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WAR OF THE WORLDS, the Radio Show Directed, Produced and Adapted by Jonelle Kop

Synopsis of the play:

A staged dramatization of the original Orson Welles & Mercury Theater on the Air broadcast. On the foggy fall evening of October 30,1938, America went to war with Mars!! War of the Worlds was presented as a Halloween thriller, but for those who tuned in late, "normal" programming appeared to be interrupted by 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 that Earth was the target of a full-scale invasion by aliens!!

This is the second play of our season that is dedicated to **TOM BUTLER**

Key Players would not be here today without him! We also want to thank his family for donating \$5,000 in his memory to The Key Players! We will continue to work to bring live theater to the Upper Keys and make him proud!







A Letter From the Director/Producer Jonelle Kop

It's a true pleasure to be back directing and producing such an iconic show as Orson Welles, *War of the Worlds*! Having such a large cast allows us to bring back some old faces and add some new ones to join our regulars.



We are reproducing the original radio show with all of the live sound effects for this fabulous performance. We are also adding our own twist to it by portraying some of the chaos in the community as they listened to the radio show. In researching those events to write that script, I found it amazing, but not truly surprising, how people reacted so dramatically to the show.

The adage, it's on the radio therefore it must be true, was very prevalent back in the 30s as radio was the main source of immediate news. And the panic that Orson Welles radio show created, changed the world forever. Yet even today, how easy it is for perceptions of reality to be changed one way or the other by what we see on television and internet, read in the newspapers or hear on the radio. So, we relearn the lesson

Mr. Welles taught us, don't believe everything you hear, or everything people tell you without verifying for yourself! Especially when it comes to aliens! LOL.



Or maybe the more appropriate correlation is what happened just a month ago... the 30+ terrifying minutes our fellow Hawaiians suffered though believing that an atomic bomb was heading their way... because of a broadcast they heard on the radio and on their cell phones... and believed it was true.



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Susan Bazin Director of Live Sound Effects

Susan Bazin is a professional flute player, Piklzthe-Clown, and band director at Key Largo Middle School. As a flautist, she has worked and recorded with Walt Disney World productions, sat principal chair with numerous



symphony orchestras, operas and theater groups (including Key Players) throughout Florida, and performed as a soloist for art galleries and weddings. While in Iceland, her greatest admirers were a flock of lonely sheep. Wow did they love her tooting!

After attending Ringling Clown School, Piklz' audience ranged from 1-year-old's birthdays to "really big" shows for thousands. She composed a recorder method book (Ricky Recorder) and was instrumental (pun intended) in moving music editing from cut-and-paste to the electronic applications we use today.

As KLS band director, she can play most instruments, from alto sax to zither, but still enjoys the flute the most. She has received numerous honors including Teacher of the Year and Florida Bandmaster Association Grant Award for straight superior ratings for her band at MPA. Look for her in this play stationed at the Sound FX table as she shakes, rattles and rolls!

Suzanne Mason as "Announcer"

Suzanne is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Theatre Arts and has been a member of the Key Players since 2008. She has enjoyed roles both behind the scenes, like being Stage Manager in *Dearly Beloved*, and on stage including a few of the murder mysteries performed at local restaurants.



Her favorite role thus far was as Carmen in Unmentionables.

Suzanne loves the Keys, enjoys kayaking and feels very fortunate to be a part of this great group of creative people



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Jerry Nussenblatt as "Orson Welles" and "Harry"

Jerry has appeared in 4 previous shows with The Key Players - 2 musicals and 2 comedies. He is also a member of the Marathon Community Theater, where he has appeared in a number of productions and variety shows, including a recent reading of Neil Simon's *Rumors*.



Jerry's performing background is as a singer, mostly with various ensembles in New York and New Jersey, and then in South Florida after moving to the Keys in 2004. He sings with the Civic Chorale of Greater Miami, and resides with his wife, a talented musician and dancer, in Key Largo.



Kathy Miller as "Announcer Three" and Live Sound Effects crew

Kathy has been entertaining audiences from an early age and has been an active volunteer of The Key Players since 2007. Involved in practically every show in some way, her favorite thing is to bring comedy to the stage. Kathy's Key Players

credits range from sweeping the floor to producing entire shows.

Kathy freelances as a personal assistant, and twisted balloons for local events until a balloon animal bit off her finger. She wishes to thank the fans of The Key Players for their loyalty and support and wants them to know that the greatest gift she can ever receive is bringing laughter to others.





Lilly Cascamo as "Announcer Two," "Secretary of the Interior," and "Operator Two"

Lilly started out with the Key Players years ago as an avid member of the audience. After auditioning and receiving a minor character part, she became a bona-fide member.



Since then she's been involved, in one way or another, with 'Til Beth Us Do Part, Nunsense Jamboree, The Fox on the Fairway, Shrek! The Musical, Mid-Life, The Crisis Musical, and now War of the Worlds, The Radio Show.

Lilly has written a musical play/screenplay about her immigrant grandparents and their trials, tribulations, and "miracles"-- one with Blessed Mary. She is now looking for a producer to help her with this project.



Craig Zabransky as "Carl Phillips," "The Captain," "Gunner" and "Operators 1 and 4"

Craig is excited to return to The Key Players stage for *War of the Worlds* to play the radio voice of news reporter Carl Phillips along with numerous other characters. Prior to this

performance he was cast as Henry in *Move Over Mrs Markham* and performed in other Key Players produced murder mysteries. Craig also works in improv and is cast in the *Dinner Detective* located in Miami.

Off stage, Craig writes freelance travel stories and produces a travel blog with a podcast (*Staying Adventurous*) to inspire others to take and make adventure in life. You can read (or listen) to his work via <u>StayAdventurous</u>. When local you can also let him be your guide through history and conch cuisine on the Florida Keys Food Tour in Islamorada.



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Our hearts go out to



MARATHON COMMUNITY THEATRE

Marathon Community Theatre, like many businesses and residents in the Florida Keys, took a major hit from Hurricane Irma. The 2017-2018 season will be modified until repairs can be made to the building. We ask that you keep them in mind as they pull together to recover.

> For more information about Marathon Community Theatre or to become a member or volunteer, contact them at 305-731-7929 • www.marathontheater.org

Please give them your support.

Enjoy the Show!



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> *Our best to The Key Players on another year of successful performances!*



🛛 🗖 🕂 FLIKEYSNEWS UNWIND Miami Herald

Bill Knight as "Professor Pierson"

This is Bill's first show with The Key Players. His credits are evidence that he is enamored with theater as he has performed in more than 50 roles from Shakespeare to Childrens, from community to professional for over fifty years. His on-stage credits include roles in *From Rags To Riches, The Odd Couple, Desperate Hours,*



Hanukkah Goblins, Madwoman of Chaillot, Greensleeves Magic, and he portrayed Marc Antony in Julius Caesar.

Dr. William G. Knight is also a very real published and celebrated PhD scientist. Coincidentally to this show, he and his colleagues designed with Jet Propulsion Laboratory at NASA, experiments to detect life on Mars. As a young chemist, Bill mixed solid rocket propellant for the Space Shuttle in the deserts of Utah at the same time he played the Prince of Verona in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Bill is a retired (kinda) writer living now in Key Largo.



Brad Shank as "Smith," "McDonald" and Live Sound Effects crew

Brad has been involved with Key Players since 1991, when he played Curly in *Oklahoma!* Since then he's worn many hats, sometimes literally. He's been an actor, director, set builder, stage manager, sound man and lighting technician,

but his stint tonight at the sound effects table is a first for him. He's usually making noises by hitting things as percussionist for the Keys Community Concert Band at their monthly "POPS IN THE PARK" concerts.

He and his lovely wife Susan [also at the sound effects table] look forward to seeing you sitting on the blankets soaking up the Sun and listening to pop music, later this month! Go to: <u>keyscommunityconcertband.org</u> for the schedule.



ARTHE WORLDS THE RADIO SHOW

CREW

Director/Producer/Author of Skits: Jonelle Kop

Director of Live Sound Effects: Susan Bazin

Stage Crew: Evelyn Dehart, Alice Grainger

Lights & Sound: Bob Auer and Paul Messina

> Set Construction: Russell Holmes

Set Decoration: Jonelle Kop, Lilly Cascamo, Kathy Miller

Props and Costumes: Lilly Cascamo, Russell Holmes, Jonelle Kop, and the cast and crew

Front of House: Tommy Chambers, Kelly Sutter and Joe Cascamo

> Artwork/Playbill: Sue Beal, Kathy Miller

Promotion: Sue Beal, Jonelle Kop, Kathy Miller



⇒ Please turn off all cell phones during this performance.

CAST

RADIO SHOW: Susan Bazin Suzanne Mason Jerry Nussenblatt Kathy Miller Lilly Cascamo Craig Zabransky Bill Knight Brad Shank Russell Holmes Jim Enright SKITS: Nancy Wells Jerry Nussenblatt Virginia Indell Lily Machado Charlene Sammis Jim Enright Elaine Lanzarotta Bill Cobey Don Stewart Rachel Machado Analise Fleming

Special Thanks

Key Largo Lion's Club Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center Sue Beal, Island Information Services Denise Malefyt, The Coconut Telegraph Cathy Johnson and Printing Plus Susan Bazin Karen Beal The Ticket Outlets

And special recognition to all those who stepped up to help after this playbill went to press: all those last-minute and front-of-house helpers!

Russell Holmes as "Policeman," "Wilmuth," "Officer," "Commander" and "Operators 3 and 5"

Russell has been a Key Player for several years, volunteering in behind-the-scenes and on-stage capacities, and even as a member of the board. He has acted in such productions as *Move Over*

Mrs. Markham, Drinking Habits, On Golden Pond, There's a Burglar In My Bed, Red, White & Tuna, The Fox On The Fairway, and Who's In Bed With The Butler, to name a few. Russell also has a creative talent for building props, many of which you will see in this show.

The smiles and the laughter of friends and neighbors, makes it well worth the effort of relentless rehearsing for Russell. He hopes you enjoy the show.

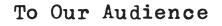


Jim Enright as "Butch" and "The Stranger"

Jim has been in two other productions by The Key Players. He played in *Daddy's Dying Whose Got The Will?*, and also in *Dearly Beloved*. He has also played in a couple of local Dinner Theater Murder Mysteries.

Jim enjoys sailing and has been a longtime

member, Flag Officer, and Director at the Upper Keys Sailing Club. He currently teaches middle school science at Plantation Key School and coaches tennis at Coral Shores High School.



The Key Players can't <u>THANK YOU</u> enough for your support and applause!





Key Players' Next Production in the 2017-2018 Season:



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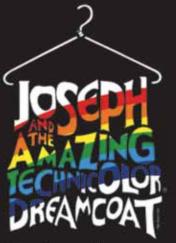
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Charlene Sammis as "Alice"

The last on-stage performance for Charlene was in *Unmentionables*. Prior to that she had a role in other various Key Players productions; *Daddy's Dying Whose Got the Will, Dearly Beloved*, and the musical, *Bingo*, to name just a few. She also has worked behind the scene as co-producer of the Key Player musical production of *A Taf*-



fetas Christmas and as stage manager for various Key Player productions including *Shrek! the Musical.*

She is a retired Captain for a major airline and enjoys boating, volunteering for community organizations and taking care of her BFF, Dakota, a hand-some golden retriever (*psst, now you know her password for various websites*).



Elaine Lanzarotta as "Hazel"

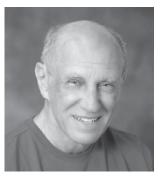
Elaine is excited to be a part of this wonderful recreation of a historical radio show. This is her first on stage experience ever, and she is enjoying it immensely.

Elaine has lived in the Keys over 5 years and loves everything about this paradise. She has

been to many, many of The Key Players' shows and was delighted by them all. Elaine loves the role of Hazel, and this awesome production.

Bill Cobey as "Adrian"

In 2014, Bill performed in *A Mad Breakfast* with The Key Players as Mr. Long. Bill said he is not retired, just between opportunities. In this latest endeavor, he retorts that he is working toward his lifetime goal of achieving fifteen minutes of fame.





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Nancy Wells as "Mable"

It's been a long time since Nancy was on stage. She has been a Key Player since 2004. Nancy has produced 10 plays, directed or co-directed five, and acted in several. She has even served as a board member and an officer for many years.

An Islamorada resident, Nancy has worked for Florida Sea Base for 30 years. She has a



babysitting business that keeps her busy, as well. When asked about her experience with The Key Players, Nancy said, "I've met a lot of wonderful people and have had many laughs and tears over the years...never a dull moment for this Key Player."



Don Stewart as "Don"

Don is an eighteen year old born in Missouri, who moved to the Keys at age fourteen. They graduated just recently in 2017 from Coral Shores. They have a ridiculously long list of interests, most of which being artistic in nature. Their previous shows include A Christmas Carol, Shrek! The Musical, Phantom of the Opera, and most recently, The Game's AFOOT, where Don

played their first major role. They look forward to playing Logainne in the next Key Players' production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!*

Rachel Machado as "Rachel"

Rachel is 16 years old and is in her sophomore year at CSHS. This is her first ever production and is very enthusiastic to participate in upcoming plays. Not only does she enjoy acting, she loves to read and compose music. She hopes to aspire her dreams through college and life.



Lily Machado as "Lily"

This is Lily's first-ever production with the Key Pllayers and she is very excited and nervous. She loves to draw, play dance party, and spend time with her brother and sisters. Her favorite subjects in school are math and art class.





Analise Fleming as "Anna"

Analise recently moved from Vermont to Key Largo and is currently in the Seventh Grade at KLS. This is her first big production. She was part of the backstage crew for a high school production of *Mary Poppins in* sixth grade; in addition to participating in various little skits.

Analise enjoys singing, acting, playing the guitar and hanging out with her friends. She is very excited to be part of The Key Players.

Virginia Indell as "Virginia"

Virginia is a sixth grade student at Plantation Key School. She is a competitive horseback rider, who has won several ribbons. She sings in the church choir at San Pedro Catholic Church, and has sung the Star Spangled Banner for a school play: *American History*.



Virginia has also had starring roles in school plays. She portrayed Mother Owl in *Why Mosquitoes Buzz In Peoples' Ears*, and Caterpillar in *Hungry, Hungry Caterpillar*.







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The Key Players Retrospective

1978 - 1979 Curse You Jack Dalton Last of the Red Hot Lovers Tight Spot 1980 Blythe Spirit 1981 Come Blow Your Horn California Suite 1982 Rich Have No Money **Oh! Coward - Musical Revue** Night of January 16th 1983 Rodgers & Hart Revue Picnic The Drunkard - Melodrama 1984 Mousetrap Grandma and the Mistletoe Some Enchanted Evening - Revue Never Too Late 1985 Cole Porter - Musical Revue Everybody Loves Opal Lo and Behold 1986 Sing For Your Supper -Revue The Enigma 1987 Opals Million Dollar Duck 2x5 - Musical Revue 1988 Forty Carats Arsenic and Old Lace Sound of Music 1989 Fantastiks Oh Mama, No Papa Trilogy 1990 Plaza Suite Oliver! Dirty Work at the Crossroads Broadway to Hollywood - Revue 1991 Oklahoma! Prisoner of Second Ave. The Curious Savage 1992 My Fair Lady **Divorce Me, Darling** Dracula 1993 Man of La Mancha You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

(Kids)

1993. continued A Night of Music - Revue Rumors 1994 Fiddler on the Roof Wizard of Oz (Key Players Kids) Nunsense Norman, Is That You? 1995 A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum Cinderella (Key Players Kids) The Night of January 16th Lend Me A Tenor 1996 Kiss Me Kate Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast (Key Players Kids) M*A*S*H Wait Until Dark Barefoot in the Park 1997 South Pacific Hurricane Smith (Key Players Kids) Dreadful Doings at the Cider Mill The Odd Couple 1998 Little Shop of Horrors Aladdin (Kev Plavers Kids) Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In You Can't Take It With You 1999 Heartbeats — A Musical Robin Hood (Key Players Kids) TomFoolerv Arsenic and Old Lace 2000 Annie - A Musical Murder at the Banquet Nifty Fifties (Key Players Kids) Cactus Flower 2001 Annie Get Your Gun Stop The World I Want to Get Off The Secret Garden (Kids) The Nerd 2002 Personals Kokonut Kapers (Key Players Kids) The Affections of May Don't Dress for Dinner 2003 Over The River and Through the Woods The Magical Pied Piper (Kids)

The Odd Couple

2004 I Love You, You're Perfect... Now Change! Steel Magnolias Sheherizade (Key Players Kids) Harvev 2005 The Sound of Music Give My Regards to Broadway (Kids) 2006 Daddv's Dvin' Who's Got the Will? 2007 A Night at the Theater Nobody's Perfect The Taffeta's Memories 2008 Kitchen Witches Radio TBS Last of the Red Hot Lovers 2009 Meshuqgah-Nuns! Weekend Comedy Don't Hug Me 2010 Dearly Beloved Dixie Swim Club Sex Please, We're Sixty 2011 Bingo Unmentionables Men Are Dogs A Taffeta Christmas 2012 'Til Beth Do Us Part **Drinking Habits** 2013 **On Golden Pond** Song Man, Dance Man There's a Burglar in My Bed 2014 Fox on the Fairway Three One Act Plays George M. Cohan Tonight 2015 Nunsense Jamboree Red, White & Tuna Who's in Bed with the Butler 2016 Shrek: The Musical Move Over, Mrs. Markham! 2017 Midlife! The Crisis Musical The Games AF00T



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