of the Month" at the school nurse's office, and keeps his own injury journal.

Fred is often distracted, a little naïve, and just so likable. He can't hide it. Other kids are too worried to play with him, because if you pick Fred for a team or a group project, something's definitely going to go wrong.

Still, Fred is always willing to help, which makes him a good person to turn to. Fred has come to terms with being the unlucky one.



GABRIEL

Gabriel is a lovable boy who likes to wear clothes that are too big, but always with style. He's a talented artist, a bit of a nerd when it comes to pop stars and Greek mythology, and very kind-hearted and endearing. The only person he can't stand is Lenni. Gabriel is a little shy, but when he dances, he feels "the light of the gods."

Unfortunately, this light also leads him into darkness. Gabriel doesn't feel welcome at home at all. Gabriel and his father don't share any interests and, as a result, don't have much to talk about. So, Gabriel spends a lot of time hanging out at school or outside of school. His father gives him good money for breakfast and lunch, which he sometimes spends on the latest game apps. So, when there's a new trend, Gabriel is one of the quickest to catch onto it and always has the latest gadgets.





CLARA

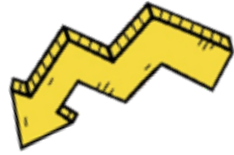
Clara has an average face, average hair, and average body and height, even average parents! Clara is the absolutely ordinary kid who fits in everywhere. She's so average that her size is usually sold out when she goes shopping. Clara is constantly searching for her "thing." But she's just too average to stand out. She doesn't have any particular interests or talents. Clara has tried almost everything, but she still feels like she's the only one at school who hasn't figured out what she wants to do with her life. Hearing that there's plenty of time to figure it out doesn't satisfy her. Clara is a bit stubborn, but determined. Once she has something in mind, it's nearly impossible to talk her out of it. She doesn't even realize her greatest strength yet, because Clara is morally courageous and has a strong sense of justice.



MIA

Mia, Lenni's best friend, is more of the quiet type, except when it comes to soccer. It's not just the loss of her favorite team that gets her riled up. Mia struggles with a bit of a temper, especially when she thinks she's failed. A lot of things can get broken in the process. The other kids know that she knows what she wants and that she's no pushover. Mia is very loyal and doesn't let anything come between her and her best friend Lenni, who is also her guinea pig for "Mia's Blunders." Mia loves telling jokes and coming up with her own, which aren't always as funny as expected but become somewhat legendary on the schoolyard. She believes she's continuing the tradition of her grandfather, who is the greatest joke-teller she knows.





SÖREN

The good-looking, calm, and kind Søren is Eileen's school assistant. The two don't talk much during a school day, but they understand each other without words. Søren is more interested in theoretical things and music, which is why he wears headphones a lot, even outside of work. He even sings in a band. On stage, he's a real "showman," but in real life, he's sensitive and shy. All the girls and some of the boys on the playground have a crush on him. He remains professional. Stella confuses him a bit, as she's such a fiery and adventurous personality.



MAMA DALMA

As a mother of two children and a freelance journalist, Dalma is busy around the clock. To keep things running, she rushes through the day and takes full control. She finds it very difficult to let go and delegate certain tasks. Her biggest fear is making mistakes. She is loving and wants everyone to be well, which is why she is on a constant mission to solve every problem, both in the house and outside. Her children and her husband lovingly tease her for her constant advice and because she is the wife of a nobleman, calling her 'the Empress'.



PAPA BERND

„In calmness lies strength, and tomorrow is another day.” As a descendant of a conservative Viennese noble family, Bernd was part of the squatter scene in the 1990s. His parents call him a “hippie,” and he’s not even angry about it, because he feels it deeply in his heart. Bernd is quite pragmatic and a nature lover. He runs a one-man woodworking shop where he designs and builds furniture. When he works with wood, he feels grounded. But he also tends to hide there.





EPISODES

EPISODE 1

Alien

Eileen is autistic and has just started at a new school. Usually, she leaves the building with her school companion, Sören, before the bell rings. However, Sören is held up today, so Eileen has to find her way out alone, which makes her feel even more overwhelmed by the upcoming school trip. She decides that she doesn't want to go. Her brother Lenni disagrees: Eileen has to come!



EPISODE 2

Focus

After speaking with Sören, Eileen realizes that the school trip is even worse than she feared. Determined to stop it from happening, she looks for support, but neither a spiritual life coach nor her grandparents prove helpful. Meanwhile, Lenni practices his wing shot with his dad, Bernd, reluctantly standing in goal. Lenni's best friend, Mia, is searching for the perfect headline for the school newspaper, but much like Lenni's shots, her ideas keep missing the target.

EPISODE 3

Runaway

Eileen starts thinking about how she might sabotage the school trip. Lenni wants to convince their dad, Bernd, that he needs therapy sessions. When after a fight with his dad, Lenni and Mia storm off into the garden, they pass Eileen. They're heading to their grandparents' house, but Eileen thinks it's too dangerous. Reluctantly, she follows them on an unexpected adventure, forgetting to tell their parents that they're leaving.





EPISODE 4

Casting

At her big best friend casting event, where Eileen wants to find a best friend to go on the school trip with, Eileen meets many of her classmates. She wants to find a best friend to go on the school trip with. Meanwhile, Lenni is celebrating his birthday in the garden. Their parents and Mia wonder: where are all the children going? When Eileen's casting event gets out of hand, even Lenni realizes that not all the guests came for him.

EPISODE 5

Shopping Mall

Eileen meets Sophie, Sofi and Soffy at the shopping mall, a place she usually avoids. It quickly becomes clear that the three girls have a very different idea of 'shopping' to what Eileen expected. Meanwhile, other classmates are out shopping too: Gabriel is helping Clara pick out a new outfit.



EPISODE 6

Listening

Gabriel invites Eileen to join the choir. However, the rehearsal goes badly – the others are too loud and out of tune. Eileen can't handle the noise, despite loving to sing. Gabriel comes up with a way to cheer her up. Meanwhile, Lenni redeems a voucher for a therapy session, which was a birthday gift from Eileen.



EPISODE 7

Formicarium

After giving a presentation on ants, Eileen entrusts Fred with her formicarium, the ants' home. Although Fred promises to be careful, he accidentally drops it. Clara offers to help, and together they try to fix the formicarium before Eileen returns. It's a good thing Clara took the woodworking class!



EPISODE 8

Pajama Party

Gabriel, Clara and Fred attend Eileen's pajama party to celebrate the ants' new home. Meanwhile, Bernd and Dalma are enjoying a quiet evening in the garden – finally some peace! Lenni and Mia are there too, and everyone is happily dancing in the living room. Everyone except Eileen, that is, who stays in her room. She would like to join them, but the chaos is just too much.



EPISODE 9

Climbing

After the pajama party doesn't go as planned, Eileen invites everyone to a climbing park. As her support worker, Sören has to go up into the trees too. Gabriel, Clara, Fred, Lenni, Mia and Eileen all help each other through the climbing course. Meanwhile, their grandparents are preparing the picnic, but the group must first conquer the ropes.



EPISODE 10

Departure!?

Eileen is sure that with her friends by her side, she can handle the school trip. To prepare for the unexpected, her family sets up a school-trip boot camp. Eileen competes against her family members in various challenges. Meanwhile, Clara, Gabriel and Fred are packing their bags for the class trip to the countryside. The friends finally meet at the bus stop, ready for the journey ahead.





GALLERY









CREDITS

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