

Production Notes

There are nine planets. Then add the sun and moon. These can be taken by one student each. With two students each for the asteroids, the comets, and the Chorus, the parts rise to 16. If your group is small, the Chorus can be done by one student, but is better with a group. Better effects will be had by having multiple students for the Asteroids (say 4), and perhaps two for Comets.

The suggested distribution of parts for smaller and larger classes might be as follows, but it can be adjusted for any group/class. With very large groups, the Planets can be trios (= 27 students!), or numbers for the Chorus, asteroids, and comets can be increased.

1 student Sun	1		1
1, 2 or 3 student each, for the Planets	9	or	18 or 27
2 or 3 students Asteroids <i>(but Three, or Four, makes a greater impact when they suddenly come tumbling in to interrupt Mars).</i>	2	or	3
2 students Comets	2	or	2
2 or 3 students Chorus	<u>2</u>	or	<u>3</u>
Total characters	16 sts	or	28 sts or 37sts

THE DRAMA

Start with a blank stage, with planet pictures only ready to be picked up and shown.

Enter Chorus

Chorus: Space is Ace! We have been learning about the planets and other bodies in the Solar System. We're going to show you a way to remember their names . . .

Enter All (or Enter Planets; if chorus is not to be done by All), in scattered formation.

All: *(as each word is loudly said, the Planet must quickly hold up their initial letter)*
Men . . . VERY . . . Easily . . . Make . . . JUGS . . . Serve . . . USEFUL, Necessary, Purposes. Nine planets.
We're going to tell you something about each one.

Then, as each planet steps upstage (steps forward) everyone shouts out together that planet's.

Chorus: MERCURY!! *(Mercury steps forward/upstage, holding up M)*

MERC: I'm small, and I'm closest to the Sun. It gets really hot here on the sunny side! I'm a fast mover - my "year", to orbit the Sun. only takes 88 earth days. But each of my days is soooooo long
I spin so slowly my one day is fifty eight and a half earth days!

Chorus: VENUS!! *(Venus steps forward/upstage, holding up the V)*