

Camera Sequence
All cameras rolling
Clapper
Check with Jeff

SB
LX 2-9
SQA-J

PRESHOW

LX 1

HOUSE TO 1/2

LX 2

HOUSE OUT

LX 3

WAR OF THE WORLDS: THE PANIC BROADCAST

QL 1 ↑

by Joe Landry

In Blackout

SQ .5

INSPIRED BY AND INCLUDING THE MERCURY
THEATRE ON THE AIR'S INFAMOUS 1938 RADIO PLAY

1. Pre-Show

Top of Scene, wait 3 seconds from LX 3

LX 4

(We're in a suggestion of a radio studio at WBFR, a metropolitan radio station. There are microphones, a sound effects station, signage for "WBFR" and/or "WBFR Playhouse of the Air," "ON AIR" and "APPLAUSE" signs which can be illuminated on cue, etc. The date is Sunday, October 31, 1948, so there are some Halloween decorations as well.)

(As the audience enters, the ACTORS mingle about as they would prior to broadcast, reviewing scripts, checking sound effects and such. [Being Halloween, perhaps a mask or two are donned and/or a spook-inducing gag is played.] At five minutes before the performance is scheduled to begin, an announcement by the WBFR STAGE MANAGER is made:)

Wait 90 Seconds from LX 4

LX 5

ASM **WBFR STAGE MANAGER.** *(Voiceover:)* Five minutes to air. Mr. Filmore, Mr. Laurents *(Pronounced "Law-rents")*, Mr. Haywood, Miss Sherwood. This is your five-minute call.

SQ .7

QL 1 ↓

(The ACTORS continue about their business for the next three minutes.)

(Then comes another announcement from the WBFR STAGE MANAGER:)

ASM **WBFR STAGE MANAGER.** *(Voiceover:)* Two minutes to air. Mr. Filmore, Mr. Laurents, Mr. Haywood, Miss Sherwood. This is your two-minute call. Mr. Filmore to places for audience warm-up.

LX 6

(FREDDIE approaches us [possibly at the microphone].)

EB **FREDDIE.** *(To us:)* Good evening, ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to a live broadcast of WBFR Playhouse of the Air. We are less than two minutes away from going live over the airwaves, which gives me just enough time to introduce the fine acting ensemble who will be presenting this evening's play. *(Beat.)* You know him from *Dicky Dixon, Private Dick* and *Cowpoke Romance*, playing Howard Koch and others in tonight's play, I give you Mr. Jake Laurents . . .

LX 6.1

SQA

(The "APPLAUSE" sign flashes as JAKE LAURENTS greets us.)

LX 6.3

SQ B

NH	JAKE. <i>(To us:)</i> Good evening, everyone. It's a pleasure. <i>(Smiles and gives a salute to a cute young thing in the audience.)</i> You know our next little lady from Broadway's <i>The Ugly Woman in the Cheap Fur Coat</i> and coming to you each week as Countess Blueblichki <i>(Pronounced "Blue-blitch-key")</i> in <i>Mutton Chop Manor</i> on another network, playing sound effects wizardess Ora Nichols and others in this evening's play, it is my thrill to bring you the always charming Miss Lana Sherwood . . .	SQ B.5
	<i>(LANA SHERWOOD, at the sound effects station, performs the following without missing a beat:)</i>	LX 6.5
	<i>(SFX: Gong / siren whistle / gunshots.)</i>	SQ C
	<i>(She then hits the "APPLAUSE" sign button and greets us.)</i>	
AC	LANA. <i>(To us, singling out an individual for each "you":)</i> Why, I'm just wild about you and you and every last one of you! <i>(To one of us:)</i> Especially you! <i>(Beat.)</i> It's always my pleasure to share the stage with one of the classiest actors money can buy. He's just returned from Los Angeles <i>(Pronounced "Loss Angle-eeze")</i> where he completed filming the Technicolor spectacle <i>A Day at Pimlico, A Night at the Glue Factory</i> , playing John Houseman and others in tonight's play, here's the man of a hundred and one voices, Mr. Harry Haywood . . .	SQ D
	<i>(The "APPLAUSE" sign flashes as HARRY HAYWOOD greets us—performing one of his signature physical slapstick moves on his way.)</i>	LX 6.7
		SQ E
RM	HARRY: <i>(To us:)</i> Hello, America! <i>(To his mother in the audience)</i> And hello, Mother! <i>(Smiles, composes himself, back to business)</i> It's nothing less than my absolute pleasure to give you one of your favorites and mine, having just returned from Los Angles having completed filming <i>Dottie Goes Bananas</i> , a Technicolor spectacle, playing Mrs. Wilmuth, Lt. Voght and others, we bring you Miss Ohio 1943, Miss Sally Applewhite!	SQ F
		LX 6.8
		SQ G
LH	SALLY: <i>(To Harry)</i> Thank you! <i>(To us)</i> And last but certainly far from least, the host of the beloved daytime quiz program <i>Females are Fabulous</i> , host of the WBFR Playhouse of the Air, and playing none other than Mr. Orson Welles himself and others in this evening's program, I give you—and please be so kind as to give him back—Mr. Freddie Filmore...	SQ H
		"lights and sound"
		LX 6.9
	<i>(The "APPLAUSE" sign flashes as FREDDIE greets us again.)</i>	SQ I
EB	FREDDIE. <i>(To us:)</i> Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. You're too kind. <i>(Receiving a visual cue from the WBFR STAGE MANAGER:)</i> I'm getting the signal from our stage manager that we'll be on the air in ten seconds. Thank you for coming and enjoy the broadcast!	
	<i>(The ACTORS take their places as . . .)</i>	
ASM	WBFR STAGE MANAGER. <i>(Voiceover:)</i> We're on the air in five . . . four . . . three . . . BEAT	LX 7

- RM **STUDIO ANNOUNCER.** Ladies and gentlemen, we interrupt our program of dance music to bring you a special bulletin from the Intercontinental Radio News. At twenty minutes before eight, central time, Professor Farrell of the Mount Jennings Observatory, Chicago, Illinois, reports observing several explosions of incandescent gas, occurring at regular intervals on the planet Mars. The spectroscope indicates the gas to be hydrogen and moving towards the earth with enormous velocity. Professor Pierson of the observatory at Princeton confirms Farrell's observation, and describes the phenomenon as—quote—like a jet of blue flame shot from a gun—unquote. We now return you to the music of Ramón Raquello, playing for you in the Meridian Room of the Park Plaza Hotel, situated in downtown New York.
- LX 19
SQ Q
-
- (MUSIC: Music plays for a few moments until piece ends . . .)*
- LX 20
-
- AC **MERIDIAN ROOM ANNOUNCER.** Now a tune that never loses favor, the ever-popular "Stardust." Ramón Raquello and his orchestra . . .
- LX 21
SQ R
-
- (MUSIC: "Stardust.")* WAIT 20 SECONDS
-
- RM **STUDIO ANNOUNCER.** Ladies and gentlemen, following on the news given in our bulletin a moment ago, the Government Meteorological Bureau has requested the large observatories of the country to keep an astronomical watch on any further disturbances occurring on the planet Mars. Due to the unusual nature of this occurrence, we have arranged an interview with noted astronomer, Professor Pierson, who will give us his views on the event. In a few moments we will take you to the Princeton Observatory at Princeton, New Jersey. We return you until then to the music of Ramón Raquello and his orchestra.
- LX 22
SQ S
-
- (MUSIC: "Stardust.")* WAIT 5 SECONDS
-
- LX 23
SQ T
-
- RM **STUDIO ANNOUNCER.** We are now ready to take you to the Princeton Observatory at Princeton where Carl Phillips, our commentator, will interview Professor Richard Pierson, famous astronomer. We take you now to Princeton, New Jersey.
- LX 24
SQ V
-
- (SFX: Echo chamber.)*
-
- NH **CARL PHILLIPS.** Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is Carl Phillips, speaking to you from the observatory at Princeton. I am standing in a large semi-circular room, pitch black except for an oblong split in the ceiling. Through this opening I can see a sprinkling of stars that cast a kind of frosty glow over the intricate mechanism of the huge telescope. The ticking sound you hear is the
- LX 25