

DAVIDE SAPIENZA born 1963 (short)

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Author, writer and journalist. He started writing books on rock music in the early eighties at the age of twenty. He has had a successful career as a music journalist, with bestselling books dedicated to U2, Nirvana, and Neil Young among others. In 1997 he opted to take a "definitive sabbatical" from music writing, in order to prepare for his journey as an author in the literary world, and to travel extensively as a hiker, backcountry skier, cyclist and explorer of landscapes and cultures.

He is the author of *I Diari di Rubha Hunish* (BaldiniCastoldiDalai, 2004 and Galaad Edizioni, 2010), the experimental novel *La Valle di Ognidove* (Vivalda Editori, 2007), *La Strda Era L'Acqua* (Galaad Edizioni, 2010) and a photographic limited edition publication called *Taivitii* (2006), including his own poetry as the books he co-authored with photographer Andrea Aschedamini, *Tremilachilometri a mano* (Libri a Mano, 2008) and *L'invisibile canto del silenzio* (EDUCatt, Università Cattolica di Milano, 2010).

As a magazine writer, he has travelled extensively in the Arctic and across Italy, lecturing about his books. In 2008 he worked on the controversial History Channel documentary "Scemi di Guerra," about shell shock in the W.W. I – the first of its kind in Italy. In 2009, inspired by his novel *La valle di Ognidove*, RSI, Swiss National TV, produced a documentary, "La sapienza di Davide: parole in cammino," dedicated to the special relationship in his work between the natural and the spiritual world.

He is also renowned for his work on Jack London - both as a translator and scholar. He has worked – among others - on a new annotated edition of London's *Martin Eden* for Mondadori, *The Road* (with the unreleased – in Italy - *Tramp Diaries*), *To Build A Fire* (which was used by renowned actor Marco Paolini for a special project live in the Dolomites festival The Sounds of the Dolomites), *Revolution and other essays* and a new translation of the classic *The Call of the Wild* for Feltrinelli (February 2011). He is also translator of his icon and “maestro” Barry Lopez, of whom he translated *Resistance* in 2008.

DAVIDE SAPIENZA (long)

In 1984, at the tender age of 20, Davide published his editorial debut, reflecting his restless urge to write about and immerse himself in his primary inspiration, music. By January 1985 he had published his first book - on the legendary rock band U2 - a book that went on to sell in excess of 150.000 copies over a period of five years.

Thereon in, Davide forged a long and diverse career as a respected and well known music journalist; also working for ten years at the seminal Radio Popolare Network in Milano and three years for national TV RAI in Torino. During those years he established a side project, and one still very dear to his heart: studies, translations, readings and publications about, and with Native American artists.

Fuelled by this fulfilling work with these artists, Davide continued to develop his own style of poetry. Writings deeply inspired by his »unus mundus« vision of the relationship between landscape and human culture. This inspiration culminated in his move from the big city to a small village in the Central Alps, in early 1990 and a change of lifestyle. By the end of the millennium his focus still on music but punctuated by extensive trips across the Northern hemisphere, the Arctic, and latterly, the South American Andes.

After a few years of experimenting a new form of journal writing he struck a chord with his groundbreaking book *I Diari di Rubha Hunish*: released through a major publishing house. The book was acclaimed as a new form for travel writing and reflections. Laid out as a journal and textured as a novel, it offered a new vision in an older context. Recognized as a new »genre« for Italian literature, this also prompted Davide's return to the magazine world focusing on many travel features for major publications such as Specchio/La Stampa, GQ, Diario, Rolling Stone, Rivista della Montagna and others.

2007 saw him publish a novel called *La valle di Ognidove*. Again, born out of travels and meetings, this time he experimented with an »open ended« story; with a link to an eponymous website of the same name, an extensive musical reading tour with a guitar player and singer, and taking his captivated audience out hiking!

Both of Davide's works contained photos taken by the author on the front sleeve, and in 2006 he released *Taiviti*; a limited edition photo book about life with the Inuit » inspired by an extensive trip to Nunavut, on Baffin Island.

Further lectures and readings based on his passions, including the Inuit life and culture, Jack London (of whom he is an expert) has occupied him for the last two years. In 2007

he also co-authored the groundbreaking First World War documentary *Scemi di Guerra* aired on History Channel to great acclaim.

Driving his strength from travels, hikes, skiing trips and adventures in the wild, Davide believes in Experience as the source. In 2007 he was invited to the A.L.A. Annual Symposium with a speech about the wilderness, from an Italian author's tradition perspective. In June 2008, *Manoa*, the University of Hawaii, published his essay in their journal, *As if 1918 Never Happened*.

After a long journey in Canada's Flathead Valley (British Columbia), Davide publishes a long story on GQ magazine and starts writing his new book. Another groundbreaking idea inspired by a canoe trip from the Swiss Alps to Istanbul by renowned Dario Agostini. The main character role is played by the Water, speaking to the journals of the traveller. A new and inspiring novel called *La Strada Era L'Acqua* is born. Meanwhile, in 2009, RSI, Swiss-Italian National TV films and hour long documentary about his 25 years career and life as a freewheeling spirit by director Fabio Calvi, based on the idea of "The Everywhere", as of his second novel. Titled "La Sapienza di Davide. Parole in Cammino" ("The Wisdom of Davide. Walking Words"), it can be seen as a streaming broadcast [here](#). In 2010, *La Strada Era L'Acqua* is released to a very good and warm reception (see for example the CultBook [booktrailer](#) here, for RAI Educational), Davide always engaged in touring with his book through literary trekkings nearby lakes, rivers, and creeks.