

Performing chemical experiments on stage

“Elements: a Magic Chemical Show!”

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The show brings to the audience's attention a leading figure of the world of science and his most famous discovery: D. I. Mendeleev and the law of periodicity. The plot becomes an opportunity to show some spectacular chemical reactions peculiar to the elements introduced to the audience.

The elements play with each other, interact with the audience and introduce themselves to Mendeleev. The text, original and registered, is simple as well as the stage set and the costumes.

Students from I.T.I. “Giua”, Cagliari and I.T.C.G “Mattei”, Decimomannu and a young girl 11 years old with their teachers took part in the show. Students were able to see chemistry from an unusual point of view. The following aspects were developed: theatrical, historical, experimental, scientific, with special attention to safety rules.

The plot

D.J. Mendeleev is puzzling over the elements: he wants to find the logic of their pattern. He thinks over the perfection of the chemical world, but he finally gets dead tired and goes to sleep. As soon as he disappears, the elements come out on the stage, playing with their experiments. Some of them, however, still unknown at the time, have no names: one of these, envious of friends' names, decides to make up one. It tries again and again, with no result: obviously nobody can get a name without being “discovered”! Mendeleev comes back to work on his scheme where he finds out a gap, suitable to an unknown element for which he suggests Ekasilicon as a name. This choice sounds definitely unpleasant to the element in question, who fights against it: it wants a beautiful name, it wants to be discovered! At last.... the discovery and the right name: Germanium. Immediately after that, also the other unknown elements are brought to light: Argon, Helium and Neon. All of them, organized in the Periodic Table, play with each other around Mendeleev.

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