

FLY ME TO THE MOON



A Jet Propulsion Theatre Play
of the Arditodesio Theatre Company



Dreams, sometimes, do come true.

A man, a woman and the Moon. An obsession that cannot be quenched.

FLY ME TO THE MOON

Text **Andrea Brunello**

With **Laura Anzani** and **Ettore Distasio**

Direction and light design **Fabrizio Visconti**

Scenes **Marco Muzzolon**

Costumes **Mirella Salvischiani**

Supervision on scientific matters **Stefano Oss**

and **Vladimir Bozhilov** - Dept. of Astronomy, Faculty of Physics, Sofia University, Bulgaria

Supervision on philosophical matters **Enrico Piergiacomi**

In collaboration with

The **Physical Science Communication Laboratory** of the Physics Department of the **University of Trento** (Italy)

Adam is an Apollo Mission Astronaut. A very good one. **He has a dream: to reach the Moon.** He is ready to sacrifice everything, wife, children, family, health, even his own life in order to get there.

Valentina is a woman, a mother of two children and the wife of Adam. She is strong, intelligent, determined and in many ways she has an “astronaut” soul, just as much as Adam.

Fly Me To The Moon is the story of **their relationship told in the shadow of the mighty Saturn V missile and the Apollo Project.** It's the story of an unbalanced love between her and him and the Moon, an all absorbing dream that, for its very utopian nature, continuously risks to become the cause of their destruction.

But Fly Me To The Moon is also about **human ingenuity and the science** that had to be developed in order to bring humans far away from the Earth. It's about the Moon, **our celestial companion**, and its amazing characteristics. The play is a tribute to the fascination that we humans have felt for our nightly companion since the beginning of time and to our desire to learn, to be curious, to never stop exploring.



**The play will have its world premiere on
July 20th 2019, 50 years since the first lunar landing!**

In collaborazione con



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Playwright's notes

On May 21st 1961 President Kennedy gave a speech in front of the US Congress: "...I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth." On July 20th 1969 20:17 UTC (GMT), before the decade was out, the Lunar Module Eagle landed on the moon at Tranquillity Base.

"Houston. Tranquillity Base here. The Eagle has landed.

"Roger, Tranquillity. We copy you on the ground. You got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're breathing again. Thanks a lot".

Six hours later astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin stepped on the moon. "A small step for [a] man, a giant leap for mankind". Kennedy's wish had been fulfilled.

Ever since animals had some form of consciousness, for millions of years, they have been staring at the moon charmed by its unreachable beauty. Now the moon had been conquered, demonstrating how powerful and resourceful the genius of humans can be.

On July 20th 2019 it will be exactly 50 years since that historical moment and I have decided to celebrate it by writing a play that could look into both the amazing achievements reached by NASA's Apollo Missions and at the same time explore the motivations that animated the soul of those daredevils that stepped inside flimsy spacecrafts to chase a dream too big to be refused. These men risked it all to become what could have become modern day Icarus and only through sheer courage and good luck, achieving a milestone that forever, as long as human memory will survive, will be remembered.

Yet, if truth must be told, the achievement of Aldrin and Armstrong is the result of a truly titanic effort. One that dwarfs even the Manhattan Project, the other amazing engineering achievement of the 20th century: more than 400.000 people had worked on NASA's space program!

In this play I have "invented" one astronaut that never really existed: Adam. I have placed him the fold of the other Apollo astronauts as if he were one of them, because it did not seem right to single out one that actually existed. I wanted to make Adam a symbol of those that really existed: condensing their motivations, fears, personalities and fate. I did not want to neglect their wives either. Because they were just as heroic as their husbands. And their children too... even today they have strong mixed feelings about their fathers.

Fly Me To The Moon is the story of a dream. One of those dreams that dominates every fibre of the body and soul. One of those dreams that is life or death. And what happens when that dream is achieved... by others but not by you? How does it make you feel? If truth be told, I believe I can relate to that. I believe that in some way we all can relate to that because if we can't, then we cannot call ourselves human.

This is what motivated me to write Fly Me To The Moon. Along the way I met Adam's wife, Valentina. And I have discovered a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude towards her, because she also had a dream and she was able to sacrifice it to make room for his. For every great achiever there is a list of unsung heroes that made that achievement possible. I feel as much admiration for people like her as I do for the courageous astronauts that took humankind to another level. Fly Me To The Moon is a story that I needed to write. (Andrea Brunello)



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