

Deep Fakes and the Moon Landing in 1969 by Harry Friedland

I had a very strange experience while watching a Fox News TV newscast yesterday, 8th March.

Two people, first a man and then a woman, were interviewed in quick succession. Neither interview lasted very long. I was irritated by the fact that the man's face seemed to be a bit "off" in a way that I couldn't quite put my finger on: while the interviewer's image was perfectly clear and natural, there was something about the look of the interviewee's face that bothered me: it seemed that perhaps the light on his face was wrong ;maybe the movement of his mouth was too mechanical or perhaps - that's not it; oh, wait! His eyes!

Both eyes blinked at EXACTLY the same time, like one of those dolls that children play with - where the blink is the result of tipping the doll's head while a weight inside the doll's head moves the eyelids which are mechanically connected by a single wire rod so that they move at exactly the same time and to exactly the same extent. No real person moves like that. As the interviewee spoke, he blinked several times - always in exactly the same way. I was fascinated. It was uncanny.

"Stop it - you're imagining things. This is a nationwide - no, an international - TV broadcast. No big broadcaster would pull such a bizarre stunt. Maybe you dozed off. Maybe you were dreaming. Don't be ridiculous!"

Ever since the moon landing in 1969, there are Americans who have believed that the moon landing was faked - that it took place in a film studio somewhere in America.

I have a copy of the official publication, "The Invasion of the Moon, 1969": that event was probably the most formative event of my young life. I had two close school friends - we were probably your archetypal "science nerds": we followed every word of The Voice of America on the subject of the Moon Shot.

We knew exactly where the astronauts and the space capsule were at every moment of that mission. VOA broadcast virtually every word of the voice communication between the astronauts and ground control, and we listened to all of it, whenever we could. But when the space capsule went into orbit round the moon and they prepared to launch the landing craft to go to the surface, we could take the stress no longer.

The plan was for three astronauts to leave the capsule in the landing craft (leaving one astronaut to man the capsule, which would continue to orbit the moon), descend to the surface of the moon, conduct prescribed experiments, collect samples, then re-enter the landing craft, take off and return to the orbiting capsule. This was heart-stopping stuff. The exercise was planned to take three days.

We were in Standard 8. We asked for a meeting with some of our teachers. We told them how desperately we wanted to record the entire three days by using two tape recorders. We planned to sleep in shifts, to manage the tape recorders. Would they therefore please give us three days off from school to conduct this exercise? Remember, we're talking about epoch-making world history here.

The answer was *no*, you cannot take three days off from school to carry out this exercise. We responded instantly. As one, we said to them that despite their prohibition, we were going to do it anyway. Do your worst. Any punishment would still be worth it.

And we did it. We actually captured every second of the VOA relay, and we kept those tapes for years. Eventually we discovered that you could simply buy commercial recordings of the whole event, and then there was the book, which I bought, of course.

So you can tell me that the whole thing was faked if you like, and I'll tell you where you can put it!

Oh - and - we were never punished.

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**Written by Harry Friedland in March 2025**

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