

PLAYS FOR
New Audiences

A Division of Children's Theatre Company

Apollo: To the Moon

60-Minute Version

by Mary Hall Surface

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Apollo: to the Moon is a solo performance piece. The actor portrays Scott Gibson, as well as James Webb, Lyndon Johnson, Werner Van Braun, Benny and Gus Grissom. All other characters are created through voice-overs (And are noted in the script as V.O.)
**p.23 - 25: The voice of Mission Control and the Questioner should be done by the actor playing Scott.

In the original production, the set included rear screen projections of 140 historic photographs of the period and a sound track of music from the 1950s and 60s. The set consisted of one rolling stool and one multi-use unit (served as lab table, treadmill, seat, etc.) All props were mimed except for a retractable pointer for Werner Van Braun.

NOT LICENSED FOR PRODUCTION

Recorded voice of mission control, counting down to the lift-off of Apollo 11. A slide of the rocket on the launch pad. Scott enters, looking downstage, as if watching the broadcast.

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.) T-minus one minute, thirty-five seconds and counting on the mission, the flight to land a man on the moon. All systems are...
(FADES)

SCOTT July 16, 1969. The world holds its breath. A tiny piece of earth is about to shake as a giant of a rocket struggles to break free.

Countdown continues. Slides show the pre-launching rocket.

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.) We're approaching the 60 second mark. T- minus 60 seconds and counting. We're past t-minus 60. 55 seconds and counting.

SCOTT Free from the bonds of earth. Free to explore the stars.

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.) Second stage tanks now pressurized, 35 seconds and counting. We are still go. 30 seconds and counting.

SCOTT The Moon-- tempting us from the beginning of time - like a jewel just beyond our reach. Now we can grasp it. We are going to the moon.

Countdown heard simultaneously with Scott's next line.

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.) Guidance is internal. 12, 11, 10, 9, ignition sequence start, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, O, all engines running.

SCOTT My dream ...the moon ...the future ...all my life ...I wanted ...the moon!

MISSION CONTROL (V.O.) Lift off, we have lift off.

Explosion of ignition segues into Scott, age 12, "landing" complete with his own sound effects, like the space ship in "the day the earth stood still."

SCOTT No really, Sarah, there's this spaceship and it lands right beside the Washington Monument. (landing noise and move.) And everybody is

running around and screaming, and the army brings out hundreds of tanks and guns, but nothing happens. So they wait. *(scott makes music noise)* And wait. *(another dramatic music noise.)*

SARAH (V.O.) What're you doin' Scott?

SCOTT I'm telling you what happens in the movie ! OK. Finally, the door of the spaceship slides back. *(he makes the sound effect.)* And out walks this guy in a silver space suit. He looks pretty human, so nobody gets too scared. But then this big robot guy comes walking out.

Scott does the music walk of the robot.

SCOTT He's made all out of this special steel and he's got no face. Then the space guy says, "I come in peace." Then this army guy shoots him.

Scott makes a gun sound then screams.

SARAH (V.O.) Why?

SCOTT That's what army guys do. Anyway, this makes the robot really mad, so he lifts up the visor on his face *(sound and action)* and vaporizes the weapons of the army guys. *(vaporizing sounds.)* The space guy escapes. And he hides out where this kid Bobby lives with his Mother. And Bobby and the space guy become friends. Then the space guy says he wants to get all the scientists of the world together, so he can tell them something really important. He says it will save the earth! Save the earth from something terrible. *(scott makes his scary music noise again.)* Be-da! Bu-da! Be-da!

SARAH (V.O.) Scott!

MOTHER (V.O.) Scott, are you scaring your little sister again?

SCOTT No, Mom. I'm just telling her about the movie, "The Day the Earth Stood Still."

MOTHER (V.O.) Did you see that again today?

SCOTT I've only seen it four times. It's great! It's about this space ship and it

lands right beside the Washington Monument ...

MOTHER (V.O.) You've TOLD me about the story, Scott. Now, it's time for you and your sister to go to bed.

SCOTT &
SARAH (V.O.) MOM!!!

SCOTT I can't go to bed now! It's a three- quarter moon! Can I at least stay up 10 more minutes to look through my telescope?

MOTHER (V.O.) Three minutes.

SCOTT Five?

MOTHER (V.O.) Four minutes. Then lights out.

SCOTT Good-night, Mom. G'night, Sarah. (*whispering*) I'll tell you the rest of the movie tomorrow.

Scott crosses into his room. Music. He looks through his telescope. He is working with a notebook. Slides of the moon appear.

SCOTT (*reading*) "Oceanus Procellarum. The Ocean of Storms. A large part of the western half of the Moon's visible surface." (*looking through the telescope*) Why did they name it that? There can't really be an ocean on the moon. There's no water. No air. Wonder what it's really like up there in the Ocean of Storms or in the ... (*checking his book for another name*) ... Sea of Tranquility? Wonder if they could see me from earth if I was standing on the moon?

Scott blasts off and stands on his bed, waving slowly as if on the moon.

SCOTT Hi, Mom! (*beat.*) Probably not. (*goes back to his telescope*) But everybody all over their world would look out their windows and say, "There's somebody up there tonight-- somebody on the moon." (*to the moon.*) You've waited for billions of years for somebody to come visit you. And it's gonna be me.

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