

VENTURACOLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS



APRIL
26-30
2023

THESE
SHINING
LIVES

MELANIE
MARNICH

VC Performing Arts Center
Studio Theatre / PAC 119
4700 Loma Vista Road

Ventura
COLLEGE

THESE SHINING LIVES

MELANIE MARNICH / APRIL 26-30, 2023

VENTURA COLLEGE THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Nathan Cole
Set Designer.....	Jamie Birkett
Costume Designer.....	Anais Libunao
Lighting Designer.....	Melissa Lay
Sound Designer.....	Pam Myers-Morgan
Media Designer.....	Nathan Cole
Music Director.....	Jesstina Torres
Hair/Makeup Designer.....	Anais Libunao
Stage Manager.....	Adrian Sanchez
Graphic Design.....	Brian Hotchkin
Publicity & Marketing.....	Maggie Zinke

CAST

Catherine Donohue.....	Alyssa Renae Escarcega
Charlotte.....	Alia Rivas
Frances.....	Andrea Venegas
Pearl.....	Jessica Alejandra Valencia
Tom Donohue.....	Jerome Morata
Mr. Reed.....	Michael Lausell
Dial Painter/Reporter	Alessandra Gotico
Dial Painter/Radio Girl/Reporter.....	Sierra Jade Atchison
Dial Painter/Radio Girl/Nurse/Daughter....	Savannah Atchison
Dial Painter/Radio Girl/Judge.....	Jesstina Torres
Leonard Grossman, Dr. Roundtree, & Factory Worker....	Colin Knight
Factory Supervisor/Radio Announcer.....	Reginald Whigham
Factory Worker/Son/Reporter	Miles Vega
Factory Worker/Company Doctor/Dr.Dalitsch.....	Isaiah Maldonado
Factory Worker/Reporter	Joshua Minjarez

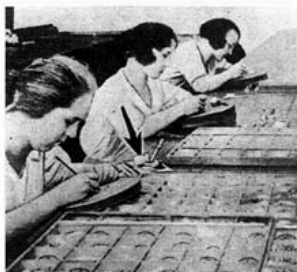
THESE SHINING LIVES received its World Premiere at Baltimore Center Stage in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 30, 2008, Irene Lewis, Artistic Director; Michael Ross, Managing Director. It was developed at Baltimore Center Stage in Baltimore, Maryland, as part of their First Look Festival; The History Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota, as part of their Raw Stages Festival; Northlight Theatre in Skokie, Illinois; Primary Stages as part of their Primetime Reading Series; and TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, California, as part of their New Works Festival. It was commissioned by Northlight Theatre in Skokie, Illinois. Facts from the book *Deadly Glow* by Ross Mullner were used with permission of the author.

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL & CREW

Acting Coaches.....	Pam Myers-Morgan & Amberley Tanner
Intimacy Coach.....	Emme Perkins
Scenic Painter.....	Ingrid Luna
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Donna Gustafson Sean Michael Smith Ashe Young
Ensemble Captain.....	Reginald Whigham
Assistant Director of Transitions	Abigail Levine
Lightboard Operators.....	Henry Bermudez Paul Oseguera
Sound Engineer.....	Tyson Sauthoff
Sound Operators.....	Giselle Larios
Media Operator.....	Sean Michael Smith
Hair & Makeup Key.....	Abigail Levine
Makeup Crew.....	Dylan Gomez Hana Moon Reginald Whigham
Backstage Running Crew	Abigail Levine Ashe Young
Wardrobe.....	Nora Gutierrez
Set Crew.....	Daniel Cordell Jerome Morata Paul Oseguera Lexi Quolas Andrea Venegas
Costume Crew.....	Alessandra Gotico Nora Gutierrez Adrian Sanchez Jessica Alejandra Valencia
Lighting Crew.....	Giselle Larios Jerome Morata Paul Oseguera
Theatre Technician.....	Tyson Sauthoff

SPECIAL THANKS: Kristy Thomas, Andrea Horigan, Bea Herrera, Angelica Gonzalez, Paula Muñoz, Janice Franklin, James Behan, Donna Gustafson, Bob Myers-Morgan, Ashley Walters, Clayton Guiltner, Brian Hotchkin, Simanu Faasua, Lisa Elsousou, Relle McDonagh, the Faculty and Staff of the Department of Performing Arts

THE RADIIUM GIRLS; HISTORY & LEGACY



In the roaring 20s, World War I had ended and gender norms had begun to shift. Young women celebrated their new-found freedoms by working in factories where they gained financial independence. A group of women (who came to be known as The Radium Girls) began working for the Radium Dial Company and a handful of similar companies, decorating watches and clock-faces with radium-based glow-in-the-dark paint.

Radium was seen as a miracle element. Workers using the compound had been given such assurances of radium's safety that they used this compound to paint their fingernails – even their teeth – as it made everything it touched shiny and beautiful. It was also touted for its curative powers and health benefits, and was added to toothpaste, hair cream – even food products.

Radium's dangers had begun to be documented, yet even as the male owners and scientists at the U.S. Radium Corporation took great pains to avoid any personal exposure, they kept their female workers ill-informed and provided them no protection. The women began to fall ill with mysterious and terrible symptoms. Ultimately, the women suffered from anemia, bone fractures and what was called "radium jaw" – a condition wherein the bones in their jaw had weakened because of the radiation poisoning.

As decades passed, and the toxic truth began to emerge, the women struggled to hold the companies accountable. Catherine Donohue, one of the real-life women featured in "These Shining Lives," took her case all the way to the US Supreme Court, where she won a seventh lawsuit following six prior winning suits; all of which were appealed by the company.

It is estimated that over 4,000 women around the country worked as dial painters. The number of people who were sickened or killed by these radioactive pigments over the years is unknown. Thanks to the efforts of Radium Girls including Catherine Donohue, Grace Fryer, Edna Hussman, Katherine Schaub, Quinita McDonald, and Albina Larice, countless others were spared their dreadful fate. The courage of these women to take legal action against their employer and the subsequent hearings and national media attention led to changes in regulations governing national labor laws and safety standards. These changes continue to resonate in the laws that protect today's worker.



Learn More!

UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS:

Fri. May 12 / 7:30pm
"Music for a May Night"
VC Chamber Music

Sat. May 13 / 6:00pm
"A Tribute to Wayne Shorter"
VC Jazz Band

Sun. May 14 / 2:30pm
"The Sounds of Springtime"
VC Orchestras

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