

SPRINGTIME ON MARS

A play for young actors

By Bethany Hamilton Sandvik

Springtime on Mars was developed during after-school programming at Studio Theatre at CCPA in Cody, WY and was intended for production in March 2020. The production was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The play was revived and presented on February 6, 2021 to a live and virtual audience. The cast for the original production was as follows:

Professor:	Beatrice Sandvik
Mars Narrator :	Lily Sweet
Phobos Narrator:	Paloma Russell
Cosmo:	Coulter Kristofferson
Astra:	Ember Poley
Lillian (Mom:):	Zandrea Eckley
Henry (Dad):	Deacon Poley
Zip: (Kid Alien):	Rose Whelan
Zap (Kid Alien):	Cole McLeod
Zop (Mom Alien):	Jaida Brice
Zoink (Dad Alien):	Stanley McKenzie
Bleep Blop (Alien Pet):	Lena Hennings
Security Robot (1)	Julianna McIsaac
Security Robot (2)	Iggy Russell

The cast for the February 6, 2021 live and virtual performance were as follows:

Professor:	Beatrice Sandvik
Mars Narrator :	Mia Whelan
Phobos Narrator:	Paloma Russell
Cosmo:	Coulter Kristofferson
Astra:	Ember Poley
Lillian (Mom:):	Zandrea Eckley
Henry (Dad):	Deacon Poley
Zip: (Kid Alien):	Rose Whelan
Zap (Kid Alien):	Cole McLeod
Zop (Mom Alien):	Jaida Brice
Zoink (Dad Alien):	Stanley McKenzie
Bleep Blop (Alien Pet):	Lena Hennings
Security Robot (1)	Jolene Anderson
Security Robot (2)	Iggy Russell

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CAST:

Professor
Mars Narrator
Phobos Narrator
Cosmo (an Earthling child living on Mars)
Astra (Cosmo's sister)
Lillian (Mother of Cosmo and Astra)
Henry (Father of Cosmo and Astra)
Zip (A Phobian child)
Zap (Zip's sibling)
Zop (Mother of Zip and Zap)
Zoink (Father of Zip and Zap)
Bleep Blop (A pet)
Security Robot ONE
Security Robot TWO

PROLOGUE:

PROFESSOR: (*Wheeling out a bulletin board for visual aid. She/he carries a pointer*)
Welcome ladies and gentlemen. I'm professor (*child's last name*) and before we begin, I think it will be helpful for you to have a brief science lesson. Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and the second-smallest planet in our Solar System. Mars is often called the 'Red Planet' because of the effect of the iron oxide on Mars' surface, which gives it a reddish appearance. Mars has a thin atmosphere and its surface contains craters, valleys, deserts, and polar ice caps. The days and seasons are comparable to those of Earth, because of Mars' rotational period and axis. Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos, which are small and irregularly shaped.

The two big questions today are, "Has there ever been life on Mars? and Can humans live on Mars?" Several plans for a human mission to Mars have been proposed over the years. In 2016, Elon Musk presented a plan to launch space tourists to Mars by 2024. In October 2016, President Barack Obama renewed U.S. policy to pursue the goal of sending humans to Mars by the 2030s. The NASA Authorization Act of 2017 directed NASA to get humans near or on the surface of Mars by the early 2030s.

The possibility of humans on Mars is real. The biggest hurdles however are that we can't breathe nor can liquid water exist on the surface of Mars due to low atmospheric pressure...but today, I guess we're going to ignore those facts for the sake of drama. Enjoy the show!

SETTING: *The year is 2050. The Mars Colony has been established. We start inside the Mars colony base.*

Scene 1

MARS NARRATOR: In the not so distant future, a colony on Mars will be home to 100 people. Among these martians, because that is what we call ourselves, is a family of four: Henry, Lillian, Cosmo and Astra. Cosmo and Astra were born on Mars, and have never seen Earth except from photos or as a distant bluish star. Lillian and Henry, their parents, came to Mars fifteen years ago to study and learn all there is to know about the red planet. It is the year 2050.

COSMO: Mom, can Astra and I go for a walk outside the pod today? It's not windy.

LILLIAN: I don't know, Cosmo. I get so nervous when you are out there in all that dust. Wait till your father comes home and he can take you.

COSMO: I am old enough to go without Dad! We'll be careful, I promise. I promised Astra we would go exploring.

ASTRA: Explore! Explore! I want to look for aliens!

LILLIAN: Well, dear, we are the aliens here. And so far there has been no life, intelligent or otherwise spotted on Mars. You know that your Dad has been looking for years.

ASTRA: I will find a 'telligent life... I know it! Please let us go! Please?

LILLIAN: *(sigh)* Very Well, Cosmo, if you promise to look after your little sister and be extra safe, I will let you go for.....20 minutes.

COSMO: Twenty minutes!!! That's not enough time-

LILLIAN: I can make it zero minutes.

COSMO: Fine. Twenty minutes, but don't start timing us until we are suited up and out the door!

LILLIAN: Ok. Off you go then, Get on your space suits.

COSMO: C'mon Astra! Quick

ASTRA: Time us!

HENRY *(enters):* Woah, whoa. What's the hurry?

ASTRA: We are are going exploring! I'm gonna find a 'tellegent life and see if it wants to play!

HENRY: Are you now? Well that sounds like fun. Can I go too?

ASTRA: No 'Dults allowed. Sorry, Dad.

COSMO: Yeah, Mom says I'm old enough to go without you Dad!

HENRY: Did she now? Well then, I won't get in your way.

(Kids rush off to get into their space suits)

HENRY: Their first walk out there without us; where does the time go? *(tear)*

LILLIAN: Do you think they'll be ok out there without us?

HENRY: Honey, we're on a dead planet. What could happen?

Scene 2

PHOBOS NARRATOR: Meanwhile on Phobos...

PROFESSOR: *(popping in)* Which is the smallest and closest moon of Mars...

P NARRATOR: Yes. Thank you Professor. Meanwhile on Phobos, a similar scene is unfolding.

ZIP: Bing bloop boo boo ding!

ZAP: Checka checka bop bop Zip!

P NARRATOR: Oh, wait. I'm sorry. You don't speak Phobian....let me turn on the translator. *(Narrator finds the translator, clicks it on. The scene resumes.)*

ZIP: Mom, can Zap and I go walk Bleep blop.

P NARRATOR: That's much better!

ZOP: I don't know, Zip. I get so nervous when you are out there without your father.

ZIP: I am old enough to go without Dad! We'll be careful, I promise. I told Zap we would go exploring.

ZAP: I am a GREAT explorer! I'll find something amazing, I just know it. Please, please, please?!

ZIP: (*joins in*). Please, please, please?!

ZOP: (*sigh*) Very well, Zip, if you promise to look after your little brother and take extra special care of Bleep Blop, you can go.

ZIP & ZAP: Yay! Thanks Mom!

ZAP: Here Bleep Blop. Here girl!

(*Bleep Blop enters*)

ZAP: Hey Bleep Blop, Do you wanna go for a walk? Do you? Do you wanna go for a walk?

BLEEP BLOP: Zark zark!

ZIP: Oh Bleep Blop. Who's a good girl?!

BLEEP BLOP: Zark zark!

ZOINK (*enters*): Woah, whoa. What's all the excitement?

ZAP: We are going exploring and Bleep Blop is going with us.

ZOINK: Well that sounds like fun. Do you need dear old dad to come with you?

ZAP: Nope. We got this Dad.

ZOINK: I'm sure you do. Have fun. (*to Zop*) Their first walk out there without us. Where does the time go? (*tear*)

ZOP: Do you think our little zip zangs will be alright?

ZOINK: Of course. We live on a moon that's only 14 miles wide. What could happen?

END OF SAMPLE