

ANNE BOGART & THE SITI COMPANY PRESENT

WAR OF THE WORLDS: The Radio Play



RADIO PLAY BY HOWARD KOCH
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY HG WELLS
DIRECTED BY ANNE BOGART & DARRON L WEST
ORIGINALLY BROADCAST ON OCTOBER 30, 1938
BY THE CBS MERCURY THEATER ON THE AIR

On the foggy fall evening of October 30, 1938, America went to war with Mars!! Adapted for radio by Howard Koch and starring Orson Welles, WAR OF THE WORLDS was presented as a Halloween thriller, or as Welles put it: "The Mercury Theatre's own radio version of dressing up in a sheet and jumping out of a bush and saying 'boo!!'" But, for those who tuned in late, "normal" programming appeared to be interrupted with the startling news that there were "explosions occurring on Planet Mars!" Reports followed stating that a "huge, flaming object" had fallen to earth on a farm near Grover's Mill, New Jersey. More landings were soon reported and an anxious radio audience came to the frightening conclusion the Earth was the target of a full-scale invasion by aliens!!

WAR OF THE WORLDS is the program which terrified a nation. Thousands fled their homes in panic. In New York City, swarms of curious and frightened citizens crowded the streets to catch a glimpse of a "real space battle." In the town of Grover's Mill, the local water tower was pumped full of buckshot as frightened believers fired at what they thought was a "giant Martian war machine." The true power of broadcast made itself known on this Halloween Eve in 1938, and no one has forgotten the chilling fear and awesome force of this, radio's single most famous broadcast.

Now, 63 years after the original broadcast, this radio classic comes to life as performed by the SITI Company. This staged version of the H. G. Wells/Howard Koch/ Orson Welles/Mercury Theatre on the Air WAR OF THE WORLDS is part of the SITI Company's investigation into the life and work of the genius Orson Welles for our production, also entitled WAR OF THE WORLDS, about this extraordinary American artist. Written by Naomi Iizuka, WAR OF THE WORLDS premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville in March of 2000.

We hope you will enjoy this evening as much as we have enjoyed the preparation of it for you.

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WAR OF THE WORLDS: The Radio Play

Featuring
AKIKO AIZAWA
J.ED ARAIZA
SHAWN FAGAN
JEFFREY FRACÉ
SUSAN HIGHTOWER
BARNEY O'HANLON
STEPHEN WEBBER

Written by
HOWARD KOCH

Directed by
ANNE BOGART & DARRON L WEST

Sound Design by
DARRON L WEST

Lighting by
BRIAN H. SCOTT

Managing Director
MEGAN WANLASS SZALLA

- PREMIERED OCTOBER 30, 1999 AT THE WEST BANK CAFÉ NYC
- THE KENNEDY CENTER, WASHINGTON DC FEBRUARY 2000
- EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, AUGUST 2000

Special Thanks

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