

Just call the 'alien busters'

By ROBERT JAMES

As if choking traffic and sky-high housing costs weren't problem enough, Torontonians now have something else to cope with. It seems aliens from outer space are running around the city trying to rid the place of human life, so it can be prepared for colonization by beings from another planet.

If you ask me, they can have the place, but there are others who aren't prepared to give up quite so easily. A team of "alien busters" has been assigned to stop the aliens — including microbiologist Dr. Suzanne McCullough. In real life, she's Lynda Mason Green, an actress who hails from Sarnia, Ont., which explains things. If the aliens take over Toronto, Sarnia and the rest of southern Ontario will probably be next.

The aliens, of course, only exist in the fertile minds of TV scriptwriters, who for the past year have been scribbling out this fantasy for "War of the Worlds," a syndicated, Toronto-made TV series based on the H. G. Wells classic. To sci-fi movie purists, the TV series is legend tampering of the worst order. The aliens, after all, died out in the famous 1953 Hollywood movie version, which won an Oscar for best special effects. The aliens were stopped not by the efforts of puny humans, but by a virus benign to

Up Front

Lynda Mason Green plays a microbiologist assigned to stop deadly aliens on War of the Worlds. The Canadian-made series is seen Saturdays at 7 p.m. on CFAC.

earthlings that proved deadly for the invaders from outer space.

The TV version, seen Saturday evenings on CFAC, would have us believe that the aliens did not die, but simply entered a state of suspended animation. Now revived by accidental exposure to radioactive waste, the aliens have resumed their deadly mission.

Saving the world is a heavy responsibility, but Green doesn't seem to be too concerned. She recently took time away from battling the space invaders to do some scuba diving in the Caribbean. Her recent discovery of the sport has uncovered a world almost as extraordinary as science fiction.

"It's the most magical thing I've done in years," says the 33-year-old actress.

Green's face is becoming increasingly familiar to TV audiences. In addition to "War of the

Worlds," she was also a regular on "Night Heat" and the Gemini Award-winning series "Ramona," both of which are now in re-runs.

"I've been extremely lucky to manage to sustain a modest living most of the time," says Green, whose first passion was to be an artist and who remains an avid collector. "The desire to paint faded — no pun intended — but my admiration for those who have the talent and stamina to pursue it is enormous. I'm happy, when I find a work that intrigues me, to have the opportunity to support it."

Co-starring with Green is Jared Martin (Dusty Farlow on "Dallas") as Dr. Harrison Blackwood, an astrophysicist who leads the team of alien busters. Rounding out the squad are Philip Akin as Norton Drake, a wheelchair-bound computer expert, and Richard Chaves as Lt. Col. Paul Ironhorse, a Cherokee Indian and West Point graduate who is the military mind of the team.

"War of the Worlds," seen on many Canadian independent stations, is distributed by the television division of Paramount Pictures, which has also found success with two other syndicated sci-fi series, "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and "Friday the 13th: The Series," another Canadian-made show.

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