A dirt road winds through a field of tall grass and trees at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, orange and pink clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The road leads the eye from the bottom center towards the middle ground, where it disappears into the distance.

**2020-2021 Theatre Season**  
**On the Air:**  
**Old Time Radio Plays Produced Live**  
**Blinn College Division of Visual/Performing Arts and Kinesiology**  
**Brenham Campus**

**RAY BRADBURY'S**  
**THE SCREAMING WOMAN**

**RESOURCE GUIDE**

**This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying Ray Bradbury's The Screaming Woman. With this in mind, please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.**

# THE SCREAMING WOMAN

Based on a Short Story by Ray Bradbury  
Adapted for Radio by Sylvia Richards  
Originally Produced on the Radio Series Broadcast  
"Suspense" on November 25, 1948

Directed by

**BRAD NIES**

Technical Theatre Direction by

**KEVIN PATRICK**

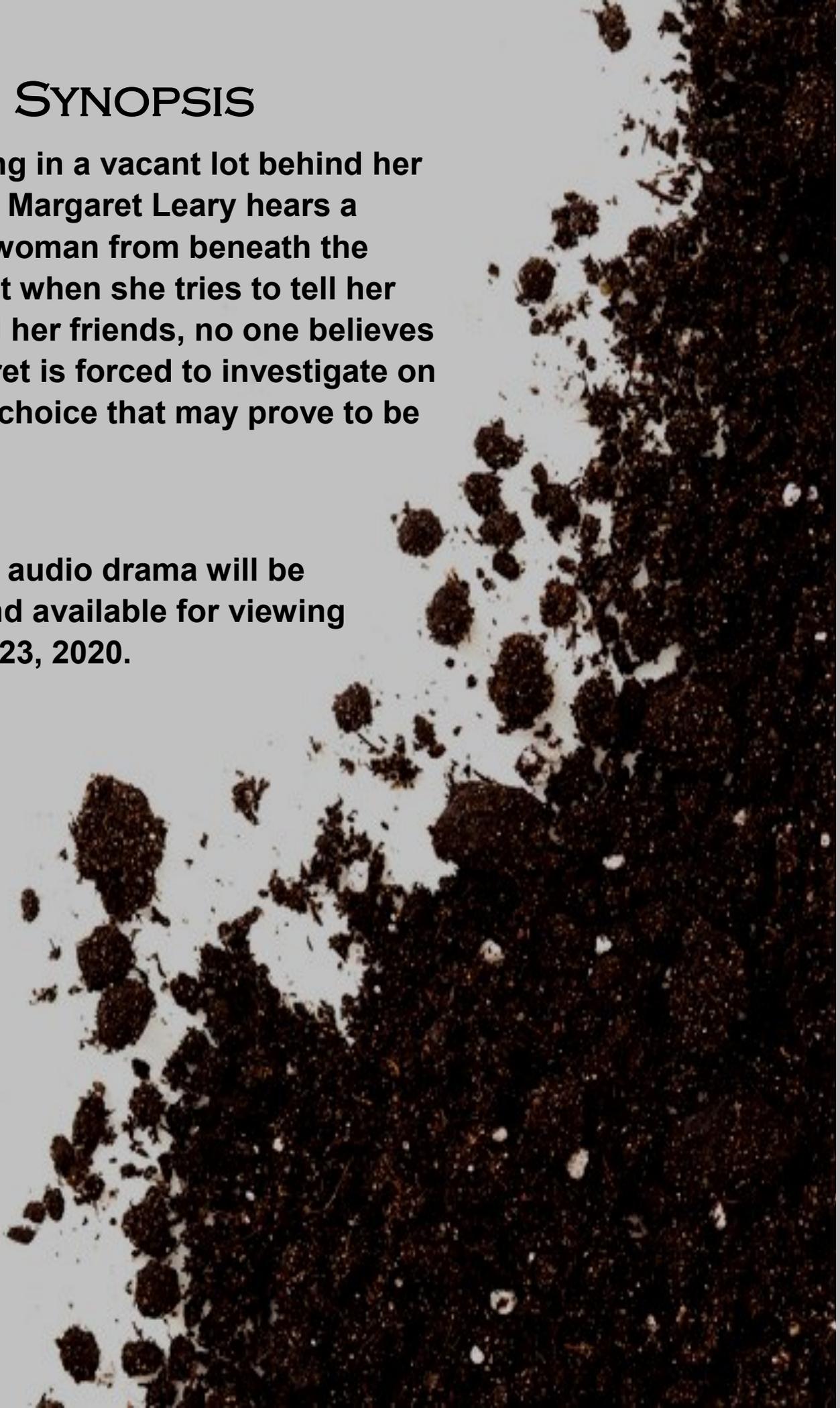
Costume, Makeup, and Hair by

**JENNIFER PATRICK**

# SYNOPSIS

**While playing in a vacant lot behind her house, little Margaret Leary hears a screaming woman from beneath the ground. But when she tries to tell her parents and her friends, no one believes her. Margaret is forced to investigate on her own...a choice that may prove to be deadly!**

**This staged audio drama will be recorded and available for viewing by October 23, 2020.**



# Ray Bradbury:

*"The writer most responsible for bringing modern science-fiction into the literary mainstream."*

Born on August 22, 1920 in Waukegan, IL, Ray Bradbury and his family moved to Los Angeles, CA in 1934. There, he attended Los Angeles High School where he stayed active in the poetry and drama clubs. Although his teachers recognized his talents and influenced him greatly, Bradbury never attended college. Known mainly for his novel **Fahrenheit 451**, Bradbury also wrote several science-fiction and horror story collections. He wrote and consulted on screenplays and television scripts, including **Moby Dick** and **It Came from Outer Space**. Many of his works were adapted into radio dramas, television movies, films, and comic books. Ray Bradbury died in Los Angeles after a lengthy illness on June 5, 2012.

# Sylvia Richards:

*"Film Noir: Transgression Into the Cultural Cinematic Gutter"*

After being born in Indianola, IA on May 11, 1915, Sylvia Goodenough moved with her family to Colorado Springs, CO. She married Robert L. Richards in 1938, and the two lived in New York City before leaving to pursue scriptwriting careers in Hollywood, CA. While in Hollywood, Sylvia worked on several films during the 1940s and 1950s. She was particularly interested in the film noir, horror, and western genres. She also wrote several radio dramas, as well as scripts for television in the 1950s and early 1960s. Following her divorce from Richards, she had a relationship with director Fritz Lang, who encouraged her screenwriting and used her as a writer on **Secret Beyond The Door** and **Rancho Notorious**. She eventually married screenwriter and novelist A. I. Bezzerides. As her screenwriting career came to an end, she kept herself busy as a nursery school teacher. She died in 1999.

# Adaptations of THE SCREAMING WOMAN



Ray Bradbury originally wrote “The Screaming Woman” as a radio drama for a November 25, 1948 broadcast. He later published the short story in **Suspense Magazine** (1952). It was later republished in the short-story collections **The Autumn People** (1965), **S is for Science** (1966), and **A Medicine For Melancholy and Other Stories** (1990).



The radio drama version of “The Screaming Woman” aired on November 25, 1948 as part of the **Suspense Radio Show**. The drama, set on Thanksgiving Day, was adapted for radio by Sylvia Richards and starred actress Margaret O'Brien. Another version of this script was produced by **Suspense** on March 1, 1955 and starred actress Sherry Jackson.



In 1972, “The Screaming Woman” was made into a television thriller film. Produced by Universal Television and originally aired as an **ABC Movie of the Week**, it starred Olivia de Havilland and was directed by Jack Smight. Loosely based on Bradbury’s short-story, the script was written by Merwin Gerard, and the film aired on January 29th.



“The Screaming Woman” was adapted for a 1986 television episode of **The Ray Bradbury Theater**. It aired on February 22, 1986 and starred Drew Barrymore and Heather Leary.



A comic book version of “The Screaming Woman” was first published as a segment in **Crime Suspensstories** (1953). The comic book was reprinted in a series of five black-and-white hardbacks in both 1983 and 1994.



# SAFETY IS OUR FIRST CONCERN

Staged radio plays are performed straight out, into microphones, and do not regularly involve actors conversing face-to-face with each other.

All shows will be produced with in-person rehearsals using appropriate PPE.

All shows will be performed with an adherence to social distancing of actors (a minimum of 6' away from each other) and remote audiences.

Actors will not share microphones, costumes, or props during a taping session.

Performances will be filmed in a closed studio environment without live audiences.

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