

"The Ideal Airplane ... a Voyage in Discovery of Other Cultures", a project produced by the Alfredo Oriani 51st School District and sponsored by the Naples International Airport, will be presented tomorrow.

Tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., at the Alfredo Oriani 51st School District located in San Pietro Patierno, there will be a presentation of the project "The Ideal Airplane ... a Voyage in Discovery of Other Cultures" which is aimed at increasing public awareness of multicultural and intercultural issues.

The ideal itinerary plotted out by the children includes dance, song and mime which transports the audience to different epochs and contexts and is aimed at promoting appreciation of different cultures and, ultimately, heightening respect and solidarity. The multi-cultural and inter-cultural themes highlighted by the ethnic folk dances are further exalted by the various scenes located, in order of appearance: at the airport, on a bus, at the train station and at a city stop light.

The first scene takes place at the airport in Naples where the "ideal airplane" lands from New York with a load of lively students. Their joyous mood becomes sombre as they listen to the tormenting melody of *Santa Lucia Luntana* which evokes the nostalgia of so many Italian immigrants in America. The young narrator accompanies us to a crowded bus where a Neapolitan housewife and Somali woman are exchanging recipes for ragout and couscous.

To the rhythm of a lively *Tarantella*, we are then conducted to the train station where we encounter a multi-coloured variety of humanity: a vagrant, a Jewish and a Senegalese couple who are exchanging their respective opinions about life.

The fifth scene proposes a scenario which has become painfully familiar in contemporary life: a young gypsy child talking to a driver at a stop light on a busy city intersection.

The final scene gathers all the characters thus far encountered back onto stage: having overcome their initial differences, together, they embark on the ideal airplane to continue their voyage in the discovery of other different cultures.

"This itinerary was drawn up to illustrate how, in our country, persons of different cultures, traditions and religious beliefs live together peacefully and how strongly the sentiment of solidarity runs in the veins of the Italian people" - states Eva Rugiero, the academic director of the 51st School District. As far as the airport is concerned, "in addition to being a natural crossroads of different races and cultures" - underscores Mauro Pollio, "for years the airport has been committed to the school system in the surrounding areas and has promoted educational projects with high social content. It is only right that the benefits gained by the development of an International Airport such as ours be first of all extended to the inhabitants of the nearby neighbourhoods and particularly to the children living there."