

WAR OF THE WORLDS

What to Look Out For

Here are some questions to help students get the most out of watching the production. It might be helpful to consider them before, during, and after your visit to the theatre.

Before

imitating the dog's website describes this production of *War of the Worlds* as 'a thrilling, audacious and timely retelling of H.G. Wells's classic novel, using miniature environments, model worlds, camera tricks, and projection'.

What does this description, the 14+ age limit, and the warnings about violence, horror, gunshots, strong language and themes of racism and anti-immigration lead you to expect from the show? Does it sound like the novel or radio play with which you are familiar?

- What do you think it means to 'retell' Wells's story?
- If you were going to reimagine *The War of the Worlds* in your favourite film genre:
 - what would you change about the story?
 - would you focus on, or cut altogether, particular characters?
 - would you change the setting, time period, or any other aspect of the original story?

- Should classic stories be reinterpreted for the audiences of today, or should they be kept exactly as they were written? Is any text sacred?

During

- What is your first impression of the set and characters?
 - Does it change as the show goes on?
- What changes have been made to the original text and characters?
 - Do you like them?
 - Do they add to your understanding of the story?
- How do you feel about the use of horror, violence, racist and anti-immigrant rhetoric, and strong language in the show?
 - Does it feel relevant to the original story?
 - The production is recommended for 14+. Do you agree with that?
- How, when, and why is technology used in the show?
 - Does it enhance the performance or help you understand it?
 - Does it add meaning to scenes or moments?
 - Does it help to highlight particular themes or relationships?
 - Does it surprise you, and if so in what ways?

- How, when and why are sound and music used in the show?
 - What impact do they have?
- How would you describe the set, video, and costume design, and the overall look or aesthetic of the production?
 - Does it remind you of any film or TV shows you have seen?
 - Does the world feel familiar to you, or is it new and strange?
- What emotions do you experience as you watch the production?
 - Which moments or characters do you respond to specifically?
- Do you think ITD are trying to present any particular message/s?
 - If so, what do you think they are?
 - How do they relate to what's happening in the world today?

After

- How do you feel after watching the show?
 - What emotions have stayed with you?
 - What was it like to experience this version of *War of the Worlds*?
- What did you think about the changes that the writer-directors made to the story, the new material they added to the text, and where and when they chose to set their version?
 - Did it add to your understanding of H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds*, or Orson Welles' radio adaptation?
 - Did it highlight or focus on any themes more than in the original?
- How did you feel about the protagonist in this production?
 - Did you care about what happened to him? Were you rooting for him, regardless of how you felt about his politics?
 - How did he compare to the protagonist in Wells's original?

- How did you feel about the ending?
 - Did you feel that the protagonist got what he deserved?
 - Would you have changed anything?

If you are attending a post-show discussion, the following questions may be helpful to consider before and after the Q&A:

Before:

- Who would you like to ask a question of: the director, a performer, or someone else?
- What question(s) would you like to ask?

After:

- Was your question answered? If so, did the answer surprise you or confirm your own thoughts?
- What was the most interesting question asked by someone else?
- What was the most interesting/surprising answer?

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