



SAPIENS

by **Valentina Diana** | directed by **Giuseppe Semeraro**
with **Dario Cadei, Silvia Lodi, Otto Marco Mercante, Cristina Mileti, Francesca Randazzo,**
Giuseppe Semeraro
sound and music **Leone Marco Bartolo**
coreography **Barbara Toma**
shadow designer **Silvio Gioia**
disegno luci **Davide Arsenio**
set design **Dario Cadei, Francesca Randazzo**

with a support by **La Baracca Testoni Ragazzi e ATGTP Teatro Pirata**

...But then, given that the prosecution of growth at any price puts the heirs of the division between Neandertal and Sapiens, that's us, we, on the verge of ecological and demographic failure, don't you think it's time for us to be inspired by those distant ancestors who survived without growth or destruction for hundreds of thousands of years? ...

[My dear Neandertal by Silvana Condemi and François Savatier]

SYNOPSIS

The show tells an audience of children and young people about the meeting/clash between two species of hominid, Sapiens and Neanderthals, who shared their existence in Europe many thousands of years ago.

Until recently it was believed that the arrival of the Sapiens had supplanted the Neanderthal species but it seems that things turned out differently.

New findings have shown that the two groups have lived side by side in southern Europe.

Neanderthals were not like Sapiens, they had different genetic characteristics. We've wanted to imagine that these characteristics made them less competitive on an evolutionary scale but gave them a particular sensitivity towards the more subtle aspects of nature. So we have imagined them to be less skilled, less aggressive, in contrast to the efficiency and organizational capacity of the Sapiens. In our vision, the most cynical and successful aspects of contemporary society are reflected in the Sapiens, whereas the Neanderthals will embody the most selfless and poetic aspects of life. In terms of historical research, it seems that the Neanderthals had a strong inclination for the art, painting, music and it seems that they were able to build musical instruments. This partition, even if schematic, in a simple and direct way, allow us to work on the conflicts between the two groups who will meet from time to time, in our story. Across this prehistoric fairy tale we'll reveal about two species with different visions and attitudes towards life and the environment.

PLOT

At the very opening of the show, we attend the bleak / hilarious self-destruction of the last clan of Neanderthals due to a Sapiens's spear found in a field.

Being not familiar with such advanced weapons, the Neanderthals end up awkwardly handling the spear, stabbing each other.

So everyone dies except, the last Neanderthal, which will be the main character of our story. Roaming and melancholy, he wanders the clearing finding someone who looks like him. In the meantime, a pack of Sapiens shows all their expertise and their organizational skills in terms of hunting and family management.

Sapiens know very well how to collaborate, not in solidarity, but only to survive. From this point on, the narrative develops by analogy on the plot of Romeo and Juliet, the last Neanderthal, come in contact with the Sapiens community, keen to get welcomed, will fall in love with a young woman in the group, causing stir and refusal. The fear of diversity and the desire to discriminate will not be long in coming in the Sapiens clan. Love will be hampered, but after the initial refusal the group will let itself be contaminated. The son, born from the two lovers, will bring with him all his father's characteristics enriching the Sapiens species with the special traits of the Neanderthals. It seems quite certain that in our genetic code we have a very small part of the Neanderthal code. What really happened? Were there moments when the two species met? Why did one of the two become extinct? The center of the work starts from these questions but, the dramaturgical development of the play tells the love story between the last of the Neanderthals and a young Sapiens. Dramaturgic work has taken us back in time to better understand our future. This story provides us with many metaphors by which we can read our time or deal with it. The great migrations of today surely recall something that already happened. Can that meeting, which took place thousands of years ago, be a starting point to reflect on our condition?

Reccomended age:from 6 years old|

duration: 55 min

videointegrale: <https://vimeo.com/560767362>

trailer: <https://vimeo.com/419846748>

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