

**THE MARTIAN
CHRONICLES**

By Ray
Bradbury

CB Theatre Dept.

**THE MARTIAN
CHRONICLES**

BY RAY BRADBURY

PERFORMED BY
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 29-31, APRIL 5-7
FRI. AND SAT. @ 7PM
SUN. @ 2PM

ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY LEAH VALLESPIN '19

Good for 1
FREE
admission

March 29,
30 @ 7 PM
31 @ 2 PM

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CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

RAY BRADBURY'S

THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES



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ACT ONE

Prologue: Rocket Summer in Florida, January 2030

Scene 1: A Martian home during the first landing, February 2030

Scene 2: An outdoor Martian band concert during the second landing, August 2030

Scene 3: A Martian town and the asylum, August 2030

Scene 4: Somewhere on Mars and the third landing, April 2031

ACT TWO

Scene 1: Mars canals near a town and the fourth landing, June 2032

Scene 2: A library

Scene 3: A camp

Scene 4: Mars and Earth—the colonization begins, November 2033

Scene 5: A library and the House of Usher, April 2036

Scene 6: The hot dog stand, November 2036

Scene 7: New Boston Village, Mars, December 2036

Ray Bradbury's
THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES

THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES is presented through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company.

Original Cover artwork by Leah Vallespin '19

CAST

Nick Maricle '19: NARRATOR, MR. XXX, MAYOR, STEN-
DAHL, HOUSTON VOICE

Carson Bates '20: SPENDER, MR. III, MARTIAN, MUSI-
CIAN

Alexander Vasilyev '19: WILDER, MR. UUU, HINKSTON,
MUSICIAN, GUEST

Spencer Fitzpatrick '20: PARKHILL, MR. WWW, CAPT.
BLACK, GUEST, MUSICIAN

William Helman '21: BILLY (boy), CHEROKEE, WIL-
LIAMS, GUEST, YORK VOICE

Bill Rockas '21: GRIPP, YOUNG, GRANDPA, DRISCOLL,
DOCTOR

Will Tuschinski '21: ISHMAEL (boy), SKIP, BIGGS,
DOCTOR

Jasper Lee Absher '19: WILLIS, FR BROWN, GUEST,
ELMA, DOCTOR

Tyler Chen '19: YLL, HATHAWAY, BIGELOW, MR. NNN,
MUSICIAN, FR. PEREGRINE MALE VOICE

Colin Smith '21: FR. SMITH, GORILLA, MUSICIAN, RELA-
TIVE

Audrey (Koda) Smith '20: YLLA, MS. RRR, GARRETT,
DOCTOR, ROBERT

Dylan Julia Cooper '21: MS. COLLIN, HENLEY, MRS.
TTT, MEDEA, MUSICIAN

Aela Veerkamp '21: LEONORA, ROLLINS, HARLEQUIN,
RELATIVE

CAST CONT'D

Mallory Davis '19: JANICE, WILSON, MRS. BLACK, RED DEATH

Racine Strong '21: GENEVIEVE, GRANDMA, DOCTOR, WOMAN
VOICE

Eva Anders '19: PEGGY, GIRL (martian child), LADY/GUEST,
RELATIVE

TECHNICAL CREW

DIRECTOR.....	Michael D. Jackson
STAGE MANAGER.....	Isabella Walsh '19
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER....	Alyssa Traina '21
SET/LIGHTING DESIGN.....	Heather Christianson '01
SOUND DESIGN.....	Michael D. Jackson
COSTUME DESIGN.....	Michael D. Jackson
PROP DESIGN.....	Anna Hashimoto
PROJECTION DESIGN.....	Jack Flynn '20
SOUND BOARD OPERATORS.....	Jack Flynn '20
	Naomi Conley '19
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....	Doc Cook '19
STAGE CREW.....	Keaton Kirrene '19
	Kylie Kerth '20
DRESSERS.....	Tavia Richardson '21
	Taylor Van Loben Sels '21
	Carmen Greiner '21
	Caroline Millar '20

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

I have tried to surprise myself a good part of my life. Back in the late Forties, I began a series of experiments, sometimes with words which became ideas which became stories. I had been in love with Mars since I was 10 years old and read Wells and Burroughs and stood on the summer lawns and ached to reach up and touch that Red World. My first novel aged 12, was a sequel to *The Gods of Mars*. It was only natural that somewhere along the line I would send further expeditions up to guess the weather of the dead seas and strange hills there. So I tested myself with 4 Expeditions which became the stories that form the first half of this play *The Martian Chronicles*. I didn't even know I had written a novel until a Doubleday Editor, one spring afternoon in 1949 suggested I had a book there. Surprise! I spent the rest of the summer of 1949, in Venice, California, in a 30 dollar a month apartment finishing the novel. It was published in 1950 and has been in print ever since. In the following years, various students wrote to tell me that they had "declaimed" scenes from my *Martian* stories in class. Others had acted them on high school stages, or in college drama meetings. Again: surprise. I decided to learn from my young teachers. If they could adapt me, so could I. If they hadn't led they way, I might never have come back into the theatre to do this play. At least some part of your praise, or blame, should go to them. For now: Mars is waiting. We must go there.

—Ray Bradbury, July 14th, 1977

The Martian Chronicles was the only Bradbury novel I knew until he died in 2012. When the announcement of his death came across the world wide news, I decided to look into the man and found a kindred spirit. I now own and treasure several volumes of his books and essays and have trolled Youtube to see his interviews and college speaking engagements. He offers the best advice to young writers! Look him up, read, listen and follow his advice. Bradbury is best remembered as one of the greatest 20th Century writers of science fiction, though he wrote a lot more of what might be considered fantasy, as well as horror, mystery and memoir. He also penned a few screenplays, including the great *Moby Dick*, had a TV show based on his short stories, *Ray Bradbury Theater* and wrote plays based on his books for the Colony Theater in Los Angeles, where *The Martian Chronicles* stage adaptation made its world premiere in 1977.

I was introduced to Bradbury's imaginative visions of Mars by my high school English teacher, who played us a books on tape version, read to perfection by Leonard Nimoy. The chapter that really fascinated me took place in the year 2057 and was about an automated house that kept on working as if the owners were still living there when everything else had been incinerated by a war of atomic bombs. This chapter could not translate to the stage, but maybe one day a movie version will depict it—that movie has been rumored for years and is long overdue (although there was a TV mini-series that more or less followed the play in 1980 with Rock Hudson). Even though the 2057 chapter is not included in the play, it contained a poem by Sara Teasdale that is relevant and worth sharing along side this production.

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
 And swallows circling with their shimmering sound,
 And frogs in the pools singing at night,
 And wild plum trees in tremulous white,
 Robins will wear their feathery fire,
 Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire,
 And not one will know of the war, not one
 Will care at last when it is done,
 Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
 If mankind perished utterly,
 And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn
 Would scarcely know that we were gone.

Former Vice President Al Gore said, "I'm all for exploring Mars, that's an exciting prospect. I'm against the illusion that we have a back-up planet and we're going to move...we couldn't even evacuate New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit."

Ray Bradbury dreamed of not only exploring Mars, but living there. However, his play isn't about showing what could be done with Mars literally, but he uses Mars as an analogy for our own westward movement, which ruined the Native American culture, paved over the landscape and now threatens the sustainability of our only livable option—Earth. Still, Mars was always the back up planet in Bradbury's mind for he assumed there would be air to breathe, water-filled canals and history of an ancient native people who had already tested the possibilities. Our Mars Rover has sent us back the pictures and none of that is true, but the thought of inhabiting another planet will always be in our dreams as we look up to that vast universe and wonder what might be out there.

The last time we visited an alien planet for a CB production in *The Tempest*, our director, Michael D. Jackson spoke to me of a harsh desert terrain similar to Mars, yet capable of supporting life, with wild boulder formations and Tatooine-esque dwellings. I immediately thought of the closest earthly comparison I could muster, Joshua Tree National Park. For *The Martian Chronicles*, there was no need to mentally recreate the planet Mars with known earthly elements. NASA, and its Mars rovers Opportunity and Curiosity, had kindly provided an online treasure trove of photos and video from the red planet. Ray Bradbury had no such luxury when he conceived these stories, nor did the illustrators of his novel. Yet with harsh angular structures and vivid color gradients of red and orange, their artwork bears a striking, if stylized, resemblance to the images of Mars we know today.

This production combines these two visions of Mars—the scientific and the artistic. The script is highly theatrical: a heightened world with little attempt at realism, yet the themes of the play are grounded in the history of colonialism, manifest destiny and westward expansion, all set against the threat of an Earth which has become too damaged to sustain human life. As a result, the design is equally blended. The set utilizes the stylized lines and dramatic colors of the artwork, and the lighting and costuming equally reflect this heightened theatrical world. Many of the projected images however, are taken directly from the Opportunity and Curiosity photos, and even the putrid-looking sky in the second act is real: it was taken in Houston on a particularly smoggy morning.

It was with great sadness that I heard of the recent death of the rover, Opportunity. I had never thought about it much prior to this production and rather took for granted that photos of another planet were being transmitted from across the galaxy. I was surprised by how keenly I felt the loss of a machine, especially its final message "My battery is low and it's getting dark". I can only express profound gratitude to these robots and the countless people who fund, create and operate them. They, like Mr. Bradbury, have given me a glimpse of a wild, teacherous and beautiful world that remains beyond my reach.



JASPER LEE ABSCHER '19, is extremely excited (and sad) to be performing in his last CB production. While he started participating in theatre junior year, he will be continuing his acting career in college. He would like to thank the cast, crew, Ms. Christianson and Mr. Jackson for allowing him to be part of such a loving community.



EVA ANDERS '19 is so excited to be in her first theatre production with CB and her second production ever. Her first role was Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She loves cheerleading, swimming and painting. After six graduates she will be studying abroad in Brazil for a year. She is so thankful for her experiences here at CE these past four years.



CARSON BATES '20 cannot begin to express excitement in being cast in *The Martian Chronicles*. He only hopes that the audience reading this will enjoy the show to its fullest. Off the stage, Carson can be seen playing video games and making cringe-worthy jokes with friends. He sincerely thanks his family, close friends, and everyday acquaintances.



TYLER CHEN '19, is acting for you in his last show. At CB he has made many great friends and hopes they know that he loves and appreciates them. He has had knowledgeable teachers and knows some of the friendly support staff. He would like to thank all of them for making this stage of his life possible. He sincerely loves all of these special people.



DYLAN JULIA COOPER '21 is thrilled to be in her first performance with CB. She has been acting since age 6. Favorite past productions include *Our Town*, *Les Misérables*, and *West Side Story*. She would like to thank her family and



MALLORY DAVIS '19 is performing in their last show at CB. They had the amazing honor of playing Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet* and star as Lina Lamont in *Singin' In The Rain*. Although this is their last show, they will never forget their theatre experience and will go out with a bang.



SPENCER FITZPATRICK '20 is thrilled to be in his 7th CB production. His past roles include Don Lockwood (*Singin' In The Rain*), Pat Gilbert (*State Fair*), and Horatio (*Hamlet*). He'd like to thank his family, friends, and all his teachers.



WILLIAM HELMAN '21 is making his acting debut with CB. He is excited to be playing Actor 5 and to be working with a great cast and crew. He thanks his family for always being so supportive.



NICK MARICLE '19, is incredibly thrilled to be a part of *The Martian Chronicles*, which will be his final show here at CB. He wants to thank his friends, family, and theatre directors for encouraging him to join the community that changed his life.



BILL ROCKAS '21 is making his acting debut at CB and is thrilled to be playing five different characters. He enjoys volleyball and participates in student council when not performing. He would like to thank his family and friends for letting him add more commitments to his schedule.



AUDREY (KODA) SMITH '20 is excited to be acting in her second CB production. In the past, she performed in *Hamlet* and worked backstage for *Singin' In The Rain* and *State Fair*. In her free time she enjoys roller-skating and writing. She is grateful for the support of her friends and family.



COLIN SMITH '21, is excited to be participating in his second ever production at CB. He has been acting ever since middle school, and has starred in several productions including *Beauty and The Beast* and *State Fair*. He sends a big thanks to his peers, family, and former drama teacher, Ms. Long. When not acting or studying, he's usually doing something with music.



RACINE STRONG '21, is thrilled to be playing Genevieve in CB's production of *The Martian Chronicles*. She has been acting since age 10. Favorite past productions include *Singin' In The Rain* and *State Fair*. She thanks her mom for always being her number one fan.



WILL TUSCHINSKI '21 is delighted to be in his fourth CB production. His favorite roles include Judge Heppenstahl in *State Fair* and the Vocal Coach in *Singin' In The Rain*. He wants to thank his family for supporting him in past performances. When he's not on stage, you can find him playing croquet with his big sister.



ALEXANDER VASILYEV '19, is prepared to give his last performance during his long Christian Brothers High School career. He is excited and motivated to participate in his 8th production at CB. He hopes that everyone watching will thoroughly enjoy and remember the show.



AELA VEERKAMP '21 is ecstatic to be part of her first CB production. She has been acting since age 10, but *The Martian Chronicles* is her first non-musical. When she's not doing homework or at rehearsal, she can be found doing creative writing, playing *The Sims 4*, or doing karaoke.

MICHAEL D. JACKSON (Director) is finishing his 5th year teaching Theatre at CB. Previously, he spent a decade with Broadway Sacramento in a variety of capacities, including teaching programs for the Theatre Education Department. Between 2000 and 2014 he lived in New York City where he worked as director, playwright, theatre critic and agent for Music Theatre International.

HEATHER CHRISTIANSON '01 (Technical Director) Heather is a proud graduate of Christian Brothers and the USC School of Theatre. Her technical theatre background began at CB, and gave her the opportunity to study in Los Angeles and London and to work at Sacramento Theatre Company, Broadway at Music Circus, and Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company. She is impressed by CB's commitment to the arts and is proud to be completing

ISABELLA WALSH '19 (Production Stage Manager), This is Isabella's 6th CB production. She has worked in various technical capacities on *Animal Crackers*, *The Royal Family*, *Hamlet*, *State Fair*, and *Singin' In The Rain*. She made her CB acting debut this year in the original one act play, *Fractured Glass*. She is pleased as punch to be working with her classmates in this production. She would like to thank her mother for supporting her.

ALYSSA TRAINA '21 (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited for her third CB production as Assistant Stage Manager. She has previously stage managed *State Fair* and *Singin' In The Rain*. She wants to thank her parents and friends for supporting her.

CBHS Theatre
2019-20 season



November 9-11, 16-18



March 29-31, April 5-7

Tickets available in August