



# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES FILM SERIES

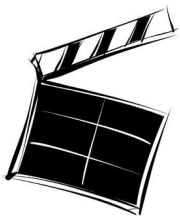
FEATURING

# WAR OF THE WORLDS

The night of October 30, 1938 began as any other peaceful Sunday evening, with millions of listeners tuned to their radios. Yet the outward calm hid a nation tense with apprehension: the Great Depression refused to let up, and the threat of war in Europe loomed larger every day. Then, at 8:15 p.m., there was a report on the radio that Martians had landed in New Jersey.

Almost instantly, people listening in responded to the shocking news. Newspapers were flooded with calls from worried listeners; many feared that New Jersey had been laid to waste and that the Martians were heading west. In cities and towns throughout the country, people stopped a moment to pray—then grabbed their loved ones and fled into the night. What began as a broadcast performance of H.G. Wells's fantasy, *The War of the Worlds*, turned into one of the biggest mass hysteria events in U.S. history.

American Experience examines the elements that together created this frenzy, including our longtime fascination with life on Mars; the emergence of radio as a powerful new medium; and the creative wunderkind Orson Welles, the 23-year old director of the drama and mischief-maker supreme.



**Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch.  
Free snacks will be provided!**



**THURSDAY, MAY 01**

**NOON, ACB 240**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT OGH AT 806-743-2900

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