

JODRELL BANK PSA

An original audio script by  
Barbara Mattson

Cosmic Times Studios  
Code 662/Goddard Space Flight Center  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
(301) 286-1243  
Barb.Mattson@nasa.gov  
<http://cosmictimes.gsfc.nasa.gov>

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JODRELL BANK PSA

CAST

VOICE 1	Telescope advocate
VOICE 2	Skeptical listener
ANNOUNCER	Public service announcer with distinct "radio announcer" voice

We have cast:

MARISSA as VOICE 1  
CAROL as VOICE 2  
STEPHANIE as ANNOUNCER

SYNOPSIS

Mock public service announcement for the Jodrell Bank radio telescope.

SCENE ONE: ANYWHERE, USA  
(VOICE 1, VOICE 2, ANNOUNCER)

ANNOUNCER: (USING A DISTINCT "RADIO ANNOUNCER" VOICE,  
CAREFULLY ENUNCIATING, SERIOUSLY) The  
following is a public service announcement  
from the Jodrell Bank Center for  
Astrophysics.

MUSIC: Intro music

VOICE 1: (SERIOUSLY) Earth is constantly bombarded  
with invisible radio signals from space.

VOICE 2: (HYSTERICAL) Signals from space? Do we run?  
Should we hide? What do we do??

VOICE 1: (SOOTHING) Stay calm, stay calm. The signals  
are not from aliens.

VOICE 2: But...but...what else could they be from?

VOICE 1: They are from the Universe itself.

VOICE 2: (SCARED) You mean...?

VOICE 1: That's right. These radio signals are  
created by natural processes around the  
Universe. Earth-based telescopes like the  
Mark I Lovell telescope at Jodrell Bank are  
helping astronomers to decode the messages.

VOICE 2: (DISAPPOINTED) Oh. So, no aliens?

VOICE 1: No. But astronomers are mapping the dynamics of our own Galaxy and others using radio signals from hydrogen.

VOICE 2: I guess that sounds cool. Are you sure about the aliens.

VOICE 1: No alien signals. However, the Lovell telescope does study pulsars, which were jokingly called "little green men" when they were first detected.

VOICE 2: (EXCITED) So there ARE alien signals!

VOICE 1: Well, no, pulsars are rapidly rotating neutron stars. They have streams of radiation coming off their magnetic poles, and we see pulses when the beam of radiation sweeps through our line-of-sight. Kind of like a lighthouse. But no aliens.

VOICE 2: Ahhh, but there are lighthouses in space!

VOICE 1: (EXASPERATED) Um, sort of.

VOICE 2: Hah!

VOICE 1: (EXASPERATED) Announcer?

ANNOUNCER: (USING DISTINCT "RADIO VOICE") Err...Yes?

VOICE 1: Can you take over?

ANNOUNCER: (USING "RADIO VOICE") Um, sure. (CLEARS THROAT) Radio signals from space can be decoded at telescopes like those at Jodrell Bank. The Lovell telescope observed radio messages from objects like pulsars, quasars and gravitational lenses since 1957. Because the more ways we look, the more we will understand about our friend, the Universe.

MUSIC: Closing music of some sort.

ANNOUNCER: ("RADIO ANNOUNCER VOICE", CAREFULLY ENUNCIATING, SERIOUSLY) This was a public service announcement from the Jodrell Bank Center for Astrophysics.

CREDITS: This piece is a product of the Cosmic Times Team at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. It is not sponsored nor endorsed by Jodrell Bank; we just think they do cool science. The performance was produced by the 2009/2010 Chesapeake High School Media Production Club, WCHS, in Pasadena, Maryland. Featured were the

voices of Stephanie, Merissa, and Carol. At the controls of the audio mixer were Ryan and Andy. And, we'd like to give a special thanks to Ms. Geri Cvetic, the faculty advisor for WCHS. More information about the Mark 1 Lovell telescope and Cosmic Times can be found on our website, [cosmictimes.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://cosmictimes.gsfc.nasa.gov).

THE END.

## Notes for Jodrell Bank PSA

### Music:

The music could be something "touching", like music from the NBC "The more you know" PSAs.

### Sources:

- Jodrell Bank website: <http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/>
- Jodrell Bank Wikipedia page: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jodrell Bank Observatory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jodrell_Bank_Observatory)
- "Little green men": <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGM-1>
- Pulsars: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulsars>
- Radio astronomy: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio astronomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio_astronomy)