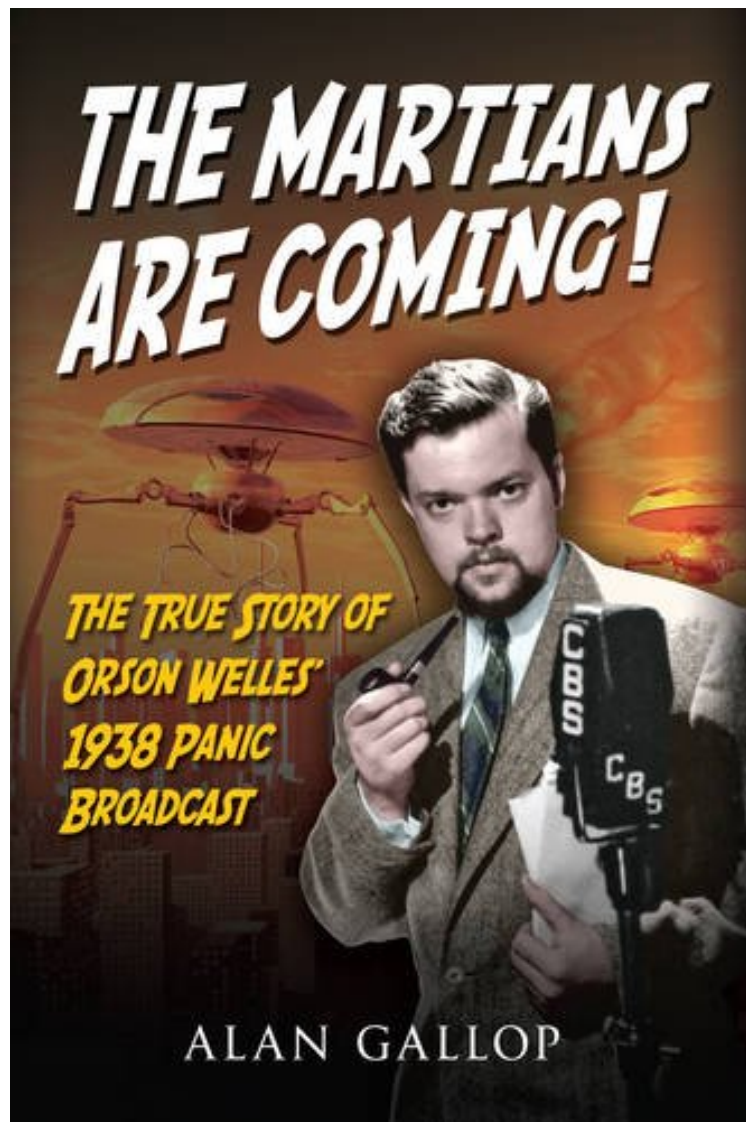


[Free read ebook] The Martians are Coming!: The True Story of Orson Welles' 1938 Panic Broadcast

## The Martians are Coming!: The True Story of Orson Welles' 1938 Panic Broadcast

Alan Gallop

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Alan Gallop : The Martians are Coming!: The True Story of Orson Welles' 1938 Panic Broadcast before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Martians are Coming!: The True Story of Orson Welles' 1938 Panic Broadcast:

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. ISN'T THERE ANYONE.....???By Richard MasloskiSince there are no other reviews or comments about this book here on , I can somewhat appreciate the feelings of Professor Pierson

(a.k.a. Orson Welles) when he ponders the possibility - after the Martians have declared their one-sided war on mankind - that he might be the last living man on Earth. Isn't anyone there? Anyone? This is an extremely handsome book, beautifully produced and published by the smallish Amberley Publishing from the UK. The slim volume has a healthy physical weight to it, a solid spine, eye-catching covers, a good number of illustrations and its written content is surprisingly in-depth and detailed despite the book's seemingly few 157 pages. Yes, there are some annoying errors of fact that should never have made it into print had proof-readers been more astute, but overall there's much bang for the buck here. Author Alan Gallop delivers the goods in a highly readable and informative manner. He tells the full story of the 1938 Panic Broadcast most excitingly and covers the preludes and aftermaths of that infamous Halloween event with equal gusto. And the thing is that what happened then is still of immense relevance to what happens in our own day and age. How truly different, for example, was the Mercury Theatre's authoritatively disseminating news across the land of a Martian invasion that was in actuality bogus - and latter day leaders authoritatively declaring the existence of WMDs to a more modern, but equally gullible, public? And in this book our author raises the profound and unanswered question as to just how "real" the subsequent news stories of the panic actually were. The Mercury Theatre yes, faked news bulletins of a Martian invasion. But how much may the reporters covering the aftershocks of that broadcast have embellished or downright fabricated? A news story isn't termed a "story" for naught. What then really separates a conscious lie from an unconscious one? And where is the real dividing line between Truth and Art? Wherever audiences are - whether with ears glued to radios of old or eyes riveted to TVs of today - wherever audiences are, so is Art. The story of Orson Welles' radio broadcast of H.G. Wells' THE WAR OF THE WORLDS is a story that should never be forgotten. Alan Gallop's admirable book helps to see that it won't be. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very Informative By Lightstar This is a fascinating history of the epic War of the Worlds radio broadcast. There were lots of facts I had never heard before. The author tells us what happened to each of the people involved with producing this broadcast. It also goes into detail about the effects of the broadcast around the country. It was an easy quick read chock full of information. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent read By Line'r Mr. Gallop did a good job and, although I have read other books of Panic 1938 Broadcast, this is more on a personal level, considering the relationship of the author and Mr. Wells.

It was Halloween 1938 when twenty-three-year-old Orson Welles fooled America into thinking it had been invaded by aliens. The Mercury Theater on the Air production of H. G. Wells The War of the Worlds has become one of the most talked-about broadcasts in the history of the radio. It resulted in mass panic across America. People ran into the streets screaming that the world was ending. Churches were emptied of their congregations, cinemas of their audiences, restaurants of their patrons. Panic-stricken families rushed to their cars and drove like lunatics in a bid to escape Martian annihilation. The Martians Are Coming! is the story of how the play came to be written, cast, rehearsed and broadcast to a credulous nation. Even Hitler, Goebbels and Mussolini had something to say about it. The book turns the spotlight on a young genius who by the age of twenty had already conquered Broadway. Welles was soon handed a weekly radio show in which he could put on anything he pleased, providing it entertained American listeners. Soon he was on a train to Hollywood and stardom as a actor-director to set about creating Citizen Kane. Set against the background of America's economic depression and rumbles of another world war coming from across the Atlantic, the book sets the historic broadcast in the context of how Americans were thinking and feeling on the night their world almost but not quite came to an end.

About the Author Alan Gallop is a journalist, author and teacher of PR and marketing subjects at commercial colleges. His previous work includes a book about Buffalo Bill's adventures in England, a history of the women and children who toiled in Victorian coal mines, and a biography of explorer Henry Morton Stanley. He has written about the birth and development of Heathrow and about the loss of HMS Affray, the last British submarine to go missing at sea. He is married with two children and lives in Ashford, Middlesex.