



**The Elmhurst History Museum and GreenMan Theatre Troupe Present**



**Written by Howard E. Koch**  
**Based on the novel by H. G. Wells**

**Streaming Online**  
**March 19, 20, & 21 and March 26, 27, & 28**

<http://elmhursthistory.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=241>  
<https://www.broadwayondemand.com/channels/details/elmhurst-history-museum-and-greenman-theatre--war-of-the-worlds-the-1938-radio-script--all-dates>

## *About the Elmhurst History Museum —*

The mission of the Elmhurst History Museum is to engage people with history through thoughtful collection, enlightening exhibits, and diverse educational experiences. The Museum fills an essential role in the life of the community by revealing the quality of life in years past and providing a basis on which community pride can grow and endure. The Museum fulfills its mission by accomplishing the following:

- Presenting historical concepts and museum collections to the public through exhibits, educational programs, tours, and publications.
- Acquiring and caring for locally significant artifacts, records, documents, photographs, audio-visual materials, and publications related to Elmhurst history.
- Offering cultural, social, and learning opportunities related to the history and heritage of the regional community and the world at large.
- Providing research services to enable an understanding of local history and to make the museum's collections available to the public.
- Maintaining two historically and architecturally significant buildings: the Glos Mansion and the Churchville Schoolhouse.

## *About GreenMan Theatre Troupe —*

Welcome to Elmhurst, population 46,600+...visit the art museum, go to the symphony, take a class at the college, see a children's play, sample the many fine restaurants, go see a play at the community theatre. "What community theatre?" That was the question that Jill Perez and Carole Thorpe asked. The answer? Start a new theatre for the Elmhurst community. Working with director David Soria, they formed GreenMan Theatre Troupe to offer opportunities to see live theatre, participate in plays, and enrich the community. It is our goal to produce high-quality plays and musicals drawn from many different genres. We also offer classes and workshops in theatre arts to the community. We welcome you as members and patrons of the theatre. GreenMan Theatre Troupe looks forward to celebrating the spirit of theatrical creativity and working with the community to "keep theatre green" in Elmhurst for many years.

### **Our Mission:**

- To provide diverse, quality theatrical entertainment for our audience.
- To provide opportunities for personal growth in theatrical arts for our members.
- To provide a source of cultural enrichment and pride for our community.

## *Welcome!*

Welcome to Elmhurst History Museum and GreenMan Theatre Troupe's production of the 1938 radio script of the *War of the Worlds*.

This evening's production of the *War of the Worlds* will be produced entirely in audio format. Put your devices away and transport yourself back to 1938 where there were no cell phones, televisions, or computers. Imagine that the typical evening's entertainment was gathering around the radio to listen to the top radio stars of the time.



Both the Elmhurst History Museum and the Churchville Schoolhouse are supported by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit. Memberships are available at [www.elmhurstheritagefoundation.org](http://www.elmhurstheritagefoundation.org) or by calling 630-833-1457.

Want to do more than attend plays at GreenMan? No experience is required to volunteer, and there are many opportunities to get involved on every production and throughout the year. We also welcome your financial support. Click [www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org) or call 1-630-464-2646



for more information. Please enjoy today's show, and thank you again for your support of live theatre here in Elmhurst!

— David Soria

*GreenMan Theatre Troupe Artistic Director*



*Production Crew*

Director ..... Becca Easley  
Production Partner.....Richard Reichert  
Foley Artist and Sound Design .....Siegfried Mueller  
GreenMan Theatre / Elmhurst History Museum Coordinators .....  
.....Jess Wandersee, Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff, and David Soria  
Publicity.....Becca Easley, Patrice Roche, David Soria, and Steven Soria  
Program Editor ..... Steven Soria

GreenMan Theatre thanks Sharon Phillips and Pastor Joseph A. Johnson of the First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst for their continued assistance during these times.

Elmhurst History Museum  
120 E. Park Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
Phone: 630-833-1457  
A Department of the City of Elmhurst  
<https://www.elmhursthhistory.org/>

GreenMan Theatre Troupe NFP is an  
Illinois Not-for-Profit 501(c)(3) Corporation  
founded by Jill Perez, David Soria, and Carole Thorpe

GreenMan Theatre Troupe, P.O. Box 514, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
1-630-464-2646  
**[www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org)**

GreenMan programs are partially supported by a grant from the  
**Explore Elmhurst City of Elmhurst Community Grant Program**  
with generous support from  
**Lillypad Development LLC.**

Please visit our website, [www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org),  
and for information on corporate sponsorships and other ways to support  
GreenMan Theatre Troupe, contact  
Chuck Erickson, Treasurer, at [charles.erickson@greenmantheatre.org](mailto:charles.erickson@greenmantheatre.org)

## *Director's Notes* —

Sci-fi author Terry Pratchett said “Seeing, contrary to popular wisdom, isn’t believing. It’s where belief stops because it isn’t needed any more.”

When individuals stuck at home and bored start to channel surf on the latest technology, they happen upon the *War of the Worlds*, a radio play by Orson Welles. In dramatized form as a series of news bulletins and radio interludes, the listener begins to believe that the country is under attack from an invader from the outside. They don’t need to see it outside their windows.

This year that we have recently completed in various stages of quarantine and social distancing has been a challenge to many parts of society. Perhaps even some are thinking that we are under attack from the outside. We have evolved how we work, interact with friends, and even how we do theatre. When the Elmhurst History Museum approached us about partnering to do this production, I was thrilled. What a fantastic way to bring the new idea of a virtual play and meld it with the old style of a radio drama!

Several moments in the play made us pause and take note of the parallels to current times.

- Stranger says to Pierson, “There won’t be any more concerts for a million years or so, and no nice little dinners at restaurants.”
- The Secretary of the Interior’s address to the nation struck a chord after January 6th.

It is a different world than it was 13 months ago. Maybe we’ll return to “normal” activities, or maybe we’ll change as we’ve learned about ourselves a little more this year.

It was a wonderful experience to gather this stellar cast together as we rehearsed over Zoom and shared our common love of theatre. We hope you enjoy!

— *Becca Easley*  
*Director*

# *War of the Worlds*

Written by Howard E. Koch  
Based on the novel by H. G. Wells

Directed by Becca Easley

## *Performers*

Ken Bartels ..... Captain Lansing, Operator Five  
Jen Collins..... Policeman, Operator Four  
Jenna-Rose Drea ..... Announcer Two  
Melanie Fagan..... Announcer / Announcer One  
Patrick Gallagher ..... Reporter Carl Phillips  
Lewis Jones..... Professor Richard Pierson  
Katie Lahey ..... Observer, Bystander Two  
Maurice McNicholas ..... Vice President Harry McDonald,  
Officer, Operator Two  
Dave Oberg ..... General Montgomery Smith, Operator One  
Erin Payton ..... Wilmuth  
Debbie Proska ..... Gunner, Bystander One  
Jason Sheldon .....Commander Voght, Bystander Three  
Liz Steele ..... Secretary of the Interior,  
Announcer Three, Operator Three  
Kevin Traynor ..... Orson Welles / Narrator  
Anthony Urso ..... Stranger

Setting: New Jersey  
1938

## Cast



**Ken Bartels (Captain Lansing, Operator Five)** — This is Ken's first participation with GreenMan Theatre although he has lived in the City for 40 years. Ken is a Senior Vice President and Director at the Community Bank of Elmhurst. He has done many hours of local television and currently hosts "Elmhurst Our Community" on YouTube. He previously hosted "Elmhurst Now" and "Elmhurst Time Travelers," which can be found at [www.elmhursttv.com](http://www.elmhursttv.com). He has been called the "Voice of Elmhurst" by many. Ken is happy to be a small part of this great cast for *War of the Worlds*, and he thanks his wife, Marge, for all her love and support.



**Jennifer Collins (Policeman, Operator Four)** — Jennifer is excited to be back at GreenMan Theatre. Her first show with GreenMan was the murder mystery *Honeymoon from Hell*. It has been several years since Jennifer has had the opportunity to perform in a show with her favorite theatre troupe. She started performing in junior high and went on to earn her BFA in theatre/acting from Millikin University. Last September, she became a traditional homeschool parent to her three kids: Arthur, Emmaline, and Alice. A thanks to her husband, Bob, for keeping the kids at bay during Zoom rehearsals!



**Jenna-Rose Drea (Announcer Two)** — Jenna-Rose is excited to be making her GreenMan Theatre debut with *War of the Worlds*. After graduating from Carthage College with a degree in theatre performance in 2019, Jenna-Rose moved to Chicago to pursue a career in theatre. Previously, she has worked with the Kirk Players and Three Brothers as an actor and dramaturg. By day, she works as a customer service rep, but in her free time can be found taking long walks, listening to a true crime podcast, or curled up with a good book. Jenna-Rose sincerely hopes that you enjoy the performance and looks forward to the day when we can gather in theatres once more.



**Melanie Fagan (Announcer, Announcer One) —**

Melanie is thrilled to be back in the theatre world after a break of too many years. By day, she is a commercial lending paralegal, but her love of theatre has never dimmed. Melanie has had the pleasure of working with various community theatre groups in the past including STAR, BTG, Moraine Valley, Oak Lawn, SGM Players, and 99th Street. She has performed in shows as varied as *Midsummer Night's Dream* (where she met her husband), *Godspell*, *Evita*, *Working*, *The Pajama Game*, and a sprinkling of others. She wants to thank her husband and daughter (born on Shakespeare's birthday!) for their support. And of course, thanks to the production team and cast.



**Patrick Gallagher (Reporter Carl Phillips) —**

This is Patrick's fourth appearance with GreenMan Theatre, previously appearing in *Bewitched*, *Bothered*, or *Be Murdered*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, and *Glengarry Glen Ross*. During these uncertain times, Patrick has found working on this production to be a welcome diversion that lets him to once again prepare for a new role and to meet (virtually) and work with talented fellow cast members. When not appearing at GreenMan, Patrick has worked for several healthcare associations in the Chicago area and is looking forward to new opportunities. Patrick would like to thank his wonderful wife, Bridget, for her patience and support of his pursuit of these occasional creative outlets.



**Lewis Jones (Professor Richard Pierson) —**

Lewis is excited to be part of this presentation of *War of the Worlds* and to perform with GreenMan Theatre. His last live onstage role was Bobo in *A Raisin in the Sun* with Invictus Theatre. That show was one of the last live onstage performances in Chicago before the pandemic closed down live theatre. Lewis misses live theatre, but he is happy creative groups like GreenMan Theatre have pivoted so the "show can go on!" Lewis has done many online readings and virtual shows over the last year. He will soon be seen in a virtual performance of *The Dining Room* with Possibilities Theatre Company. And, hopefully, Lewis and all of us will experience live theatre again soon!



**Katie Lahey (Observer, Bystander Two)** — Katie is excited to be returning to GreenMan Theatre Troupe and working with this talented and exciting cast. She was last seen as Zelda in GreenMan’s Murder Mystery Dinner Show *Speakeasy or Die Hard 2*. Her other credits include Albright’s *Murder on the Nile* as Dr. Bessner and Theatre of Western Springs’s Summer Shorts “Manifate” (Kim). When she is not onstage or working backstage on a production, Katie enjoys reading, knitting, and working as a CPA, auditing condominium and townhome associations. Katie wants to thank her family and friends for their unending love and support.



**Maurice McNicholas (Vice President Harry McDonald, Officer, Operator Two)** — Maurice has been acting for over 50 years, playing everything from Adolf Hitler to Marx (Groucho, not Karl). He has appeared in sundry venues ranging from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Hall to the pages of Playboy Magazine (he was fully dressed!). His most recent film role is as the Russian Commander in the film *Forces of Destiny: Special Forces and the Zombie Apocalypse War*. He speaks seven languages: English (obviously), Spanish, German, French, Russian, Latin, and Irish Gaelic. In addition, he is a certified SCUBA diver, certified NAUI, PADI, and YMCA.



**Dave Oberg (General Montgomery Smith, Operator One)** — Dave serves as the Executive Director of the Elmhurst History Museum and as Vice President of the Illinois Association of Museums. He has worked in the museum industry for more than three decades and is the author of several books and numerous articles about local history and architecture. This is his first foray into public performance with GreenMan Theatre Troupe, and he is delighted to be working in partnership with the talented cast and crew. He lives in Villa Park with his wife, Sonali.



**Erin Payton (Wilmuth)** — Erin is a veteran improviser, most notably performing 16 years with Carl & The Passions at iO Chicago and 5 years at ComedySportz Chicago. She is also a recurring storyteller at Louder than a Mom in Chicago. Since moving to the suburbs, she has done two plays with Westchester Civic Theatre, one play with Grove Players, and three shows with GreenMan Theatre (including *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* as part of GreenMan Theatre's 2018 Holiday Show). She loves her husband and two kids oodles and kaboodles.



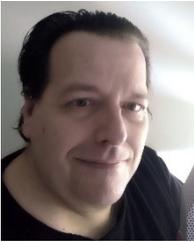
**Debbie Proska (Gunner, Bystander One)** — Debbie has worked with GreenMan Theatre for 5 years, usually supplying props or costumes, and loves the process of transforming a script into a show. She has participated in several murder mysteries, at GreenMan Theatre and with the Villa Park Library. A school secretary in Glen Ellyn during the school year, during the summer she and her family (and dog!) enjoy camping, kayaking, and hiking. She would like to thank her family for tolerating this crazy hobby, allowing her to be involved in “just one more show.”



**Jason Sheldon (Commander Voght, Bystander Three)** — Jason is excited to be a part of the *War of the Worlds* to bring this classic radio show to life. This is Jason's first production with GreenMan Theatre Troupe, and he is delighted to join this talented cast. Jason has appeared in performances in various community theatres in the Chicagoland area, and most recently as Jules in The Summer Place Theatre's (Naperville) production of *My Three Angels*. Jason was also cast as Father Dupin in Natural Talent Productions' (St. Charles) *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Jason enjoys hiking and yoga and works as the Database and Analytics Manager for the City of Naperville.



**Liz Steele (Secretary of the Interior, Announcer Three, Operator Three)** — Liz is excited to be working with the GreenMan Theatre Troupe for the first time. She received her BFA in acting from the Boston University School of Fine Arts Conservatory. Liz has been lucky enough to work at several theatres throughout the country. She has spent many of her last years with The Theatre of Western Springs on and offstage. A couple of her favorite roles have been Julia Child in *To Master the Art* and Elizabeth Donderstock in *The Book of Liz*. By day, Liz works at a Senior Community as their Move-In Coordinator. She would like to thank the GreenMan gang for welcoming her with open arms!



**Kevin Traynor (Orson Welles, Narrator)** — This is Kevin's first production with the GreenMan Theatre (not including a reading of the play *Art* during the theatre's infancy), and the Lockport artist, caricaturist, and chalk muralist is happy to finally work with the theatre. A graduate of the Training Center at Second City, Kevin's favorite parts include Edgar Allan Poe in *Nightfall* and Marley in *A Christmas Carol*, both at Limestone Theatre, and Mike in *Working* and Sheridan in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, both at Moraine Valley Community College. Thank you to Erin, Chelsea, and Aidan for support and love.



**Anthony Urso (Stranger)** — Anthony is ecstatic to be a part of *War of the Worlds*, which is his first GreenMan Theatre Troupe production. He was last seen as Dwight Grackle in Grove Players' production of *November* and before that as Jerry/Daphne in *Sugar* with Summer Place Theatre. Anthony has worn many theatrical hats and has directed a handful of shows at The Second City in Chicago and served as Assistant Stage Manager during the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's previous season. His favorite credits include JB Biggley in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at Illinois State University and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at the College of DuPage. During the day, Anthony edits websites as an Inventory Support Specialist with Dealer Inspire.

## *Production Staff*



**Becca Easley (Director)** — Becca is thrilled to be directing this project. She is excited to work with GreenMan Theatre and the Elmhurst History Museum on another project. In 2019, Becca assisted with *The Power of Children*. She recently directed a virtual production of *Franklin* with Echo Theatre Collective and will be teaming up with them and the Reverb

Ensemble to direct another virtual offering in May. Becca has served as virtual stage manager for several evenings of theatre during the pandemic and is happy to help with others as needed. Pre-Covid, Becca worked with GreenMan on many productions in various technical roles including Assistant Director, Sound Designer, and Sound Board Operator. Shows included *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Laramie Project*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, and *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Becca works as a software engineer with JP Morgan Chase & Co. She would like to thank the fabulous cast, crew, and partners at the Elmhurst History Museum for making this production possible and amazing!



**Siegfried Mueller (Sound Design, Foley Artist)** — Sigi is excited to collaborate with the Elmhurst History Museum and GreenMan Theatre Troupe to bring *War of the Worlds* to life. After studying sound design at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Sigi moved back to Chicagoland; at first getting involved with Sisu Arts to bring theatre back to the Leela Arts Center in Des

Plaines, and then spending time as an event DJ/MC and producing his own electronic music. New to Elmhurst, Sigi looked to volunteer with the Art Museum and History Museum to lend his skills, starting with this *War of the Worlds* production. In addition to sound design and music production, Sigi has been developing a portfolio of architecture photography — embracing the rich variety and history Chicagoland has to offer — and indulging his interest in abstract acrylic painting.

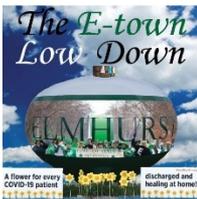


**Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff (GreenMan Theatre Intermediary)** — Carolyn is one of the founding members of GreenMan Theatre Troupe and a member of the theatre’s board. Carolyn has directed fifteen murder mysteries, including last year’s *Speakeasy or Die Hard 2*. She has also directed the storytelling shows *Spooky Stories and Songs of the Season*, which come out of her storytelling classes at GreenMan, and other Spoken Word projects. She is a former Artistic Director for the Children’s Theatre of Western Springs and has also directed for Elmhurst Children’s Theatre. She is a retired teacher who likes to silk paint, travel, and do storytelling.



**David Soria (GreenMan Theatre Artistic Director)** — David is GreenMan’s Artistic Director and has directed or helped behind the scenes on all of GreenMan’s productions. Some of the many shows he has directed at GreenMan include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Arabian Nights*, *Macbeth*, and *Shakespeare in Hollywood*. Elsewhere, he has directed many productions, including *As You Like It*, *Working*, *Old Times*, and *South Pacific*. David holds an MFA in directing from Illinois State University and has taught theatre at Illinois Wesleyan and Moraine Valley Community College. David thanks everyone who worked to make the production a success and especially Katie and daughter Allison for their love and support.

### Get the E-town Low Down!



Stay up to date with the latest local news and interviews with Rich Reichert and the E-Town Low Down podcast.

<https://feed.podbean.com/etownlowdown/feed.xml>

## **GreenMan Theatre Troupe Co-Founders**

Jill Perez      David Soria      Carole Thorpe

### **Board of Trustees**

#### **Officers**

Jim Ocasek — President  
Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff — Vice President  
Steven Soria — Secretary  
Chuck Erickson — Treasurer

#### **Trustees**

Cassy Beach	Donna Miller
Marilyn Connolly	Debbie Proska
Becca Easley	David Soria

### **Past Trustees with Six or More Years of Service**

Tom Hughes (2008–2014)	Alice Rebecchi (2006–2007, 2009–2014)
Chuck Jacobson (2008–2015)	Cheryl Rice (2011–2017)
Shazad Mehta (2014–2021)	Carl Zeitler (2009–2015)

#### **Membership**

Buy a ticket? Sure, but how would you like to take your involvement with *GreenMan Theatre Troupe* to the next level?

Consider becoming a member of the Troupe. For \$20, you'll receive a T-shirt, discounts on classes and workshops, a newsletter, an invitation to attend our Board meetings and other Members-only events, and annually, an opportunity to vote for candidates for the Board.

See what really goes on behind the scenes. See how all the pieces come together to make a show. And, most importantly, help put some of those pieces in place yourself!

Please visit our website for all the details:  
[www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org)

WE ARE **proud** TO  
**support**  
OUR **artistic**  
**partners**

Elmhurst Centre for  
Performing Arts



On a mission to build a  
State-of-the-art venue  
in the Western Suburbs

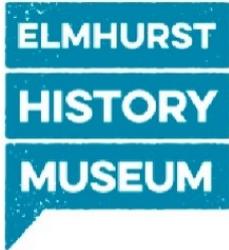


Like  
us!

ECPA, P.O. Box 653, Elmhurst, IL, 60126

[www.ecpa-elmhurst.org](http://www.ecpa-elmhurst.org)  
[ecpaelmhurst@gmail.com](mailto:ecpaelmhurst@gmail.com)

**Thank you for participating!**



*GreenMan Theatre  
Troupe*