

Dark Adventure Radio Theatre

The Players

Aidan Branney	Raleigh Radioman
Sean Branney	Walter Davis, Raymond Roquelo, Nathaniel Ward
Dan Conroy	Erskine Blackwell
Mike Dalager	Mare Island Dispatch, Alcatraz, Petty Officer Hobbs, German U-boat
Lucas Dixon	Charlie Tower
Matt Foyer	"Dagon" Actor, Dr. Chapman, Robert Olmstead
Andrew Leman	Nathan Reed, Barnabas Marsh
Jacob Andrew Lyle	Ensign Isaza
Barry Lynch	Admiral Brookstone, Palos Captain
John A. McKenna	Captain Craig
Grinnell Morris	Radioman 3rd Class Dalager
Kevin Stidham	Clark Holloway, Portland Dispatch, New Zealand, WWN Assistant
Josh Thoenke	Announcer
Time Winters	David Merlin, Bert Philips

Additional Voices. Ruth Horne, Logan Loughmiller, Tobias Nilsson, and Tom Woodger

The Staff

Inspired by the stories "Dagon", "The Shadow Over Innsmouth", and "The Temple"

by H. P. Lovecraft

Radio Adaptation by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

Original Music by Reber Clark

Dark Adventure Theme and WWN Fanfare by Troy Sterling Nies

"Bub-L-Pep" jingle written by Andrew Leman, arranged and performed by Harold Lindell and Kathleen Demarest

Raymond Roquelo & his Orchestra play "Little Dutch Mill" (1934) by Ralph Freed and Harry Barris; "Midnight, the Stars and You" (1934) by Jimmy Campbell, Reg Connelly and Harry Woods; "Don't Give Up the Ship" (1935) by Al Dubin and Harry Warren; all tunes arranged by Reber Clark

Audio Engineering by Daniel McMains

Engineering Assistance by Adam Pardee

Cover and Disc Illustrations by Darrell Tutchton

Prop Inserts by Andrew Leman and Sean Branney

German translation by Eddy Will

Produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

But first, a few words from our sponsor....

Previous episodes of *Dark Adventure Radio Theatre* have all been adaptations of a single classic Lovecraft story. As the series expanded, we knew we wanted to adapt some of HPL's shorter works, and yet still provide full feature-length episodes of audio drama. "Dagon" was on the list of favorite and often-requested stories, but being only five pages long, and having only one character and no real plot, we realized we'd need to rework it substantially to make it fit the *Dark Adventure* line. Written in 1917, "Dagon" was one of HPL's stories which was directly inspired by a dream. It was also one of his first returns to writing fiction after a nine-year hiatus. This brief story foreshadowed the theme of great undersea horrors that would reappear in his greater works "The Call of Cthulhu" and "The Shadow Over Innsmouth".

Lovecraft incorporated elements from "Dagon" into "The Shadow Over Innsmouth." We had already done a *Dark Adventure* episode of that story, but the tale ends with many questions unanswered. Old Zadok Allen hints that the Deep Ones have a master plan for world domination, and that they are in league with Shoggoths. He also says that the old Kanaky islanders knew of certain symbols that could drive Deep Ones away. The town has been raided and no one really knows what has become of the Marsh family and the other members of the Esoteric Order of Dagon. And in the closing lines, the protagonist Robert Olmstead declares his intention to bust his cousin out of the insane asylum and join the Deep Ones in Y'hannthlei. We saw an opportunity to pick up where *Innsmouth* left off, incorporate "Dagon"—and maybe even more than that—and create an exciting new adventure unlike anything our audience has ever heard.

To join them together we thought it would be fun to turn to a classic of 1930s radio: the Mercury Theater on the Air production of *The War of the Worlds*, by H. G. Wells. This famous broadcast of October 30, 1938, starring and directed by Orson Welles, was presented — at least in its first act — as a series of "news bulletins" about a Martian invasion of Earth. This breathless style of presentation was so grippingly effective that it actually caused pandemonium among latecoming listeners who missed the opening announcement that it was a work of fiction.

Our *Dark Adventure* episodes of "At the Mountains of Madness" and "The Shadow Over Innsmouth" featured

radio newsman Nathan Reed of Worldwide Wireless News, so we brought him back for this new adventure in breaking news. We've also brought back Miskatonic professor Nathaniel Ward, who appeared in "Dreams in the Witch House" and "Imprisoned With the Pharaohs," and his old friend Charlie Tower, who appeared alongside Ward in the HPLHS motion picture version of *The Whisperer in Darkness*.

When working on the bonus props for the episode, we decided a simple newspaper clipping was not enough. So we made an entire newspaper, even though it's too big to stuff into a jewel case.

Orson Welles' *The War of the Worlds* wasn't the first time a scripted dramatic program was presented as "breaking news" on the radio. It had been done a number of times before, including a version of *Julius Caesar* Orson Welles himself had produced just the previous month. And real news had been presented on the radio in the form of scripted drama: starting in 1931 the show *The March of Time* featured professional actors in highly staged reenactments of actual news stories, complete with sound effects and music. The show was highly popular and ran for fourteen years on all the major networks.

Early radio listeners often couldn't tell that what they were listening to wasn't really "real." Orson Welles found that out the hard way when his little Halloween episode turned into a national panic. There was a fair amount of public outrage at the Martian invasion incident, and the mischievous Welles was compelled to apologize for the uproar.

We have no fear that audiences in this jaded, post-modern, "reality" entertainment age will be fooled into thinking that Dagon is actually rising up to wipe out humanity. But we hope a 75-minute visit to our parallel universe where such horrors are real and viscerally threatening will prove both thrilling and delightful to our listeners.

—SB & AHL



BONUS BONUS PROP

In addition to the prop documents contained in this jewel case, we've prepared an ENTIRE NEWSPAPER as a companion prop to this episode, which covers all the events of the story plus a great deal more. We think you'll enjoy it, and you can find it here:

store.cthulhulives.org/products/dagon-newspaper



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