

# 60 MINUTES – Pitch Deck

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## 60 MINUTES

A real-time sci-fi thriller by Staffan von Zeipel

### Logline

When astronauts make first contact on Mars, the world believes it's happening live. But NASA is secretly an hour ahead, using a 60-minute broadcast delay to control what the public sees. As leaders debate whether to respond, one outsider uncovers the truth - too late.

### Short synopsis

The first manned Mars landing is broadcast live across the globe. But in reality, NASA has enforced a secret 60-minute delay on all transmissions, giving them time to handle unforeseen crises—or suppress them. So when the astronauts receive a peaceful message from an intelligent alien presence, NASA doesn't share it. Not yet. As internal debate rages over whether to engage, one low-level systems analyst discovers the deception. But by the time the truth reaches the surface, the world's chance to answer is already gone.

### Genre & Tone

Real-time science fiction thriller. Tense, cerebral, urgent. In the spirit of *Arrival*, *Eye in the Sky*, and *Fail Safe*.

### Theme

Truth vs. control, Fear of the unknown, The ethics of power and silence.

### Target Audience

Adults 18–65. Fans of grounded sci-fi, political thrillers, and moral dilemmas. Ideal for viewers of *Black Mirror*, *The Martian*, and *Chernobyl*.

### Visual style

Real-time storytelling over 120 minutes

Stark contrast between the sterile, high-tech NASA control room and the vast, silent Martian surface

Heavy use of timecode overlays, security feeds, atmospheric audio layering

Understated, realistic effects to amplify tension rather than spectacle

### Key Characters

Nia Calder: Quiet, sharp systems analyst who first uncovers the delay and hidden signal

Director Harlan Graves: Veteran NASA official, balancing truth and global risk

President Monroe: The cautious political leader who must authorize the final decision

Commander Vega: Mars mission leader who hears the message firsthand

Dr. Amir Elbaz: Astrobiologist, emotionally invested in responding

### About the writer

Staffan von Zeipel is a Swedish screenwriter focused on high-concept thrillers and morally charged science fiction. He brings psychological depth, structure, and visual clarity to bold, idea-driven narratives. *60 Minutes* is his most urgent and timely project to date.