Updated 10/1/26

Winter Production Auditions

Radium Girls

Open to 8th – 12th Graders

Direction by Heather Falks

AUDITION DATES AND TIMES*:

Tuesday, November 17 from 5:30-7:00pm OR
SUBMIT A VIRTUAL AUDITION BY 11/17

LOCATION: SPARC - 2106 North Hamilton Street

AUDITIONING:

- Auditionees should prepare and memorize a monologue from *Radium Girls.*
    - Monologues to choose from are at the end of this packet. Prepare either the Roeder or Grace monologue for your audition.
- To sign up to audition, auditionees must register for one of the 30-minute time slots via our YouCanBookMe sign-up page. The e-mail address submitted at registration will be used to contact the student and their guardian with callback and casting information.
- **At the top of the audition timeslot, auditionees will meet the directing team and get to know each other and the show. There will also be a short group warm-up. Come prepared to do some movement, and wear clothes you can easily move in! Then, we will call auditionees into the room one at a time to share their monologue. Once the individual audition is over, the auditionee is welcome to head home or wait for pick-up at the end of auditions.**
- Auditionees will check in with an audition monitor in the lobby, check the information on their audition forms, turn in resumes (optional), and have a basic photo taken for directors to reference. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your audition appointment so we can keep auditions on time.

VIRTUAL AUDITION

- If you are unable to attend the in-person audition, you can submit a virtual audition instead.
- Virtual auditionees must register for one of the 30-minute time slots via our YouCanBookMe sign-up page even though you won't be coming to an in-person audition. You can choose any open time slot.
- The e-mail address submitted at registration will be used to contact the student and their guardian with callback and casting information.
- Virtual auditions must be submitted to Courtney Thompson at cthompson@sparcrichmond.org by **Tuesday, November 17.**
- In your virtual audition, we ask that you slate (tell us your name and which monologue you've chosen) before performing your monologue.

CALLBACKS – Friday, November 20 from 5-7pm

- Please hold this date on your calendar. Students and guardians will be notified via email of any callback auditions.
- The purpose of callback auditions is to see how students engage with material from the show.
- Directors will not need to see every student at callbacks to proceed with casting**. A student may still be in consideration for a role, even if they are not asked to attend callbacks.**
- Please come to callbacks dressed and prepared to dance. Wear comfortable clothing and close-toed shoes.
- If you are invited to a callback but cannot make this date, please let the team know and we will find an alternative for you.

CASTING NOTIFICATIONS – by Friday, December 4

Students and guardians will receive a notification via email, whether a student has been cast or not. While we work hard to notify all students as quickly as possible, it takes time for our staff to complete all individual communications. ***Please be considerate of all auditioning students, and refrain from discussing casting notifications until a cast list has been shared publicly.*** **This will help in reducing stress and anxiety while we work through notifications.**

About the Show

Synopsis:

Radium Girls tells the true story of young women working in factories in the 1920s who were poisoned by the radium they used to paint watch dials. Initially unaware of the dangers, the women, encouraged to "lip-point" their paintbrushes, begin experiencing severe health issues. As they fight for recognition and justice against their former employer, they face not only corporate resistance but also skepticism from their families and communities. The story culminates in legal battles and ultimately, landmark changes in workplace safety regulations.

Content Warning: As this is a play about true events, rehearsals will include discussions around the interaction of radium in the human body and how it ultimately led to the painful deaths of these young women. It is a necessary story to tell and though laced with tragedy, also features the immense bravery of the Radium Girls and their resolve to fight for others.

Roles (8-10 actors with the potential to double up on roles)

GRACE FRYER – A young dial painter who fights for justice after being poisoned by radium
ARTHUR ROEDER – The president of the U.S. Radium Corporation, initially unaware of the dangers of radium
TOM – Grace's fiancé, a postal worker who supports her fight
MARKLEY – Counsel for the U.S. Radium Corporation, a rational but ethically ambiguous character
LEE – Vice President of the U.S. Radium Corporation, later becomes President
FLINN – An industrial hygienist who is initially hired by the company but later becomes involved in the case

KATHRYN, IRENE, & OTHER DIAL PAINTERS – Coworkers of Grace, some of whom join her in her fight, while others may be skeptical or fearful

REPORTERS – Members of the press who cover the story and contribute to public awareness

SHOPGIRLS AND SOCIETY WOMEN – Reflecting different social classes impacted by the radium issue

DOCTORS & SCIENTISTS – Highlighting the medical and scientific aspects of the story

Tuition and Scholarships

There is no cost to audition. However, should a student be cast in *Radium Girls*, the cast of tuition for participation is: **$780. Students are never turned away from any SPARC program because of the inability to afford tuition.** Each year, over 100 students are awarded scholarships on the basis of need, totaling over $50,000 in tuition support. **Families will be asked if they intend to apply for a scholarship when casting emails are sent.** To find out more about scholarships, see sparcrichmond.org/scholarships.

Are you a teenager who needs to cover tuition costs on your own? If so, please call or email us to discuss how we can help you to address tuition payments. We look forward to talking with you! sparc@sparcrichmond.org; 804-353-3393 x222

Attendance Policy and Conflicts

Being cast in a production is a big commitment. SPARC asks that guardians and students look at family and school schedules closely before auditioning to ensure that the student can attend all rehearsals and performances. Please list any rehearsal conflicts thoroughly before submitting an audition form. Casting decisions are made with each student's availability in mind. SPARC may not be able to offer a role to a student with excessive conflicts or conflicts that occur in the final weeks leading up to performances.

Attendance at rehearsals is crucial to the success of the entire production. We understand that students lead busy lives and that unforeseen circumstances can arise. In an effort to be flexible and accommodate those situations, **SPARC's attendance policy allows students to miss two rehearsals during the rehearsal period.**

No conflicts are permitted during the final week of regular rehearsals, tech rehearsals or performances. Conflicts not stated during the audition process or excessive absences/tardiness may result in casting changes or the student not being able to participate in all scenes/musical numbers.

See next page for full rehearsal and production schedule ->

***Radium Girls* Schedule**

Rehearsals will be held at **SPARC (2106 North Hamilton Street)** unless otherwise specified.
Regular Rehearsals: January 11 – February 20 on Monday & Thursday from 6:00-8:00pm & Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm unless otherwise specified.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1	January 11 6:00-8:00			January 14 6:00-8:00		January 16 10:00-2:00
Week 2	January 18 NO REHEARSAL			January 21 6:00-8:00		January 23 10:00-2:00
Week 3	January 25 6:00-8:00			January 28 6:00-8:00		January 30 10:00-2:00
Week 4	February 1 6:00-8:00			February 4 6:00-8:00		February 6 10:00-2:00
Week 5	February 8 6:00-8:00			February 11 6:00-8:00		February 13 10:00-2:00
Week 6	February 15 6:00-8:00			February 18 6:00-8:00		February 20 10:00-2:00

Tech Rehearsals:
Sunday, February 21 from 12:00-6:00pm
Monday, February 22 – Thursday, February 25 from 5:00-8:30pm

Performances:
Friday, February 26 at 7:30pm
Saturday, February 27 at 2pm and 7:30pm
Sunday, February 28 at 2pm

Strike:
Sunday, February 28, immediately following closing performance

FAQs on the next page -→

Production FAQs

What if I am already taking a SPARC class that conflicts with the production schedule?

We love seeing SPARC youth participate in all kinds of programming! If you are currently participating in another SPARC program that overlaps with the rehearsal schedule (for example, Touring Ensemble), we will work with those teaching teams to split time.

Can I apply my current SPARC scholarship to my participation in this show?

Yes! If you have a scholarship for this season, you may also apply it to the show. If you don't already have a scholarship and are cast in the show, we will walk you through the steps on how to apply for one.

Do I need to bring a headshot or resume?

You are welcome to bring them, but they are not required.

What if I can't attend callbacks?

We'll find another way for you to submit callback materials - likely virtually.

I have a disability. Is a SPARC production for me?

Yes! Like our other programs, productions are open to students of all abilities and experience levels. If you have an access need you would like us to know about, you are welcome to disclose that in the audition information form.

start Roeder

ROEDER. Well. *(A moment as he regards them.)* Girls. This paint you've been playing with. It's very expensive. You realize this? *(Mumbled acknowledgment.)* It takes several tons of ore to produce a single gram of radium. That's a lot of work—hard work, for the men in the extraction plant. But they do this work gladly. You understand why? Why they work so hard? What we are all working for?

GRACE. The war?

ROEDER. That's right. The war. The dials you paint save lives, girls. Our boys in the field depend on them. To read them in the dark, no mistaking what they see. Otherwise…some of those boys won't be coming home. So, girls. If you play around and don't take the work seriously…well, you're playing into the hands of the Kaiser. And we don't want that, do we?

END

GIRLS. No sir… Oh, no! Etc.

ROEDER. So let's get back to work now and leave the tomfoolery to home. *(The GIRLS file away, but GRACE lingers.)*

GRACE. Mr. Roeder? I just—I just wanted to say. I—I am sorry. I won't do nothin' like this ever again.

ROEDER. Well, dear. Just keep this in mind: If you do right by us, we'll do right by you.

(A tableau, then:)

SCENE 2

(Enter SOB SISTER and REPORTER as GRACE and ROEDER break.)

Grace

(WILEY, who is chatting with one of the guests, b[y]. GRACE is blocked by SOCIETYWOMAN.)

SOCIETYWOMAN. Can I help you, miss?

GRACE. I'm here to see Miss Wiley.

SOCIETYWOMAN. You're not a member of the Woman's Club.

GRACE. No, ma'am—

SOCIETYWOMAN. Are you a guest of a member?

GRACE. No, ma'am, but Miss Wiley—

SOCIETYWOMAN. Then I'm sure Miss Wiley would be happy to see you during her regular business hours.

GRACE. I'm not leavin' till I see Miss Wiley!

WILEY *(crosses to her)* It's all right, Mrs. Middleton. It's fine. *(Exit SOCIETYWOMAN.)* You must be Miss Fryer.

GRACE. Yes, ma'am. Miss Young at the health department said I should see you. I know I shoulda stopped by yer office, but I missed a lot of work lately and didn't want to miss no more.

WILEY. No need to apologize. I had been meaning to call on you myself. Please. Sit down.

start [

GRACE. Me and Kathryn, we wrote to the company about our troubles, but we never heard nothing. So then we went to see a couple lawyers. But they all said they can't do anything, 'cause it's been so long since we left the radium plant. Something about the law won't allow it.

WILEY. The statute of limitations.

GRACE. Right. And one lawyer, he said he would try to sue anyhow, only he wants a thousand dollars up front! I already spent everything I saved for my wedding on doctors and dentists and hospitals. An' I still don't know. What's wrong. Exactly. And Tom—that's my

fella—he says he don't care! He wants to get married anyhow. But I just wonder—what good would I do him, like this? Miss Wiley. If I could just get some compensation, I could settle my debts—and then maybe I wouldn't feel like I was saddling Tom with such a burden... I'm sorry to rattle on at ya about these things... I'm just so tired of bein' pushed around.

END

WILEY. I don't blame you.

GRACE. Miss Young at the health department, she said the Consumer's League has—what did she say? Clout?

WILEY. I'd like to think so. We've certainly had our share of successes.

GRACE. Can you help us then?

WILEY. Tell me, Miss Fryer, just how far are you willing to go with this?

GRACE. Ma'am?

WILEY. Suppose I do find a lawyer to take your case. Someone willing to take it on a contingency—you wouldn't have to pay him unless you won. Would you be willing to sue?

GRACE. I want my compensation.

WILEY. Of course you do. Now suppose the company says, "Here. Here's some money for you, Miss Fryer. Only—you are to tell no one what we've agreed to. You are to say nothing about how you got sick."

GRACE. Keep it quiet, you mean?

WILEY. Yes.

GRACE. That don't seem right.

WILEY. It isn't right. But that's what they'll do. They will try to buy your silence. Is it for sale, Miss Fryer?

GRACE. No. No, ma'am, it isn't.

WILEY. Good.