

From Mercury to Mars: Cynthia B. Meyers's "Why Teach War of the Worlds?" from Antenna

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Abstract

"I turn down the lights and encourage students to close their eyes or rest their heads on the desks. Then I play the first 20 minutes of The Mercury Theater on the Air 1938 broadcast of War of the Worlds. Sometimes I play it straight through;

Keywords

Music (Subfield), Film/Movies/Cinema, From Mercury To Mars, Listening, Pedagogy, Play

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"I turn down the lights and encourage students to close their eyes or rest their heads on the desks. Then I play the first 20 minutes of [The Mercury Theater on the Air 1938 broadcast of War of the Worlds](#). Sometimes I play it straight through; sometimes I pause it occasionally and ask students what's happening ..."

[Reblogged from [Antenna](#)]

Click [here](#) to read the rest of Cynthia B. Meyers's thoughts on what it means to teach this radio play in the classroom today. And be sure to watch out for Meyers's exciting new book, [A Word from Our Sponsor: Admen, Advertising, and the Golden Age of Radio](#), which is sure to reshape how scholars think about advertising in commercial culture.

This post is the fourth in our ongoing series in partnership with Antenna, **From Mercury to Mars: Orson Welles on Radio after 75 Years**. Want to catch up on the series? [Click here](#) to read Tom McEnaney's thoughts on the place of Latin America in Welles's radio work. [Click here](#) to read Eleanor Patterson's reflections on recorded re-releases of the "War of the Worlds" broadcast. And [click here](#) to read Debra Rae Cohen's thoughts on vampire media in Orson Welles's "Dracula."

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Also, if you're getting terribly drawn in by all this Welles material – and, really, who could blame you – why not join our [WOTW anniversary Facebook group](#)? You can learn more about a broadcast we are planning for next month to help celebrate and rethink the panic broadcast, as well as about a social media experiment we're conducting around it. Help spread the invasion!