Thank you to our Patrons

Aggressive Tooling, Inc. Flat River Family Dentistry
Amierclnn Martin Eye Care
Aster Credit Union CJ Nye
BC Pizza Mersen USA MI Corp.
Candle Stone Golf & Resort Quality Collision
Comm. Hope Christian Counseling Dr. Aaron Rackham
Flat River Community Players Remax
Greenville Community Church S-A-Y Graphic Designs
Greenville Dental Care Stafford Media Solutions
Greenville Optimist Club State Farm
Huch’s Fine Jewelry Synthetic Lubricants, Inc.
Isabella Bank Town & Country Animal Clinic
Dean Jensen, CPA, PC Vantage Pointe
Christine Kohn, PLLC Wittenbach Tire & Auto

GHS Theatre Boosters

Beckett Level (100-$249)

Eron Drake
Tony & Kelly Draper
Dan & Mari Smith
Jeff & Sulayne Stowitts
Jim & Kathy Jo VanderLaan
Ryan & Kelly Worden

O’Neill Level ($50-$99)

Carlton & Mary Ferguson
Joel & Linda Van Houten
Jeff & Grace Wilhelm
Mark & Kathy Wilkin

Adapted from the comic strip by
Alex Raymond

March 22 & 23, 2013
It was in the Summer of 2011 that we came up with the idea. Revisit a classic radio show of the 1930’s with our talented students with a theatrical and dramatic flair from the 21 Century. Orson Welles adaptation of “The War of the Worlds” set the world on fire in 1938 and last year created an evening unlike anything seen before in Greenville. How do you follow that up? You follow that up by introducing students to one of the first great American super heroes.

“Buck Rogers” premiered in US papers in 1928. Six years later, cartoonist Alex Raymond was tasked with the job of creating a rival to the popular strip. The result, on January 7, 1934, was “Flash Gordon.” Raymond’s artistic style, and his adventurous writing style quickly propelled Flash, his girlfriend Dale Arden and their scientist friend, Dr. Hans Zarkov into American popular culture. Flash moved from the comics, to radio, and eventually to movie serials and beyond. Flash Gordon was the king of sci-fi in America well into the 1950’s.

My first encounter with Flash and Ming the Merciless, (from the planet Mongo) was in 1977. “Star Wars” had hit movie screens across America, and there was resurgence in pulp sci-fi. WGN TV went on a run of broadcasting the Buster Crabbe “Flash Gordon” movie serials, and I was hooked. Little did I know then the impact Flash had on other young minds before me.

George Lucas originally sought the rights to do a Flash Gordon film in the early 1970’s. That didn’t happen, and Lucas ended up taking us to a galaxy, far, far away instead. Going further back, the legendary comic artist Jack “King” Kirby credited Raymond with being an inspiration for his work. And going further back still, Jerry Siegel, Joel Schuster and Bob Kane all credited their work to be inspired on some level by the artistry of Alex Raymond and the success of Flash Gordon. (Flash predates Superman and Batman by 4 years.)

Flash would hit popular culture again in 1980, when a film produced by Dino De Laurentis came out. Max Von Sydow played Emperor Ming, and few films since have done justice to their comic book roots the way this film did. Having a great sound track by the rock band Queen helps too. The 1980 movie is directly inspired by Raymond’s artwork and is a campy good time too.

Back to the future. When we were setting up this season, “Flash Gordon” seemed like a terrific way to play off of the success of last year’s “War of the Worlds.” Many of our fantastic cast from last year are returning to the radio show this year, and the success of the show lies with their enthusiasm for this great adventure.

Chris Chapman

Phil Rewa (King Vultan) Phil began his theatre career as the security guard in the bleacher of Wrigley Stadium in the production of BLEACHER BUMS. Since then he has worked both sides of the stage, including achieving his Full Crew status, which allows him to work road shows performing at GHS. Phil is also a member of NHS, and has been a member of Jazz Band for 2 years and Band for a year. He plans to attend Ferris State University in the Fall to study Welding Engineering. Phil would like to thank his friends and family for staying by his side throughout high school.

Scott Scripter (Prince Thun) Scott has been a familiar face backstage, trying his hand at most tech positions. He was also seen performing during the One Act Festival Entry of SHAKESPEAR, ABRIDGED and GREASE. Scott will be attending Alma this fall to study Pre-Veterinarian Science while continuing his passion for Track and Cross Country. He wishes to thank his family for supporting his involvement in school activities. Thanks also to his fellow Thespians for great memories. And finally to Mr. Chapman, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Hanson for helping guide him through all aspects of theatre.

Emily Smith (Zogi) Emily has performed on the GHS stage since her GPS debut as Bilbo Baggins in THE HOBBIT while in GMS. From there she has been a member of the cast in almost every musical and plays. Emily is also a member of the Village Green Singers, NHS, MYAC, SADD FRDC and is the reigning Miss Danish Festival. Her future plans are to obtain her BFA in Musical Theatre. Thanks go to her mom – she’s a superhero! To her dad – you are a pillar of strength! And to God – for the blessings of wonderful opportunities.

Phil Rewa (King Vultan) Phil began his theatre career as the security guard in the bleacher of Wrigley Stadium in the production of BLEACHER BUMS. Since then he has worked both sides of the stage, including achieving his Full Crew status, which allows him to work road shows performing at GHS. Phil is also a member of NHS, and has been a member of Jazz Band for 2 years and Band for a year. He plans to attend Ferris State University in the Fall to study Welding Engineering. Phil would like to thank his friends and family for staying by his side throughout high school.

Scott Scripter (Prince Thun) Scott has been a familiar face backstage, trying his hand at most tech positions. He was also seen performing during the One Act Festival Entry of SHAKESPEAR, ABRIDGED and GREASE. Scott will be attending Alma this fall to study Pre-Veterinarian Science while continuing his passion for Track and Cross Country. He wishes to thank his family for supporting his involvement in school activities. Thanks also to his fellow Thespians for great memories. And finally to Mr. Chapman, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Hanson for helping guide him through all aspects of theatre.

Emily Smith (Zogi) Emily has performed on the GHS stage since her GPS debut as Bilbo Baggins in THE HOBBIT while in GMS. From there she has been a member of the cast in almost every musical and plays. Emily is also a member of the Village Green Singers, NHS, MYAC, SADD FRDC and is the reigning Miss Danish Festival. Her future plans are to obtain her BFA in Musical Theatre. Thanks go to her mom – she’s a superhero! To her dad – you are a pillar of strength! And to God – for the blessings of wonderful opportunities.
Senior Bios

Meagan Draper (Princess Aura) Meagan has found a home on the GHS stage during her four years. She has been a member of the cast or crew of all but one show. Meagan has been a member of the Symphonic Band, Village Green Singers, Marching Band, Drama Club, GSA, Hans Christian Anderson Theatre, and Flat River Community Players. She plans to attend WMU in the fall to study Music Ed, with a Jazz minor. She wishes to thank her most favorite teachers in the world. They gave her all she needs to become who she is now.

Andrew Geer (Prince Barin) Andrew has been a member of the GHS Theatre all four years, on both sides of the stage. His high school activities include theatre, homework and more theatre. Andrew plans to attend GVSU to study Pre-med. He wishes to thank his fellow crewmembers for keeping theatre interesting! He hopes to someday be a part of a performance of SPAM A LOT!

Sam Moss (Dr. Hans Zarkov) Sam has been busy on both sides of the stage during his four years at GHS. He has also been a member of the GHS Band and Orchestra. His future plans include attending MCC in the fall, then transferring to WMU to study Technical Theatre. Sam would like to thank his Dad, family and friends.

Director’s Notes

I have had the pleasure of working with the GHS theatre in the past, as stage manager, asst. director and director for dramas, musicals and one-acts, but I had not been involved for almost ten years when Mr. Chapman approached me in the Fall of 2011 with an idea to present a radio play for the stage. He asked me if I would be interested in directing, and I jumped at the chance. I had been involved in a few radio dramas many years ago, and remembered the experience fondly.

In that moment the GHS Radio Drama was born. Our first production, last Spring, was Orson Welles’ “War of the Worlds.” Despite having only one performance, the production was well-received and we decided to continue it annually.

The beauty of radio drama is its simplicity. First, it can be done pretty cheaply: no sets, no props, no costumes, and most of the scripts can be obtained without royalties. Mr. Chapman and his students provide some wonderful lighting, sound and visual effects, but they are all produced in-house, so we don’t incur those costs either.

The most important values, however, are the challenges that this type of theatre provides for the student actors. They have to create believable characters using only their voices, and some of them have to create more than one character. Although tonight’s performance is based on characters taken from the comic pages, within our imagined world, the characters have to be real to the actors and to the audience for the duration of the play. Actors also have to engage each other emotionally, often standing thirty feet apart, without even looking at one another and facing front into a microphone.

While the actors don’t have to memorize lines, reading from a script can have its own challenges. Keeping the dialogue fresh after countless rehearsals, and staying committed and focused without the usual trappings of the theatre is not easy. Following along in the script while staying fully engaged in the story and the action takes tremendous skill.

We also have found that the actors can provide many of their own sound effects and background atmosphere. Creating crowd scenes that sparkle with a sense of reality takes lots of imagination, lots of experimentation and lots of rehearsal to get the “sound” just right. Instead of just making nonsense sounds, the actors are actually conversing in improvised dialogue that keeps them anchored to the scene and the story.

We hope that you enjoy tonight’s performance of “Flash Gordon” as much as we enjoy putting it on for you. We hope to continue this new tradition for many years to come.

Larry Moss
Cast
Flash Gordon Jared Loomis
Dale Arden Alisha Gatchel
Dr. Hans Zarkov Sam Moss
Ming, The Merciless Caleb Kellogg
Princess Aura Meagan Draper
Prince Thun Scott Scripture
Prince Barin Andrew Geer
King Vultan Phil Rewa
Announcer 1 Megan Bouman
Announcer 2 Eli Drake
Announcer 3 Mary McDonough
Announcer 4 Erin Williams
Zogi Emily Smith
Ensemble Victoria Dennis, Kirsten Hilliker
Eva Manhart, Jessica Miller
MacKenzie Miller, Jenny Robinson

Crew
Stage Managers Hannah Collins & Samantha Horton
Sound Deserai Kent & Emily Mulder
Projection Crew Greg Pribble & Kaitlyn Wietema
Light Crew Jeremy Carey, Tyler DeGood
Hanna Graham, Jacqueline Hill

Adult Staff
Stage Directors Chris Chapman & Larry Moss
Technical Director Chris Chapman
Assistant Technical Director Jacqueline Soule
Production Coordinator Cheryl Willard

Thank You
The Daily News
Flat River Community Players
GHS Theatre Boosters
Dave Kluzak – Screenworks Printing
Our Patrons & Booster