



# STEP

## SCENES FROM THE HISTORY OF HUMANKIND // ITIM ENSEMBLE

Photo: Yaniv Berman



Inspired by Yuval Noah Harari's bestseller *Sapiens*

Directed by Zvi Sahar

Long ago, Homo sapiens were just another animal of no particular importance. Now, we are masters of the earth, stronger than ever, lords of the universe, self-appointed gods, who don't realize they are the last human species on earth. Is there anything more dangerous than gods who don't know what they want?

In this new work, an adaptation for seven actors, a movie camera, and a skeleton, the journey of Homo sapiens, our journey, is brought to life. Our discoveries, our inventions, our abilities explode onto the stage, laid bare in their beauty, wonder, and raw power.

In his innovative and unique theatre language, PuppetCinema, Zvi Sahar combines theatre, movement, live cinema, and puppetry, and searches for the answer to the ultimate question – what is our next step?

**PuppetCinema** Using a cinematographic aesthetic, a documentarian's eye, and the tropes of cinema vérité, PuppetCinema productions shape the audience's focus with a strong and steady hand. What began as a creative experiment in Israel in 2009, has evolved into a mission to explore a dialogue between puppetry, object theatre, film, foley, and live feed. PuppetCinema was born out of a desire to build an artistic synergy between these complementary mediums, where they can happily coexist and thrive and, most importantly, help tell a good story.

**Zvi Sahar** is a director, actor, and puppeteer. He holds a BA in Theatre Studies from University of Haifa. Sahar established PuppetCinema in 2009, presenting *Planet Egg* at Puppet Lab at St. Ann's Warehouse, NYC.

His works – *Salt of the Earth* (2014), *Gulliver* (2016), *Suddenly* (2017), *Matt* (2019), and *The Big Bang* (2021) – have participated in numerous international festivals, including BAM Next Wave Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Taiwan International Festival of Arts, Theater der Welt Festival, and Charleville's Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionettes. In 2019, Sahar was named Artistic Director of Itim Ensemble, established by director Rina Yerushalmi.

[Online info](#)

**Running time:** 60 minutes

**Booking:**

Dalit Itai, Touring and International Relations, Itim Ensemble,  
[dalit@as-is-arts.com](mailto:dalit@as-is-arts.com)

**Artistic Advisor:** Rina Yerushalmi

**Art Director:** Tal Erez

**Lightning:** Shai Dror

**Music:** Shlomi Mantsur

**Puppet Instructor:** Gony Paz

**Text Consultant:** Danielle Cohen Levy

**Assistant Director, Movement:**  
Shai Kessel

**Sound Operator:** Kobe Shmueli

**Cast:** Omri Raveh, Yinon Cohen, Yuval Fingerman, Shani Shabtai, Yael Finkel / Ayelet Golan, Chihiro Tazuro, Zvi Sahar