

Utah State Theatre Presents

Anne Bogart and the SITI Company's

Stage Production of

Orson Welles' Radio Classic

# WAR OF THE WORLDS

The Radio Play

Radio Play by Howard Koch

Based on the novel by H.G. Wells

Directed by Anne Bogart & Darron L. West

Made possible through a grant from the  
Marie Eccles Caine Foundation

## - THE CAST -

(in alphabetical order)

Akiko Aizawa\*  
J.Ed Araiza\*  
Shawn Fagan\*  
Jeffrey Fracé\*  
Susan Hightower\*  
Barney O'Hanlon\*  
Stephen Webber\*

Running time is approximately 1 hour with no intermission

Directors	Anne Bogart*** Darron L. West
Lighting Designer	Brian H. Scott
Sound Designer	Darron L. West**
Company Stage Manager	Megan Wanlass Szalla*
Production Manager	Ann B. Gellert
Managing Director	Megan Wanlass Szalla

Premiered October 30, 1999 at  
The West Bank Cafe in New York City.

The Kennedy Center, Washington DC February, 2000.

Edinburgh International Festival August, 2000.

\* *Members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers of the United States.*

\*\*\* *Member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc. (SSD&C) an independent national labor union.*



## - BIOGRAPHIES -

### Akiko Aizawa

A member of the SITI Company since 1997, Ms. Aizawa appeared in *War of the Worlds* (ATL/Humana Festival, BAM) and *Culture of Desire* in New York, Portland and Bogota, Columbia. As a member of the Suzuki Company of Toga, Ms. Aizawa performed in such productions as *The Trojan Women*, *Three Sisters*, *Dionysus*, *Macbeth*, *Ivanov*, *Waiting for Romeo* and *Greetings from the Edge of the Earth*. She has also appeared in Lech Machieweitz's productions of *Beckett in Circles and So Called K.*, Kamonegi Shot's *Woman Jump/Special*, Hedeyuki Miyaoka's film *Anna's Light* and *Endgame* at Columbia University.

### J. Ed Araiza

SITI Company credits: *Culture of Desire*, *The Medium*, *Small Lives/Big Dreams*, *War of the Worlds* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, BAM, New York Theatre Workshop, Walker Arts Center, City Theatre in Pittsburgh, Wexner Center, Theatre Artaud in San Francisco, Dublin Theatre Festival, Toga Arts Festival, Olympic Arts Festival, The Public Theater, and The Kennedy Center. Regional Theater: *The Cure* at Troy, Yale Rep.; *Santos and Santos*, Mixed Blood Theatre; *Keely and Du*, Hartford Stage and ATL; *1969* and *Picnic*, ATL; *Yerma*, Arena Stage; *Principia Scriptoria*, A Contemporary Theatre; *Charley Bacon*, South Coast Rep.; *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *La Victima*, Los Angeles Theatre Center. Off Broadway: *Orestes*, *Occasional Grace*, *Words Divine*. Mr. Araiza teaches and studies with The SITI Company.

### Anne Bogart (Co-Director)

Ms. Bogart is the artistic director of The SITI Company. Recent productions with SITI include *Room* (Wexner Center and City Theatre); *War of the Worlds* (ATL/Humana Festival of New American Plays, Edinburgh International Festival and BAM's Next Wave Festival); *BOB* (Wexner Center for the Arts/SITI); *Culture of Desire* (a co-production of SITI, City Theatre, and Portland Stage Company); *Private Lives* by Noel Coward and *Miss Julie* by August Strindberg (Actors Theatre of Louisville/SITI); and *Alice's Adventures* (Wexner, City Theatre, City Stages, SITI); as well as *Small Lives/Big Dreams*, *Going, Going, Gone*, and *The Medium* (SITI). She is the recipient of two Obie Awards, a Bessie Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Bogart is currently an associate professor at Columbia University.

### Shawn Fagan

Regional theatre credits include: *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (Delaware Theatre Company); *The Wizard of Oz* and *A Christmas Carol* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Recent New York credits include *Hamlet*, *Gull*, and *Fanatics* (ellen beckerman & company); *The High Priest of Bad Math* (Ontological Theatre); *Antigone* (Horace Mann Theatre); *Freakshow* (Clubbed Thumb). Shawn was a member of the 1997-98 Apprentice Company at Actors Theatre of Louisville and is a graduate of the University of Delaware.

### Jeffrey Fracé

SITI: *War of the Worlds* (Radio Play), *Culture of Desire* (in Portland and Bogota). Also with Anne Bogart: *American Silents*. He recently played Kochkaryov in Gogol's *Marriage in Caux, Switzerland*, and Agamemnon in Chuck Mee's *Agamemnon 2.0* in New York. Other recent credits include dancing in *Teaspoon Sun* with Laika dance/music/theatre and directing *Don Giovanni* for New York Repertory Ensemble. He is an Associate Artist of SITI and an Associate Director of Laika. MFA, Columbia University.

### Ann B. Gellert (ABG) (Production Manager)

SITI: Production Manager for *ROOM*, City Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA. New York Theatre Workshop: Production Manager for *The Gimmick*, *Tillers*, *Mother Earth*. Production Coordinator on *Just Add Water*, Festival of New Plays. Associate Production Manager for two seasons. Served as Venue Manager for National Alliance for Musical Theatre's Fall 2000 Festival. Assisted Production Manager at Jan Kroeze Lighting Design on Menswear Spring 1998 - Womenswear Spring 1999. Williamstown Theatre Festival: Production Manager for *The Blue Demon*, 1998 Cabaret Season, The Greylock Theatre Project. Associate Production Manager 1998 season; Assistant Production Manager 1997 season; Production Intern 1996 season. Various Production and Stage Management work at Manhattan Theatre Club, Classic Stage Company, EOS Ensemble and Brown University.



## - BIOGRAPHIES -

### **Susan Hightower**

Has trained and performed with the SITI Company on many occasions since its inception. SITI shows include the role of Alice in *Alice's Adventures*, understudy for Ellen Lauren in *Culture of Desire*, and SITI's inaugural production of *Orestes*. Susan was most recently seen Off-Broadway in Fassbinder's *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant* and as Clytemnestra in Chuck Mee's *Agamemnon 2.0*.

### **Barney O'Hanlon**

Has been collaborating with Anne Bogart since 1986. As a member of SITI he has toured, nationally and internationally, with productions of *War of the Worlds*, *War of the Worlds (Radio Play)*, *Cabin Pressure*, and *Small Lives/Big Dreams*. He has also appeared in *Seven Deadly Sins* at New York City Opera and other Bogart productions at the Alley Theatre, Trinity Repertory, River Arts Repertory, Opera/Omaha, and various venues in New York City. Other regional credits include Tina Landau's *1969* at ATL, Landau's *Stonewall: Night Variations* for EnGarde Arts, *Deadly Virtues* and *Hamlet* at ATL, and Jon Robins Baitz' *A Fair Country* for Steppenwolf Theatre Company. His choreography has appeared at BAM's Harvey Theater (formerly the Majestic) and at New York Theatre Workshop. He has worked with choreographers Doug Varone, Doug Elkins, Spencer/Colton, Creach/Koester, and directors Robert Wilson, Richard Foreman, Molly Smith, and Brian Jucha.

### **Brian Scott** (*Lighting Design*)

Serves as SITI Company's lighting supervisor and production/technical manager. Past work includes a five year stint as lighting supervisor/guest designer for Actors Theatre of Louisville. While in Louisville he worked on five consecutive Humana Festivals of New American Plays and numerous other projects. In addition Scott acted as the New York Shakespeare Festival's master electrician. He continues to work as an assistant to Mimi Jordan Sherin and, on occasion, with Neil Patel.

### **Megan Wanlass Szalla** (*Company Stage Manager/Managing Director*)

Has been a SITI Company member since 1995. Ms. Szalla stage manages all of the company's repertoire, including the national and international productions of *The Medium*, *Small Lives/Big Dreams*, *Going, Going, Gone*, *Culture of Desire*, *Alice's Adventures*, *Cabin Pressure*, *War of the Worlds*, and *BOB*. She began working with Anne Bogart during *The Adding Machine* at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Her other credits include *A Dybbuk* (NYSF/The Public), *Conviction* (Music Theatre Group/Eve Ensler), and the '96, '97, '99, '00 Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana New Play Festivals. She is currently finishing a certificate program in arts administration at New York University.

### **Stephen Webber**

Has performed with SITI: *War of the Worlds*, *Cabin Pressure*, *Private Lives*, *The Medium*, *War of the Worlds (Radio Play)*, *Culture of Desire*, and *Going, Going, Gone*. Off Broadway: *Trojan Women/A Love Story* at En Garde Arts and *Culture of Desire* at New York Theatre Workshop. Regional Theater: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Stage West, Portland Stage Company, City Theatre in Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee Repertory Theater. He also performed *Hamlet* at the Toga International Arts Festival in Toga-Mura, Japan.

### **Darron L. West** (*Co-Director/Sound Design*)

Has been a SITI Company member since 1993 and first collaborated with Bogart in 1990 while resident sound designer at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Since joining The SITI Company, he has designed every show in the company's repertoire with 1998's *BOB* garnering a 1999 Obie Award and Drama Desk nomination for its sound.



## - NOTES -

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.

## - THE SITI COMPANY IS -

Akiko Aizawa\*, J. Ed Araiza\*, Anne Bogart, Will Bond\*;  
Leon Ingulsrud\*, Ellen Lauren\*, Kelly Maurer\*, Jefferson Mays\*,  
Tom Nelis\*, Barney O'Hanlon\*, Neil Patel, James Schuette,  
Brian H. Scott, Mimi Jordan Sherin, Megan Wanlass Szalla\*,  
Stephen Webber\* and Darron L West.

## - SITI COMPANY ASSOCIATES -

Shawn Fagan, Jeffrey Fracé\*, Christopher Healy,  
Susie Hightower, Kurt Kellenberger, and Donnie Mather.

The SITI Company finds its new home at 49 Bleecker Street in New York City under the auspices of THE CULTURE PROJECT. The Culture Project is a producing organization and theatre modeled after the salons of the late 19th, early 20th centuries, where artists came together to exchange ideas and view new works. Founded in 1996, the Culture Project seeks to bring together various forms of artistic endeavor - music, literature, the spoken word, and visual art - to create new forms of theater and new opportunities for emerging artists. The Culture Project is run by Allan Buchman, Producer, and Will Pomerantz, Artistic Director.



## - THE SITI COMPANY -

The SITI Company, entering its ninth year of activity, began as an agreement between Tadashi Suzuki and Anne Bogart to establish a new venture in the United States that would emphasize international cultural exchange and collaboration. SITI believes in a commitment to the power of the theater as a source of spiritual strength in the contemporary global environment. Originally envisioned as a summer institute in Saratoga Springs, NY, SITI grew quickly into a year round theater company based in New York City. Saratoga Springs is now SITI's summer home.

An ensemble-based theater company, SITI exemplifies the disciplines it practices and the artistic values it develops in its work. The company's mission is to create new works for the theater, to perform and tour these productions nationally and internationally, to provide ongoing training for young theater professionals in an approach to acting that forges unique and highly disciplined artists for the theater, and to foster opportunities for cultural exchange with theater professionals and audiences from all over the world.

In addition to Artistic Director Anne Bogart, the SITI Company is comprised of ten actors, four designers, a production manager, stage manager and general manager. The company represents a change in thinking about the relationships between artists and institutions. One way SITI is accomplishing its mission is by integrating into other organizations of the existing American and international theater systems. Most recently, SITI has created our new production, *Room*, which premiered at the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University and is currently running at City Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA. *War of the Worlds*, which opened at the Humana Festival of New American plays, toured to Scotland for the Edinburgh International Festival, and opened the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival. Other SITI productions include *Cabin Pressure*; *War of the Worlds: Radio Play*; *Orestes*; *The Medium*; *BOB*; *Small Lives/Big Dreams*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *Miss Julie*; *Private Lives*; *Alice's Adventures* and *Culture of Desire*. SITI is currently in development for *bobrauschenbergamerica* to open at Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival of New American Plays in March, *Score*, *The Rachel's Project* and *The Group*.

Ongoing relationships include: Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University; Walker Art Center, PICA; Actors Theatre of Louisville; Perseverance Theater; City Theatre in Pittsburgh; the Toga International Arts Festivals; Theatre Archa in the Czech Republic; and the New York Theatre Workshop. SITI's affiliations with universities include: New York University; Juilliard; Columbia University; Fordham University; Ohio State University; Miami University; Bard College; University of Minnesota; University of Louisville; Carnegie Mellon; Pittsburgh University; Emory University; and U.C. Berkeley. Every June the company continues to gather for our annual Summer Intensive at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. Internationally, SITI has performed and led training in Japan, Germany, France, The Czech Republic, Wales, the Georgian Republic, Ireland, Turkey, Italy, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Scotland, and Holland.

Exclusive Tour Representation:

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For more information on the company and its training programs and performances; to purchase copies of *Anne Bogart: Viewpoints* or a SITI Training T-shirt; or to make a tax-deductible contribution in support of SITI, please contact:

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