

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Invasion Begins

'The War of the Worlds' is being transformed into a live multi-media stage show at Auckland's Stardome Observatory & Planetarium, opening 1 November 2012.

Stardome has secured the rights to stage the musical version of 'The War of the Worlds' in the planetarium theatre. The production will feature a live cast of Auckland's top actors, alongside spectacular projections, lighting and special effects.

This new show will be staged in a unique format combining projected planetarium images and live performance for the very first time. The show's cast, which includes some of Auckland's top musical theatre talent, will interact with characters and events projected onto the planetarium ceiling. Spectacular staging, sound and lighting effects, and incredible purpose made visuals will converge in the planetarium theatre. Martians will hover above the audience in their fighting machines, enveloping them in the middle of the commotion, while heat rays will be firing across their heads with smoke and special effects! Audience members will be enveloped in an unforgettable multi-dimensional experience.

'The War of The Worlds' is a true classic, acquiring new generations of devoted followers every year since its original release. Based on the 1898 novel by H G Wells and set in Victorian England, the story tells of a Martian invasion of Earth.

First released in 1978 Jeff Wayne's musical version of 'The War of the Worlds' became an instant chart topper. To date it has sold approximately 15 million records around the world and has even been adapted into different languages. It has charted in more than 20 countries, spending over 330 weeks in the UK Album Charts (to date) plus achieving two international hit singles – 'Forever Autumn' and 'The Eve of The War'.

The Stardome season of 'The War of the Worlds' will consist of 35 performances, at 8:30pm nightly Wed-Sun from 1 November 2012. A teaser trailer for the show is already playing at Stardome before current evening planetarium shows. Tickets for 'The War of the Worlds' will go on sale in April 2012. For early release announcements fans should 'like' the Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/wotwnz>

Work on the production started in September with animation teams from New Zealand and across the US working on the planetarium visuals. "We have secured some exceptional talent from the theatre industry," says Stardome's Colin James, the Producer/ Director of the show. "We have had a large number of people wanting to become involved in the project, and have thus been able to put together a production team with a huge range of experience, including recent productions like the Auckland seasons of 'Miss Saigon', and 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast.' We are really excited about this new show. It truly will be an experience not to miss!"

Find out more at the Stardome website <http://www.stardome.org.nz/the-war-of-the-worlds/> or on the Facebook event page <http://www.facebook.com/wotwnz>.

Stardome Observatory & Planetarium

670 Manukau Road, One Tree Hill Domain, Royal Oak, Auckland / PO Box 24 180, Royal Oak, Auckland 1345
PH: 09 624 1246 / FAX: 09 625 2394 / info@stardome.org.nz / www.stardome.org.nz

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For an interview with Producer/Director Colin James, or further information contact:

Gina Dellabarca
Marketing Manager
Stardome Observatory & Planetarium
gina@stardome.org.nz
Ph 09 624 1246 x203
Cell 021 427 553



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