*The War of the Worlds*

Director’s Notes by Frank Buxton  
(Taken from Island Theatre’s 1998 program)

Welcome to the 1930’s …..

If you’ve never been to a live radio broadcast before you’re in for a real treat. Here in our re-creation of an actual radio studio you’ll see actors reading from scripts into vintage microphones, the sound effects men doing their magic, the announcers announcing, the stage managers telling you when to applaud, the director cueing the performers – just as it was in the 1930’s, when radio was in its “Golden Age.”

It’s difficult to convey to young people today how important radio was to us then. There was no TV. Movies, while costing very little to see, were still well beyond the means of many Americans. Then too, radio was a unique art form. It was the “theater of the mind” in which everything took place in your imagination. You created everything. You knew what the characters looked like without seeing them. You built the sets and designed the costumes. You pictured the action. All within the confines of your own imagination. There’s never been anything like it….and it’s doubtful there ever will be again.

Tonight we hope to convey to newcomers what radio was like at its very best and we hope that those of you who remember those days will be transported back to a time you remember fondly in reality and in the theater of your mind.