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@lantis

a science fiction radio play series

EPISODE 4 – A Dark World

When two botanists fail to return to *@lantis* after an expedition to the surface, Chief Costain sends the Ponderlust team after them. Little do they know that while they're hunting for the missing botanists, they're being hunted themselves by mysterious beings with sinister intentions...

CAST

Dorothy – Nicola Brescianini
Jules – Murray Jackson
Mary – Tegan Mulvany
Harry – Max Rankin
Lug/Announcer – Nic Doig
IRIS/The Leader – Xarna Rappold

Dr Johnson – Stuart Hayward
Dr Ibbott/Dr Roland Templeton –
Jeff Watkins
Guard 1/James – Dean Lovatt
Guard 2 – Luke Gratton
Chief Costain/Kenneth – Kate
Willoughby
Graham – John King
Captain Ross – Rhys Hyatt
Bugsy – Chris Buckle
VO/Mary (Thurs) – Ellin Sears

CREW

Writer/Director – Stephen B Platt
Set – John King (assisted by
Harrison Mitchell, James Jury & Ella
Ewart)
Lighting – Zenna Newman-Santos
Sound/AV – Ella Ewart
Foley – Andrew David
Foley Assistant – Cassie Power
Extra Sound – Stephen B. Platt
Sound Recordist – Bradley Clarke
Sound Levels – Evie MacPherson
Stage Manager – Sarah Courtis
Asst. Stage Manager – Mia Winter
FOH Manager – James Norton
Costumes – Róisín Keiley
Concept Artist – Loz De Cruz
(also ft concept art by Ally Snell)
Original Theme Tune – Rob Woods

SO WHAT IS @LANTIS?

Set in the Future, @lantis is an underwater city populated by scientists who are experts in their field. It's also the title of this series! Written as part of the PhD research of Stephen B. Platt. Want to help out his research? Make sure you fill out an anonymous audience survey after the show. You can find them in the Nexus Foyer or at the link [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON...CAST



Name: Harrison "Harry" Kinvig

Played by: Max Rankin

Occupation: Engineer and Senior Technician for Ponderlust Labs

Strengths: A brilliant engineer capable of building anything from cloning suites to alcohol rifles.

Weaknesses: Harry is quite sheltered and naïve. He's also a terrible liar.

SPOTLIGHT ON...CREW

Name: Loz De Cruz

Role: The work of our third and final concept artist, Loz De Cruz is featured in Episode 4 "A Dark World" and 5 "The Year of the Long Tail". Residing on a remote island for most of the year, Loz seemed the obvious choice to create the character designs for this two-part, jungle escapade. Her distinctive illustration style has given life to characters such as Buggy and Dr. Roland Templeton.



FUN FACTS FROM THE WRITERS ROOM...

- Originally episodes 4 and 5 were one script, however as the story developed the decision was made to tell it over two episodes instead.
- *Nepenthes Attenbourri* are a real plant named after Sir David Attenborough!
- For more information about Hugh Everett's "Many Worlds" theory, check out https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Many-worlds_interpretation

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Greetings all!

Welcome to 'A Dark World', the fourth episode of '@lantis: a Science Fiction Radio Play Series'. Set in a futuristic underwater city populated by scientists and academics, '@lantis' is a key part of my PhD research into Science-Fiction and Live Performance being undertaken here at Murdoch University. You can provide feedback on your experience with @lantis by completing an audience survey available in the Nexus Foyer or via our website www.atlantistradioplay.com

This week's episode sees the Ponderlust team leave @lantis for the first time in the series as they are sent to the surface to track down a pair of botanists that failed to return to the city after an expedition to the jungle. Little do they know, Dorothy and co are walking into a dangerous adventure with more than a few surprises hidden amongst the trees. They'll need to be careful too, not everyone who enters this jungle lives to tell the tale...

'A Dark World' marks the half-way point for this series of @lantis. This particular theatrical endeavour has been one of the most rewarding and simultaneously stressful I have engaged with. Part of the reason I wanted to stage a series of episodic Sci-Fi radio plays for my PhD research was to see if it could be done successfully on a small-ish budget by a group of performers and technicians who are not all industry professionals. Having now identified that it is indeed possible, the next question is why don't we see it more often? My current theory is we don't see more serialised Sci-Fi theatre (or indeed serialised theatre of any genre) is because it's – to be perfectly frank – bloody difficult.

A seven week run of regular intensive rehearsals, dress and tech runs, bump ins and outs, performances, and the many other things that need to be done to get these shows up and running is a challenge if for no other reason than the time commitment for all involved. Thankfully, the cast & crew of @lantis are a hardy bunch who have put in a tremendous amount of work to make this a possibility. From the perspective of the director, this production has run smoothly thus far. I have worked on smaller-scale productions that have – for many, varied reasons – not been as ideal or effective a process as they perhaps should have been. It is a credit to all involved that I have managed to get half way through the seven week run without feeling the need to search for Valium.

With my thanks,
Stephen B. Platt, Writer/Director of @lantis