

Rainbow:
Now This Guy Deserves to Wear a Rolex!
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Slightly above economic middle-class social and business vampires tend to wear Rolex brand wristwatches as a publically-broadcasted, self-congratulatory status symbol. Terribly rich people in general don't need watches, as they have their clutch of people to tell them the time. Poor guys don't need watches at all, as they have all the time in the world at their disposal. It's the guys in the middle who need them, so those slightly above the middle wear the luxury-porn brands to seem above the minions and unwashed, nameless horde.

On the other side of the equation, they're pretty nice time pieces, are practically bullet-proof, and will probably outlive their current owners by a generation or two. If a Rolex watch, in its pure platonic sense, is a prize to recognize outstanding achievement, even greatness in one's chosen field of work, then Christos Dimopoulos, host of the weekday afternoon ET-1 children's TV show, *Ouranio Toxo*, or *Rainbow*, deserves his without question. He's got a nice one. It's real shiny.

It is an unwritten rule in television production to try not to have too many kids or animals on the show whenever possible (even on a kid's show). This axiom is true for a couple of really good reasons. The first being that they practically always steal the show, in some form or another, from the name or principal actors. Second, and most importantly, is that there is an element of unpredictability that cannot be anticipated before shooting the program. Anything can happen at any time when cats, dogs, ponies and little ones start bopping round the TV stage.

Dimopoulos has an uncanny, almost Zen master way of communicating with toddlers. His pleasant, friendly-but-firm demeanor fits with their young mindset in an unusually harmonious concordance. Both the kids and he really seem to be having a fun time of it together, as opposed to him creating an environment where children merely receive instruction by a stale lecturer.

On the program, Dimopoulos does easy, but remarkably creative, artsy-craftsy things with construction paper, finger paint, crayons, magic markers and piles of other kid-safe art supplies. While he creates his shadow boxes, Japanese lanterns or any number of other decorative objects, he chats with the children in attendance. He keeps order on the set, keeps the kids locked on their task, elicits answers to his questions and gets them to interact with each other, all at the same time.

I worked as a teacher for many years and believe me, this talent that Dimopoulos possesses is a rare one. Anybody who can effectively control young children, and get them to learn something while creating stimulating communication with them, deserves great recognition for their pedagogical and management skills.

Children's TV programming, world-wide, is a female-dominated market. As little kids take their first steps away from mom, strong female surrogates are needed to ease the first, early separations of toddlers and mothers. In schoolroom early childhood education programs, administrators are always looking for strong, friendly, outgoing male educators to fill the other half of young children's psychological needs. Most male teachers, professors and educators tend to stay away from pre-school work assignments, opting more towards high school and college teaching positions.

Dimopoulos is a remarkable man for taking on such a non-traditional, male educational assignment, and having such success with it. Strong, positive, male role models are a true *rara avis* in education and in broadcast television. Dimopoulos gets greatly merited plaudits for his contribution to childhood learning and early education programming. This guy truly deserves his Rolex, no doubt about it.