

Moon Village – a Global Science Opera

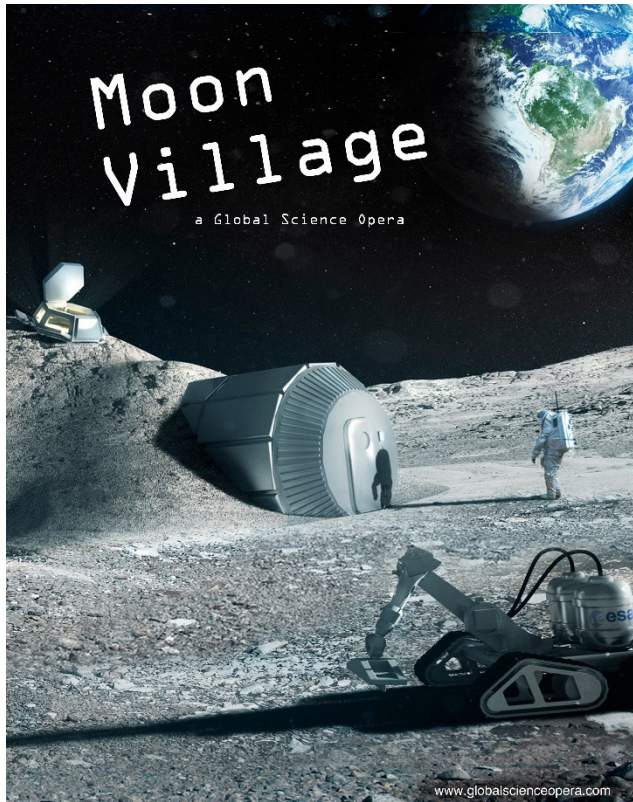
(version #15 - not final)

(Characters, Synopsis, Scenes, costumes, Libretto and country-based participations)



1. General info

“Moon Village” is a Global Science Opera. 25 countries. Each country will produce 1-2 scenes of approximately 2 minutes each. Each country decides if their performance will be live (on December 13th, at 14:00GMT/14:00 UTC/15:00 CET) or if they pre-record and send a video. The performance will be broadcasted by the Norwegian “TV-Haugaland” and online at this link: <https://hnytt.no/se-tvh-live/>



Costumes were developed at Maribor University (Slovenia). All scenes in which a specific character is performing will have the same costume. The scenography depends on the specific scene. It is recommended to use recycled/sustainable/local materials for scenography and costumes where possible. An update email and new version of the libretto will be sent once a month.

It is necessary to have written signature by parents of under-18 year olds. These signatures should be kept by the teachers in each country.



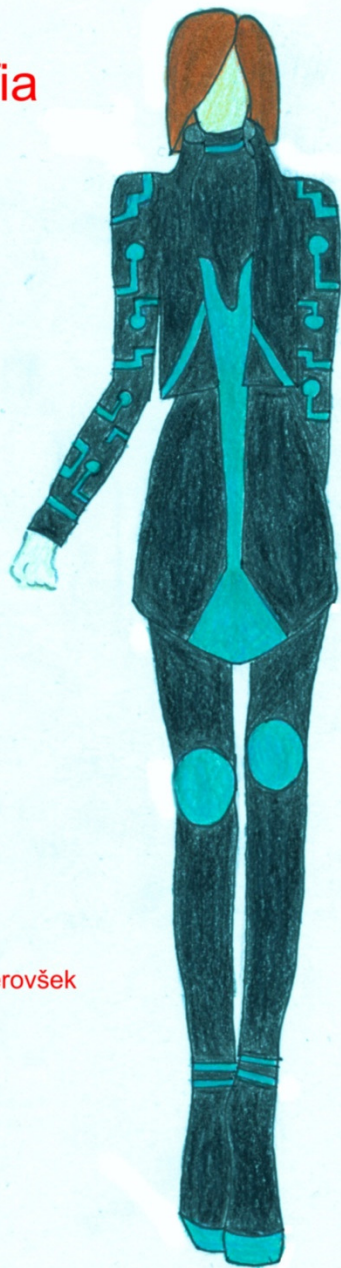
2. Characters

Name	Description	Personality	What does the character want?	Character motivation/aim	Character's atmosphere
Sofia	A girl born on the Moon	Curious; very emotional; fascinated by new inventions	new inventions; friends	As child: to learn about life and love on the moon As grownup: Independence for the moon	Positive
Bernard	A boy born on the Moon	Caring; smart; has a sadness that makes him long for another place (this longing is resolved in the opera)	Intellectual challenges; to travel to another place	As child: to learn about life and love on the moon As grownup: Fighting for the earth	Active but melancholic
a group of children	born on the Moon	Good friends of both Sofia and Bernard	to explore Space	To support Sofia and the independence of the moon from the Earth	Warm
Anna	Sofia's mother and an astronaut	Creative but pedantic	Desperate to know that Sofia will be safe on the moon despite being born in 1/6 Gravity	Develop life on the moon	In control
Luc	Sofia's father and an astronaut	A loyal, trustworthy nerd; interested in technical devices.	Satisfied with having found the love of his life.	To support Anna no matter what.	Relaxed
Liv	Female astronaut	Anna's friend; insecure; needs a friend; A bit scared to be in space.	Anna's approval as a friend	To support Anna no matter what.	Frightened
Takumi	Male astronaut	Luc's friend	Needs Luc's approval	To support Luc no matter what.	Worried
Robi (temporary name)	Sofia's robot, and the children's Nanny	Programmed to be kind and has a lot of knowledge. But doesn't have real feelings.	Needs energy to function	Programmed to protect Sofia and the children	Distant
Gravity	Force of nature represented as a character.	Trouble-maker. Complicated. Keeps the opera's story going. Powerful. Afraid that life in new places might change something for Gravity itself.	Interested in seeing how Sofia, Bernard and their friends are affected by being born in 1/6 g.	To keep the moon free from people because he doesn't want to take responsibility for what happens with the children. Make life difficult for the children	Mysterious
A European Space Agency (ESA) official	Official	Official	To communicate about the Moon Village	That children will know everything about the moon village in a scientific way	Friendly
Astronaut on the Intl. Space Station (ISS)	His real self	Funny, smart, plays the saxophone	To communicate through music	Spread knowledge about the moon through music	Friendly

3. Synopsis

The year is 2040. 100 persons (scientists, artists, farmers, teachers, engineers) live on the Moon Village. Two of them are expecting a child: Sofia is the first child born in space. Soon, more children are born on the Moon. Robi the Robot is their nanny. Gravity plans to make life difficult for them. As the children grow, they explore Space. When they learn about the troubles on Earth, some of them (including Sofia's boyfriend) decide to return back to Earth. Sofia and the others who stayed on the Moon are sad. But now they grow even more curious about the Space around them. They need a school on the Moon! They study the Earth more carefully. Finally, Sofia leads the Moon children to declare independence from Earth. For this, they will need to trick Gravity by using creative knowledge.

Sofia



Julita Perovšek

Anna

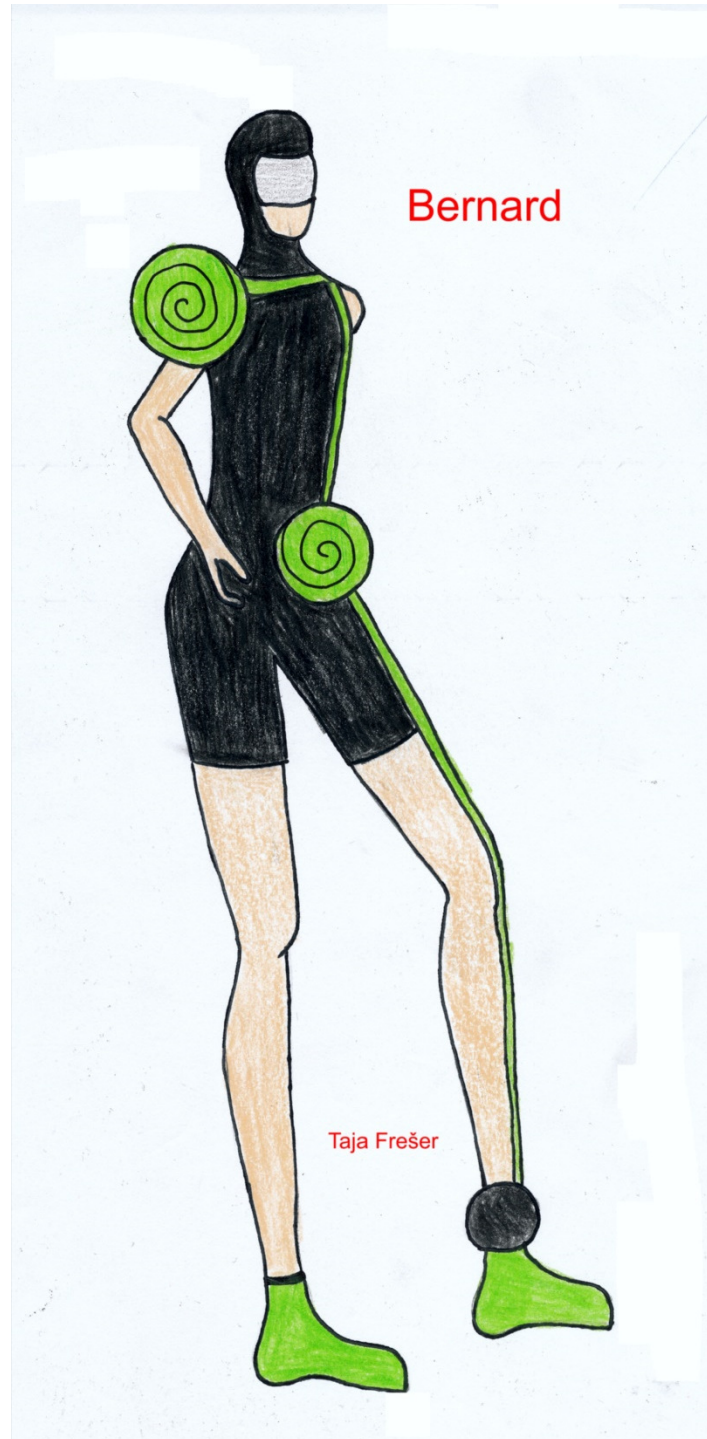


Kaja Antolin



Luc

Vesna Detečnik



Bernard

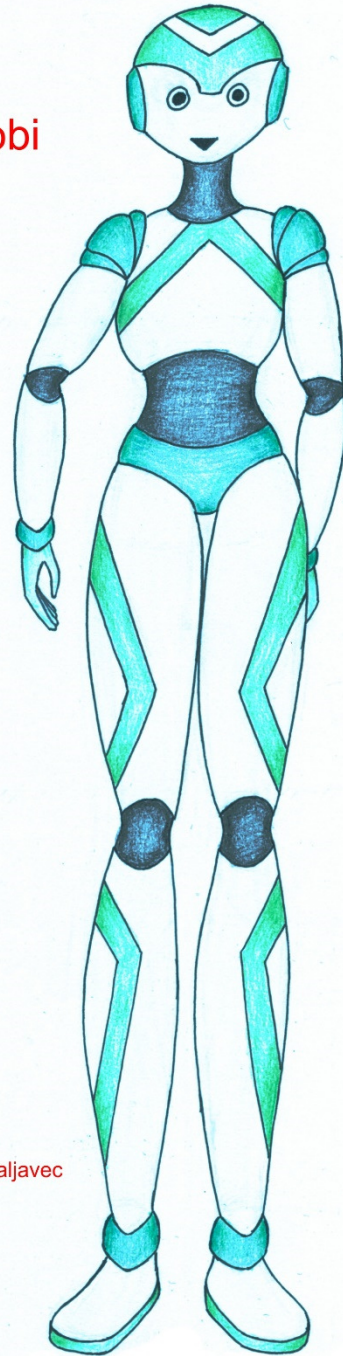
Taja Frešer

Gravity



Nika Kostanjšek

Robi

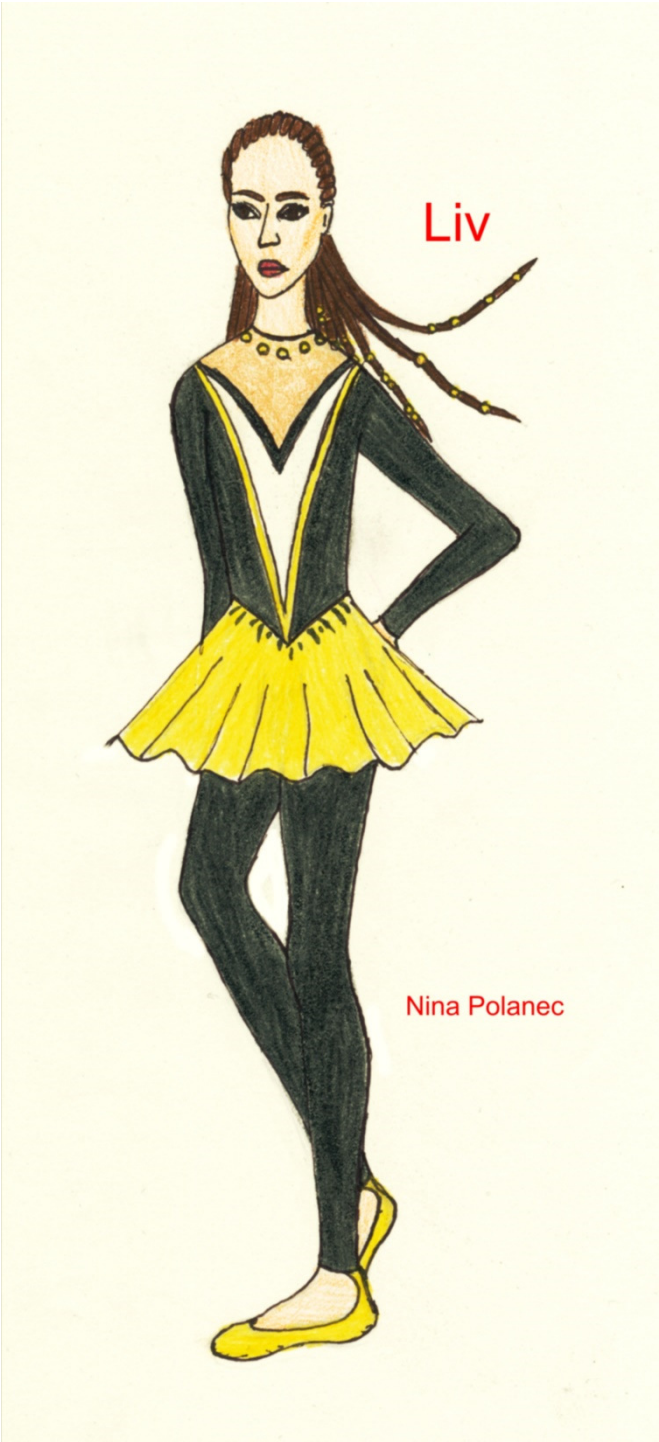


Valerija Valjavec



Takumi

Urška Švab



Liv

Nina Polanec

4. Scene outline

Scene # and name	Time/place	Background information	Story	Country creating scene
PR Movie				
Live introduction by UK				
Overture by Portugal (overture)				
Astronomy Dance (France)				
Act 1 "BABIES ON THE MOON!"				
1) "Preparing for takeoff"	2030/Moon Village	<i>10 people are orbiting the Moon in 6-month rotations.</i>	Anna, Luc, Liv and Takumi are preparing a 6-month rotation of the moon. Anna and Luc share a task while preparing the technical equipment.	Poland
2) "The Question"	2030/in the spaceship		There are emotional interactions amongst the astronauts (they're from different countries/languages). A simple discussion leads to some (funny) confusion because of language differences, but in the end they all understand this and start laughing. Anna asks a question about Gravity.	Italy
3) "I'm Gravity"	2040/Moon Village	<i>100 people live permanently on the moon. First babies about to be born.</i>	Gravity presents itself and its intentions to make life difficult for the children	Slovakia
4) "Mother's Heart"			Anna and the other parents of the soon-to-born babies are worried about Gravity affecting the children's lives and bodies.	Brazil (live)
5) Robi the Nanny			Robi introduces the babies	Live from Norway
6) "Babies"			First BABIES ON THE MOON!	USA (music) Portugal (video)
7) Gravity	Gravity laughs		Gravity is smiling to Itself, planning to make trouble for the babies.	Norway
8) "Looking to Earth"	2050	<i>The babies have grown.</i>	Bernard and Sofia are now 10 years old. They study Earth through a telescope.	Zambia

9) "Troublemaker"	2015		Gravity's aria about how it will make problems for the kids because it is worried about what will happen to Gravity (itself) if life is established on the Moon	Ireland
10) "The decision"	<i>The year is 2054.</i>		The children are 14 years old. Bernard and Sofia are sweethearts. Bernard thinks about the many people on Earth, he feels lonely on the Moon. When the Moon-children study the Earth, they get worried. Finally Bernard decides to return to Earth.	UK (live)
11) "Departure to Earth"	The year is 2055.	This is the big crisis and breaking point of the story!	A group of children is leaving to go back to Earth. HUGE CRISIS! Sofia stays, her boyfriend leaves. Sofia cries. The scene's scenography is made with MITAKA software...the scene moves between Earth and the Moon constantly through MITAKA	Japan
Act 2 "School on the Moon"				
1) "Sadness"	2055/on the Moon	The kids who stayed behind on the Moon are sad. They miss their friends.	A sad melody and dance. At the end of the song, one of the children tells Sofia that they can cheer up by learning about the Sun	Cyprus
2) "Fun with the Sun"	2055/on the Moon		A fun song about the Sun	Kenya
3) "Pancakes"	2055/on the Moon		Sofia, Bernard and some other kids are cooking pancakes. A funny scene: When they flip them over, the pancakes take 2.5 times as much as usual time to fall back due to Gravity. Gravity is in the background making plans for trouble.	Belgium
4) "The confrontation"	2055/on the Moon		Confrontation between Robi the Robot and Gravity.	Argentina
5) "Light Side of the Moon"	2055/on the Moon	The children learn more about the Moon	The Moon Village children (Sofia, Bernard and their friends) learn more about the Moon.	Greece
6) "The Plan"	2055/on the Moon	This is a resolution (solution) to the sad crisis after some of the children left back to Earth	Sofia and her friends decide to start a school on the Moon	Spain (2 schools: Bilbao and Valencia)

7) Song: The Creative School on the Moon”				Brazil
8) “School on the Moon”	2055/on the Moon		A school on the Moon is created and starts working...	Romania
9) “Learning astronomy”	2055/on the Moon		A Lesson on the Moon	China
10) “The Dance”	2055 on the Moon	A dance	Celebration of the Moon telescope array	Chile
11) “Creativity”			The kids, after seeing the dance celebration of the Moon telescope array, discuss how their school should be arranged. Art? Science? Creativity? Inquiry?	Sweden
Act 3 “CREATIONS”				
Pre-scene	2055 / on Earth	Troubles on Earth	The scene starts with a grandfather explaining to his grandchild on Earth about the problems and why we need to leave. Then we go to the Moon for a song by People living on the Dark side of the Moon	USA
1) “Save the Earth”	2055/on the Moon	Message from Moon children to Earth children: “Save the Earth”	<i>Picture/film of a beach and sounds of waves, wind etc.</i>	Germany
2) “Challenges”				Mixed emotions amongst the kids who stayed on the Moon – great adaptation challenges and scientific successes (half and half)
3) “Declaration of Independence”	2069/on the Moon	The kids have now grown and are now in their 30’s.	Sofia leads the others to declare independence for the Moon, to create a peaceful good environment, the creative school, being humane (and peace) so that those on Earth may learn from us here on the Moon	Wales (live)
4) “Bring Peace”	Time: 2069. Place: All over the Earth and Moon		Song: Bring Peace (worldwide and Lunar choir)	England (live) and worldwide (Video)
5) “CREATIONS”	2070/On the Moon		“CREATIONS” – an aria about creative learning by Sofia, who is now in her 30’s.	Greece (LSTT/ GSOrt) (live)
6) “Europe”		Moon Village mastermind	Sofia and friends interview the European Space Agency on the Moon	Holland (live)

5. Libretto

Act 1 scene 1 (Poland)

Anna, Luc, Liv and Takumi are preparing a 6-month rotation of the moon. Anna and Luc share a task while preparing the technical equipment. They are in a hurry – things are a bit hectic.

Anna (carrying some equipment): Are you ready?

Luc, Liv and Takumi (together): Yes!

Anna (giving the box of equipment to Luc): Luc, put this in the space-ship

Luc (smiling, totally in love, talking slowly while he is looking at Anna): OK, I will do that

Takumi (busy fixing something on the space-ship): Luc, can you please check if this is correct?

Luc (walking towards Takumi with the equipment): Yes, sure

Anna (loudly): Luc!

Luc (suddenly turning away from Takumi, putting the equipment in the space-ship): Yes, yes, I know...

Liv (to Anna): Anna, did you remember the...

Anna (turning to Liv and talking loudly): Oh no...I forgot...Luc, could you...

Luc (he and Takumi look at each other and shrug their shoulders): Yes...I will get it...

Liv (she and Anna look at each other, smiling): Good

Luc (trying to rush to the Moon Village but this takes 2.5 times as much time because of 1/6 gravity): I will be back as soon as possible

Liv, Takumi and Anna (laughing): M-hm

Anna (suddenly serious, the camera focuses on her face in a close-up frame): well...actually gravity is not a laughing matter...

Act 1, scene 2: TO BE WRITTEN BY ITALIAN TEAM

Act 1, scene 3: TO BE WRITTEN BY SLOVAKIAN TEAM

Act 1, scene 4: WRITTEN BY BRAZILIAN TEAM

Rich in allure and mystery

Became a reality in the form of a village

We are a community built in opportunity

People working and living together on the moon

The Moon Village is an important step

On exploration of Space.

Having a permanent human presence on it.

Could be risky,

But man aren't afraid of being trying.

On a mother's heart
Nothing can be worse
Than dark shadows hovering over her child
While she rests protected.
Floating in an obscure universe
As if she was involved
In the hidden mantle of the moon.

Your power is undeniable, Gravity!
But keep your threats far away from our babies.
The same forces that empowers you
They will also bring protection to my daughter
Anna, a woman living her maternal worries
And Sofia, a loved baby
That represents the future of human missions on the moon...

Act 1, scene 5: WRITTEN BY NORWEGIAN TEAM

Ref:

I am Gravity (and I...)
Yes, I am Magical

Verse:

I, I am so (special)
But I'm mysterious
Yes, that is true
I, I am so (special)
But I'm mysterious
Yes, that is true

Ref:

I am Gravity (and I...)
Yes, I am Magical

Verse:

Have you seen those children?
They were the first to live on the moon
But I am gonna make it so difficult
For them to live here...

Ref:

I am Gravity (and I...)
Yes, I am Magical

Act 1, scene 8 (Zambia):

The children are now 10 years old.

Bernard: "I wanna play with the telescope! Oh, I see something green and blue, there's so much blue. Is that normal? And it's moving, why is it moving? And the colour is changing, it becomes white. It's so shiny! Is that a star?"

Act 1, scene 9: TO BE WRITTEN BY THE IRISH TEAM

Act 1, scene 10: UK team

Act 1, scene 11: TO BE WRITTEN BY JAPANESE TEAM

Act 2, scene 1: TO BE WRITTEN BY THE CYPRUS TEAM

Act 2, scene 2: FUN SONG ABOUT THE SUN (KENYA)

Act 2, scene 3: TO BE WRITTEN BY BELGIUM TEAM

Act 2, scene 4: CONFORNTATION BETWEEN GRAVITY AND ROBI (ARGENTINA)

We hear suspenseful background music. The stage is divided into two sections. There is a barrier between the two sections. On one side are the children. On the other side is Gravity. The children are whispering and looking worried about something but we don't hear what they are saying. Gravity is looking at the children and laughing to himself. The children feel something strange. Robi the Robot comes into the children's part of the stage.

Bernard: Look! There's Robi!

All the children turn to Robi and smile.

Children (together): Hi Robi!

Sofia (to Robi): Robi, we're studying Gravity.

Bernard (to Robi): Humans on Earth live in 1 Gravity. But here on the Moon we have only 1/6 Gravity.

Sofia (to Robi): Why didn't anyone tell us about this before?

Robi doesn't know why, so he doesn't answer. He turns and leaves. The lights go out on the children's side of the stage. Robi walks onto Gravity's side of the stage. He starts chasing Gravity, who tries to run away.

Robi (shouting): Leave the children alone!

In the end Gravity runs off the stage and Robi chases after him.

Act 2, scene 5: BY GREEK TEAM

A few children are in a room. Bernard walks in.

Bernard: Hey, everyone! Have you seen Sofia?

The children look at each other and shake their heads "no".

Bernard (sad): She promised to be here....

Sofia walks into the room. All the children point at her, smiling.

Bernard (happy): Hello, Sofia.

Sofia (happily): Hi Bernard, hi everybody.

Children (waving their hands): Hi Sofia

Bernard: What took you so long, Sofia?

Sofia (laughing): Gravity....

Bernard: Ah, yes....

Sofia: Remember, there are still many things we don't know about the Moon, even though we were born here...

All the children and Bernard nod their heads in agreement.

Sofia: Did you know that our Moon can get block the Sun from the view of people on Earth?

Bernard: Really?

All the children look confused.

Sofia: Yes...

Bernard: But how?

Sofia (smiling): I will explain, but there are many more things about our Moon that you don't know. For instance, why our Moon Village was built exactly here?

Bernard: Why?

Sofia: Before our Moon Village, no human had ever visited the lunar pole regions. But humans knew that there was water ice to be found here...

Act 2, scene 6: BY SPANISH TEAM

Part 1 Valencia

10 segundos: En la escena se ve a unos cuantos niños tristes porque echan de menos a sus amigos. Entre ellos está Sofía.

20 segundos: Recuerdan todo lo que aprendieron sobre la luna, también sobre el sol y sobre la tierra.

40 segundos: Pequeña danza, canción repetitiva (composición musical a cargo de Valencia) con las palabras aprender, aprendiendo, conocer, conocimiento, cada vez más deprisa para acabar de repente en la palabra escuela.

Se hace el silencio

10 segundos: Sofía dice: construir una escuela en la luna, es una buena idea. Y como siempre la muletilla we can do it.

40 segundos: Vídeo acelerado donde cada uno trae un ladrillo, se construye la fachada de la Escuela al ritmo de la música inicial.

Part 2 Bilbao

INT. CLASSROOM. **Establishing shot #1.** students sitting in a classroom. Silence. White lighting. The ROBOT professor stands in front.

Close-ups of the students curiously awaiting. A pen tapping on the table. A foot fidgeting.

Medium shot: ROBOT slowly moves towards the window. It uncovers it and the students stare in awe. Medium close-up of students.

CHORUS

That's the Earth! My parents always talk about it!

POV shot of the Earth from the kids' perspective.

SOFIA

I've seen Earth like this!

ROBOT 1

Look at these pictures from the Earth. They are different. They reflect what's happening on Earth: different temperatures, storms, magnetism...

CHORUS

How colorful the Earth! Is it always the Earth?

Students push a red button on their tables before asking questions.

STUDENT 1

Do people live inside a dome too?

Medium shot ROBOT.

ROBOT 1

No. They don't need it. They've got an atmosphere.

STUDENT 2

An atmosphere? What's the atmosphere?

ROBOT

The atmosphere is the mass of air surrounding the Earth.

Establishing shot #3

CHORUS

There is atmosphere in the Earth. Why isn't there atmosphere around the moon?

Earth shot getting closer.

Hand pushing button.

STUDENT 3

Why is there atmosphere in the Earth and not in the moon?

Close-up ROBOT.

ROBOT 2

The Earth is bigger than the moon and has bigger mass. That's why it attracts gases that form the atmosphere.

SOFIA

Mum says that the attraction is because of gravity.

CHORUS

Gravity! Has he/she said gravity? What is gravity?

STUDENT 4

Daddy says gravity is the force that pulls objects to the ground.

CHORUS

Gravity is one of the fundamental forces of the Universe.

STUDENT 2

Isn't there gravity in the moon?

ROBOT

Yes, of course. But the moon's smaller, not big enough to form an atmosphere.

CHORUS

What a pity! In the moon we need domes to live!

The students get up to see the Earth from inside the window.

Shot of the students from outside the window, waving at the

Earth. Fade to black.

Act 2, scene 7: Song, The Creative School on the Moon (Brazil)

"The creative school on the Moon"

A boy believed he could fly
Up in a sky full of stars
Where dreams come true
And the sun shines for you

Feel the clouds on your knees
Dance with the wind
In a school of joy and peace
Dreams are not made of paper
So color your days and take a break

(Chorus)

Moon Village
Come join this magical trip
No matter your skin
Let's be a team

See the stars above your head
Leave your footprints on the sands of life
Take care of your planet
While it's still there"

Act 2, scene 8: TO BE WRITTEN BY ROMANIAN TEAM

Act 2, scene 9: Written by the Chinese Team

Act 2, scene 10: DANCE BY THE CHILEAN TEAM

Act 2, scene 11: BY THE SWEDISH TEAM The Moon Village Song/ Vi är blommor

We want our school
To be perfect
Just like on the moon
Free, fun, warm and friendly
Just like on the moon

Without bullying
or violence
Where school is like home
Where you feel accepted
You'll never feel alone
Just like on the moon

We want school to be creative
Somewhere we can grow
Learning every single day
With teachers who care

We want our school
to be perfect
Just like on the moon
Free, fun, warm and friendly
Like the moon
Like the moon

Act 3, pre-scene by USA

The first part is the grandfather explaining to his grandchild here on Earth about the troubles and why we need to leave. Then we go to the moon for song by people living on the dark side of the moon.

Act 3, scene 1: MUSIC/PERFORMANCE BY GERMAN TEAM

Text starts like this: "If I could turn back time. If I could be born again on earth. I would swim forever and ever in the blue, blue sea I can only know from afar."

Act 3, scene 2: TO BE WRITTEN BY AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Act 3, scene 3: TO BE WRITTEN BY WALES

Act 3, scene 4: Universal Song "Bring Peace" by UK team and worldwide

Bring peace, bring love, bring joy
Don't fight each other
Cherish the world, look after our earth
We beg you. The children of our world. (x1)

We all live together
Here on planet earth
Let's learn to live in harmony

It's sad when we fall out.
No more fighting each other
No more lies, no more conflict.
We are all connected.
In this world, we must love.

Bring peace, bring love, bring joy
Don't fight each other
Cherish the world, look after our earth
We beg you. The children of our world. (x1)

We can all make a difference:
Caring for our friends,
Being kind to those around us.
Oh, you will be surprised
What power your love can bring,
What comfort and what joy
Share your smile, try it now
Reaching out to all.

Bring peace, bring love, bring joy
Don't fight each other
Cherish the world, look after our earth
We beg you. The children of our world. (x1)

Look up to the sky, the moon, the stars,
Look around you on Earth. So much you can learn
Look deep into space, into objects below,
From smallest to largest, expanding our mind
Bring power, understanding, Bring healing, bring freedom

Bring peace, bring love, bring joy
Don't fight each other
Cherish the world, look after our earth
We beg you. The children of our world. (x2)

Act 3, scene 5: TO BE WRITTEN BY GREEK TEAM

Act 3, scene 6: LIVE INTERVIEW AT ESTEC (Room: "NEWTON") HOLLAND



De kinderen zongen fanatiek mee met Irma Smegen. Foto: De Kunstbeweging

Emmer leerlingen spelen in internationale opera

Kinderen van de basisscholen de Brink, de Hesselanden en het Expertise Centrum voor anderstaligen werken met kinderen uit veertig andere landen aan de opera Moon Village.

EMMEN

De Emmer scholieren maakten op 29 maart kennis met het project. De leerlingen realiseren zich inmiddels dat ze meedoen aan 'iets groots'. Vanuit Nederland begeleiden theaterdocenten Henk de Reus uit Wijster en Irma Smegen uit Orvelte het project.

En om kinderen te enthousiasmeren voor astronomie werken wetenschappers van het European Space Agency's Technology Center (ESTEC) in Noordwijk mee aan de voorstelling. Dit past perfect bij de visie van de scholen, waar extra aandacht is voor wetenschap en technologie.

Global Science Opera is bedacht door de Noorse docent en musicus Oded Ben-Horin. In alle landen die meedoen zijn - net als in Emmen - groepen kinderen een deel van de opera aan het instuderen. Sommige landen sturen hun bijdrage als filmpje op, andere scènes zijn via een videoverbinding te zien. In december is de wereldpremière die live door de Noorse televisie wordt uitgezonden en wereldwijd via internet te bekijken is.

Project

Irma Smegen over het project: "We zijn trots dat de scholen in Emmen ervoor kiezen om mee te spelen in

deze wereldvoorstelling. Het project vraagt nogal wat voorbereiding en wordt daarom ondersteund door een subsidie van Compenta, die we aangevraagd hebben met begeleiding van De Kunstbeweging. Vooral de combinatie met de reguliere basisschool de Brink, de Hesselanden op het asielzoekerscentrum en het Expertise Centrum voor anderstaligen maakt het voor de leerlingen extra bijzonder."

Motto

Een deel van het internationale team - mét Ben-Horin - was op 29 maart in Nederland voor een bijeenkomst bij de ESA en om met de kinde-

ren in Emmen te werken. Het motto van de scholen 'Met oog voor de wereld' komt zo volgens Smegen heel dichtbij. Smegen vervolgt: "De scholen willen op een creatieve manier aan de slag met OOL (Onderzoekend en Ontwerpend Leren). Ze willen taalonderwijs daarmee verweven en willen het project 'Met het oog op de wereld' naar buiten zichtbaar maken via voorstellingen en presentaties. Spelenderwijs maken de kinderen ook kennis met astronomie en krijgen ze de kans om hun scène wereldwijd te spelen bij de ESA in Noordwijk waar astronomen opgeleid worden. Dat is toch geweldig?"