

OTHERWORLDLY

A One-Hour TV Drama
Created by Douglas M. Stich

LOGLINE

The brilliant daughter of a renowned astronaut has all the answers, but when she discovers her peers have secret powers of their own, she learns it will take more than books and brains to navigate the exotic world of high school.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Otherworldly is a one-hour TV drama following Trinity Wilde who has skipped two grades allowing her to begin her first year of high school at the age of 12. Her astronaut father, Capt. Wilde has just departed Earth on a 5-year mission to Mars. Trinity must navigate the strange new world of high school with lockers and class schedules, making friends, and discovering whom she is. This is especially hard for her. Trinity appears to be a quiet, mousy, awkward teenage girl. Underneath this commonplace exterior, she is a super-smart synesthetic who links one sensory percept to another. Colors, sounds, numbers, spatial perceptions, and even time can share relationships between the senses of a synesthete. Trinity has an excellent memory and is able to visualize relationships between seemingly unassociated objects. She can spot a liar from a mile away and accidentally inserts herself into situations she should have stayed out of, but her dedication to justice and equality always force her into action. Trinity not only feels she has to hide her talents for fear of being ridiculed, but people gradually begin to realize who her father is.

Captain Wilde's current situation (preparing for space, cooped up in a ship with men and women he's not sure he can trust, supply shortages, asteroids, sun flares, radiation, etc.) always mirrors what is going on in Trinity's life at the moment. Captain Wilde's voyage to Mars comes at a time that reflects the space race of the 1960's. Every country with the capability has sent a representative astronaut to the International Space Station where the explicit agreement is to work together to colonize Mars. However, covert terrorists and double agents abound. Politically, international relationships on Earth are strained. Capt. Wilde's uneasy instincts pay off when he discovers that some of his crewmates include intergalactic spies from other planets, vying for strategic control over Earth and its valuable resources.

Middle school student Trinity is every bit the brave explorer her astronaut father is. Each week she probes the terrain of adolescence constantly discovering which organisms and environments are friendly or hostile. As Trinity feels more helpless and misunderstood, she detects other students at her school with special powers. Some are friendly and some are evil extraterrestrial foes. Trinity and Capt. Wilde have regularly scheduled video chats, but they are forced to speak in code to one another since their interactions are constantly monitored by a number of potentially dangerous villains. Her journey parallels her father's mission. Are we all alone in the universe? Are all boys idiots? Either way, the potential answers are terrifying.

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This is a one-hour single-cam TV serial employing a teaser acclimating us to Capt. Wilde's current situation that foreshadows the upcoming conflict Trinity will face down on Earth. Each episode will be comprised of five acts with the fifth act simultaneously resolving that episode's conflict and offering the possibility for a new conflict to be tackled in the subsequent show.

Although the principal characters are quite young and the plot occasionally employs comedic elements, this is a mature series addressing complex life issues. Otherworldly will likely receive a TV-PG rating with an audience comprised of males and females aged 12-35.

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CHARACTER BIOS

TRINITY WILDE (12) – Our young heroine is blessed with her father’s brilliant scientific mind and unwittingly reminds adults and her young peers of how dumb they are. But Trinity doesn’t understand the dynamic of her talents and the psychology of those around her. She is just as scared, neurotic, and overly self-conscious as anyone else. Trinity is the kind of subtle beauty who flies under the radar and goes mostly unappreciated. Her biggest problem is the fact that she doesn’t fit in anywhere. Socially, she’s a misfit—an alien. Academically, she usually answers questions and completes schoolwork quickly and effortlessly. This embarrasses her though, so she tries to keep her mouth shut as much as possible and blend in with the others. She enjoys periodic moments of solitude to think things through and often rises early in the morning to run through the cemetery pausing only to speak to her dead grandmother. Trinity adores her father while simultaneously harboring anger over her inheritance of his intelligence, which she perceives as a curse. She also maintains a strained relationship with Blank who is often difficult but she keeps him around for the incredible life lessons he accidentally teaches her. She has very little patience for Miss Monroe who she views as a mortal enemy.

BLAKE “BLANK” BARBER (14) – Blank is a strange, incredibly sensitive autistic boy who is misunderstood for his disability. Although he is hilariously socially inept, he is also a brilliant musician and mathematician. Since he is unaware of social conventions and how to behave toward others, he takes everything and everyone at face value. He never holds a grudge and has more self-confidence than anyone else in school. Blank mainly uses Trinity to help him procure things that he needs (help with homework, social problems, materials or access to things for his music).

CAPT. WESLEY “WILD MAN” WILDE (39) – Trinity’s father is a man’s man, a patriotic John Wayne in space who will do anything for his country (and his planet). He is often moody because he refuses to share his feelings with anyone, yet he is incredibly introspective and understands his feelings very well. He is stuck in a cycle of awareness of his problems with no outlet to effectively address them, which creates more problems. This leads him to regular emotional outbursts toward his crewmates and subsequent nice deeds that serve as apologies without actually saying the words “I was wrong” or “I’m sorry.” He secretly grows pretty flowers onboard the spacecraft that seem to be more trouble than they are worth, but he is dedicated to caring for them. Capt. Wilde obviously loves his family on Earth, and also respects his international crewmates while simultaneously remaining distrustful of them.

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ELIZABETH WILDE (37) – Trinity's mother is in the midst of her own post-marriage identity crisis and currently works as a housekeeper. This allows her to busy herself with manual labor and get intimate peeks into the lives of complete strangers. Although she makes significantly less money than her previous job, she finds the work both gratifying and interesting which baffles Trinity. Becoming disillusioned with her old job in the office of district assemblywoman Barbara Conant and resenting her husband's (Capt. Wilde's) decision to accept a 5-year mission in space as the final nail in the coffin of their marriage, Elizabeth filed for a legal separation from Trinity's father (Capt. Wilde) and fled the big city of Houston for the slower pace of suburban Mission Bend. She can now focus on her lifelong aspiration of becoming an author and she discovers loads of inspiration for her stories as she rifles through her clients' personal belongings. She suffers frequent bouts of depression and while she loves her daughter unconditionally, she sometimes lacks the emotional resources to take care of Trinity. A coworker introduces Elizabeth to marijuana as a means of escape.

MISS MONROE (25) – The hippie dippy art teacher is a female Bob Ross. She lives for her students and perplexes them by grading subjectively on effort and passion rather than simple by-the-book completion of required tasks and assignments. Some students like her because she can be easily taken advantage of with her naïve, trusting nature although her leniency leaves them with no respect for her. Others absolutely love her for her genuine warmth and empathy, and those students often confide in her with all kinds of personal secrets and problems. She appreciates the challenge of attempting to draw Trinity out of her shell and is captivated by Capt. Wilde's mission to Mars. She frequently presses Trinity for details of the voyage, which Trinity neither possesses nor is at liberty to discuss.

MR. SANOFF (26) – The handsome ladies' man and neurotic school counselor believes he understands Trinity because he thinks he is exactly like her. His father was an eminent professor at an Ivy League college and although Sanoff followed in his father's footsteps, he never felt he lived up to his father's expectations. Trinity's meetings with him are something he genuinely looks forward to, not because he is necessarily helpful to her but he enjoys spilling his guts to her. He often confuses the positivity he feels after working out his own issues for success with helping Trinity. This is a complex relationship because Sanoff feels he needs her and, although Trinity finds him a bit pathetic and annoying, he is gorgeous and has her best interest in mind. She develops an impossible crush on him while becoming something of a surrogate maternal figure for him.

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SETTINGS & LOCATIONS

MISSION BEND, TEXAS A small-town suburb located about 20 miles southwest of Downtown Houston with a population of approximately 36,000 residents. Everybody knows one another, their parents, their grandparents, what type of business they are in, their political involvement, church affiliation, and level of community participation.

TRINITY'S HOUSE Located in Mission Bend: A small 2 bed/1 bath house in a failed housing development sitting on a plot of land that makes it at least a mile to the next neighborhood in any direction. This isolated housing tract is a group of a dozen houses creating an even smaller community within an already small town. All residents know one another and what they are up to at all times.

WILDE FAMILY HOUSE Located in Houston: A 3 bed/2 bath ranch-style house with a beautiful brick façade and a wraparound porch with white columns. The great room includes vaulted ceilings, a large bay window, fireplace, dining balcony, and an atrium window wall. The house sits on one-and-a-half acres with a front yard featuring a curving gravel driveway, a healthy green lawn and a small, black wrought iron lamppost near the front entryway protruding among a collection of tasteful flowers and shrubbery.

SPACE STATION A large wheel-shaped metal behemoth reminiscent of the space station from *2001: A Space Odyssey* orbits 300 miles above the surface of Earth. The all-white sterile interior consists of modern clean lines as if designed by IKEA.

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER Located in Houston: The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Manned Spacecraft Center, where human spaceflight training, research, and flight control are conducted.

CEMETERY The property abuts a municipal golf course. This is the burial ground where Trinity's grandmother is buried. Trinity often visits here on her own to talk to her grandmother. It's a spiritual place where she feels comfortable letting her guard down and being free with her thoughts and feelings rather than her usual habit of being a mathematical and scientific academic.

MISSION BEND HIGH SCHOOL A relatively small high school with a population of just 1,200 total students. The two-story main building is over 100 years old and surrounded by the gymnasium, tennis courts, a small 500-capacity theatre, agricultural and trade buildings, as well as dozens of additional classrooms. The football stadium, baseball and softball fields are located at the rear of the property. The culture here mirrors the culture of the surrounding town, which means that all students know one another, their family ties, their strengths and weaknesses, what sports they play, their extracurricular affiliations, and what kind of student they are.

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MBHS - ART CLASSROOM Located upstairs in the main building, this is where Miss Monroe's art class takes place. It is an old room with cracked concrete walls covered with the artwork of hall of fame students. There is also a collection of some of Miss Monroe's favorites (the world's greatest works) sprinkled among them. The room is a well-organized heap of craft tables, easels, paintbrushes and jars, soiled smocks, and a few potter's wheels. A large basin sink in the corner caked with various colors of paint and clay is evidence of decades of creativity.

MBHS - COUNSELING OFFICE Located downstairs in the main building, this is a large office with a receptionist's desk as you enter the door. Doors that lead into smaller offices of individual counselors surround the perimeter of this large room. The walls are littered with sun-faded pennants of Texas colleges and universities as well as clichéd posters offering inspirational messages or cautionary statements about drugs and unprotected sex.

VALERIA'S HOUSEKEEPING The housekeeping agency where Trinity's mom, Elizabeth Wilde, works. This is the office/headquarters where business is conducted, employees are dispatched, and supplies are picked up. Most of the time, Elizabeth physically works in various clients' houses on different locations spread across town. This job affords Elizabeth the opportunity to learn more about the private lives of Mission Bend residents, literally and figuratively seeing their dirty laundry.