

# WAR OF THE WORLDS™

**CONTACT:** Amy Bertram  
Director, Publicity  
(213) 468-5995

Maggie Begley  
MAHONEY/WASSERMAN PUBLIC RELATIONS  
(213) 550-3922

## **ALIENS INVADE FIRST-RUN SYNDICATION AS "WAR OF THE WORLDS" BREAKS OUT THIS FALL**

**HOLLYWOOD -- Hostile aliens will take over the airwaves this fall when WAR OF THE WORLDS debuts in first-run syndication the weekend of October 7, 1988. The hour-long science fiction series is distributed by the Domestic Television Division of Gulf+Western's Paramount Pictures Corporation and is currently sold in over 190 markets representing more than 98% of the U.S.**

**WAR OF THE WORLDS brings H.G. Wells's classic tale into the present as a sci-fi adventure series, taking place 35 years after the Academy Award-winning film that inflamed the public's fever for UFOs and science-fiction fantasy. The program will premiere with a two-hour telefilm, entitled "The Resurrection," followed by 22 hour-long episodes.**

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The principal cast for WAR OF THE WORLDS is as follows:

Jared Martin plays the brilliant astrophysicist Dr. Harrison Blackwood. An eccentric non-conformist, Blackwood has been recruited by the government to head the scientific effort against the aliens. Martin portrayed Dusty Farlow on "Dallas" and appeared on Broadway in "Torch Song Trilogy."

Lynda Mason Green portrays Suzanne McCullough, a prominent microbiologist and single mother who is as serious as Blackwood is free-spirited. Green's credits include the miniseries "Amerika" and the series "Night Heat" and "Adderly."

Philip Akin plays Norton Drake, a communications expert and computer genius whose job is to monitor and decipher the aliens' radio transmissions -- all from his voice-controlled wheelchair. Akin appeared in the films "Iceman" and "Switching Channels."

Richard Chaves portrays Lt. Col. Paul Ironhorse, a Cherokee Indian and graduate of West Point whose extensive knowledge of hi-tech weaponry and military tactics makes him a valuable addition to the team. Chaves has been seen in the film "Predator" and on television in "Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam." He also co-wrote and performed in the award-winning Off-Broadway play "Tracers."

"'War of the Worlds' has tremendous name recognition, standing on the shoulders of H.G. Wells's epic novel, Orson Welles's infamous radio broadcast, and the Oscar-winning film," commented Frank Kelly, senior vice president, programming, for the Division. "The sci-fi genre itself -- film, television, books, magazines -- has proven exceptionally popular. Our own success this past season with 'Star Trek: The Next Generation' and 'Friday the 13th: The Series' only in-

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creases our commitment to this type of quality programming. 'War of the Worlds' is an ideal companion piece to these two extraordinary programs," he concluded.

The two-hour premiere episode has been directed by Colin Chilvers, the Oscar winner for special effects direction on "Superman -- The Movie." Most recently, Chilvers directed the Michael Jackson music video "Smooth Criminal."

Executive producers of WAR OF THE WORLDS are: Sam Strangis, a veteran producer with more than 30 years of experience, who oversaw production of "Mission: Impossible," "Mannix" and the original "Star Trek" series as the former vice president in charge of production for Paramount; and Greg Strangis, a writer/producer whose credits include "Happy Days," "Eight is Enough" and "Falcon Crest." Greg Strangis is also the creator of and writer for the series.

Additional production personnel include Herbert Wright, formerly producer/writer for Paramount's "Star Trek: The Next Generation," who is creative consultant for WAR OF THE WORLDS and will also contribute as a writer and director for the program. Tom Lazarus has been set as executive script consultant for the series. He will write original material as well as supervise the utilization of freelance writing talent.

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**Jonathan Hackett has been appointed producer of WAR OF THE WORLDS and is based in Toronto, Canada, where the program is filmed. Most recently, Hackett was producer the CBS series "Adderly."**

**The series will be sold on a barter basis by International Advertising Sales (IAS).**

**WAR OF THE WORLDS is produced by Triumph Entertainment Corporation of Canada in association with Ten-Four Productions and is distributed by Paramount Domestic Television.**

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