

# WAR OF THE WORLDS™

JARED MARTIN as Dr. Harrison Blackwood

Biography

Jared Martin portrays the eccentric Dr. Harrison Blackwood, a brilliant astrophysicist who faces his greatest challenge in WAR OF THE WORLDS, the science-fiction adventure series distributed by Paramount Domestic Television.

Martin is probably best known for his regular role as Dusty Farlow on the long-running primetime drama "Dallas." A native New Yorker and the son of famed New Yorker cover artist C.E.M., Jared decided on his career early in life, when he was given the choice between piano lessons and acting class. "I chose acting," he says, laughing, "because I hated the piano." A fortunate choice, because Martin soon found himself in a group that performed around the local neighborhood, giving him his first experiences on the stage.

His passion for acting carried him through high school and into college. He attended Columbia University and Sarah Lawrence College, where he studied under Wilfred Leach, and made his professional acting debut at the age of 18 when he was "discovered" by Joseph Papp. "He hired me to hold a spear and move a chair for ten dollars a week at the New York Shakespeare Festival," Jared says with a chuckle. "That kind of broke me in as an actor."

Martin has since appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway and with leading regional theatres. His extensive stage credits include "The Crucible," "Julius Caesar," "Marat-Sade," "Hamlet," "Tom Paine," "Twelfth Night" and "Romeo and Juliet." He performed on Broadway in "Torch Song Trilogy," reprising his role in the Los Angeles production of that highly acclaimed play.

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On television, Martin's many credits include regular and recurring roles in "The Fantastic Journey," "How the West Was Won" and "The American Professionals," as well as the PBS production of William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily."

He has worked extensively in films in Europe and Asia, which has helped him pursue his aim of visiting every country in the world.

In developing the character of Harrison Blackwood, Martin drew from a number of sources. "I took a little bit of Carl Sagan," he says, "and I also used Greg Strangis [executive producer of WAR OF THE WORLDS] quite a bit, because he wrote and designed the character. Then I took the parts of myself which have always been curious and inquiring and systematic, and I wedded these things to the part of me that is a leading man."

He adds, "An intelligent leading man -- not a hunk, not a guy with muscles up to his ears. Somebody who works with his mind, and makes it attractive, and sexy."

To prepare for the role, Martin pored over The Oxford Companion to the Mind and the works of Carl Sagan and Lucretius, using his own natural interest in science to pique his curiosity about astrophysics and extraterrestrial life. "My great hope for this series," he says, "is that people are going to learn things from it. I see Harrison as the man holding the lantern."

Now that production is underway in Toronto, Martin will spend much of his time away from the home he maintains in New York City. Another passion that will have to wait is his love for photography. He is also an avid skier and songwriter.

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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