

A surprise speaker for your science or humanities students?

Or a relaxing yet stimulating break from the timetable?

This brief encounter could be both!

BIRD TALK

a message for humanity

Photo: Jan P. Zegarra /USFWS



In the Puerto Rican forest lies a huge radio telescope, designed to seek out and communicate with intelligent life across the universe.

Paradoxically, the astronomers' nearest neighbours are the few surviving members of a highly intelligent species of parrot. Aren't they exactly what the scientists are looking for?

Hear the spellbinding speech from a feathered friend we have long overlooked! Written by the widely acclaimed author, Ted Chiang, and published under the title *"The Great Silence"*, the parrot's words compel us to reconsider our role as neighbours: to other humans, and to other living creatures on the planet we share in the "disconcertingly quiet" universe.

In its dramatised form, the speech is both interesting and provocative, amusing and touching. Audiences young and old have expressed their pleasure on hearing it. And there's plenty to talk about afterwards!

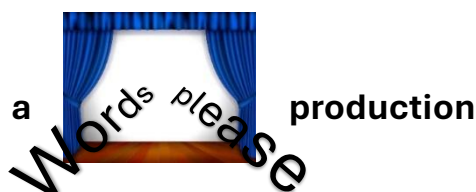
The performance is in English, running time 20 minutes. Plus time for discussion with the students. All in all: a "lesson for life".

Suggested age: from 15 upwards (åk 9 & gymnasiet)

For contact details and all information please visit my website

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Kevin Benn was born and educated in England but has lived in Sweden for most of his adult life, acting at Teater 23 in Malmö and teaching English in schools. Now retired, he tours with a Swedish children's play "Nasse hittar en stol", performs in English at Playmate Theatre Malmö, and tells stories – often in costume – to anyone who will listen.



"Putting words into action and action into words"