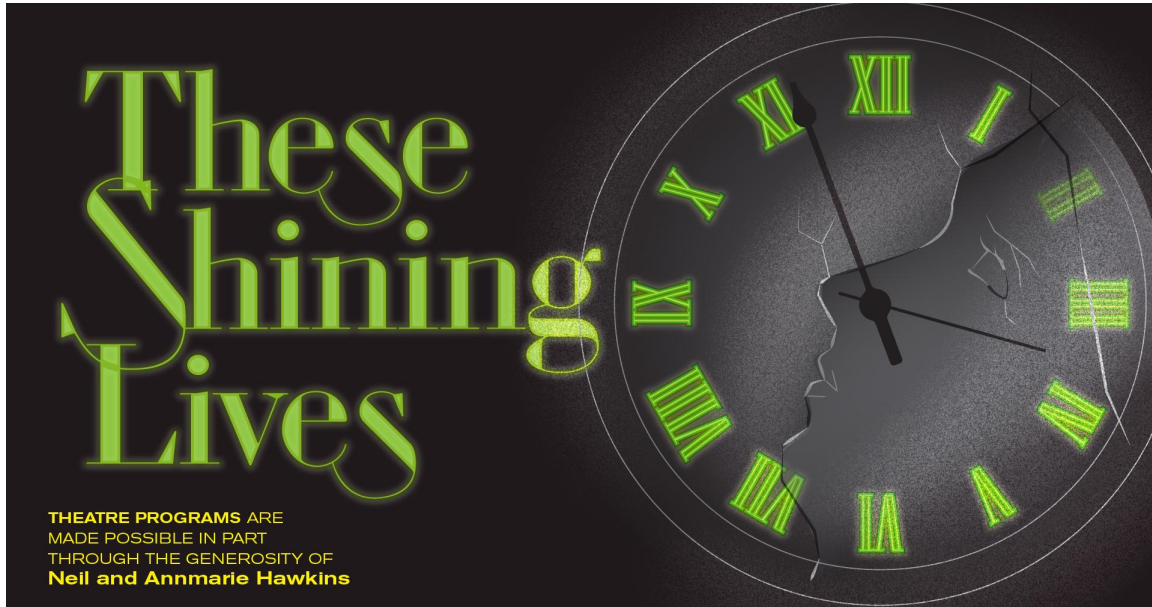


**Center Stage Theatre Presents:**



**By MELANIE MARNICH**

**Director: Susie Polito**

**Auditions:**

Tuesday January 31 from 6:00-9:00pm in Rehearsal Room B  
Wednesday February 1 from 6:00-9:00pm in Rehearsal Room B

**Callbacks:**

Thursday February 2 from 6:00-10:00pm in Rehearsal Room B.  
By Invitation only.

**Please enter through the Rehearsal Entrance door on the side of the Auditorium (use sidewalk around the Center's south side towards Dow Gardens), and follow signs downstairs to the Rehearsal Room B.**

**Performances: Friday, April 14 - 16 & Thursday, April 20 - 23.**

*Thank you for your interest in Center Stage Theatre's Production of*  
***THESE SHINING LIVES***

You may have heard of them – “The Radium Girls” – they exuded independence, they earned money of their own, they glowed in the dark... *THESE SHINING LIVES* chronicles the compelling true story of the young women who painted the faces of luminous watches with radioactive paint in the '20's and '30's. We follow Catherine Donohue, who begins working with the excitement of a newly liberated woman entering the workforce, through her cancer diagnosis and the litigation she relentlessly pursued against Radium. This transcendent story is a tale of resilience and triumph, as the women refuse to allow the company that stole their health to kill their spirits—or endanger the lives of those who came after them.

**Kudos For The Playwright:**

“Marnich has an ear for warm, natural dialogue that eschews snarky quips and truisms...the play's linguistic honesty satisfies.” —Time Out Chicago. “...has a humanistic glow...clockwork precision...an initially comic and ultimately tragic look at how individual women find employment within a system more concerned with profit than safety.” —Variety. “Perfect, touching and wistful...beautifully tragic.” —Talkin' Broadway. “...subtly stylized language and a sensibility that's delicately oddball, even when probing troubling topics.” —Washington Post. “The stakes could not be more vividly portrayed. [Catherine's] courage shines brighter as her body weakens. Still, we leave the theater aching from the impact of this true tale, which only gains power from the artifice of its telling.” —ExpressMilwaukee.com.

**A note from Director, Susie Polito:**

These are women of strength, dignity, passion, and pride. They are strong, capable women, who, in the face of their adversity, stayed strong and a cohesive group of friends. I am hoping that we can all remember our first jobs, and how thrilled we were making money, independently. Friendship is such a strong bond between people, and how much these women counted on each other, for strength and understanding. I say "strength" often, because I feel the strength that we get from each other is so important. Please remember in auditioning, these women are never to be pitied, they are to be admired. They speak for women in the workplace yet today. They are to be honored. Thank you all for your interest in *THESE SHINING LIVES*. I am counting on this being an incredible experience.

*Those who would like to read the full play before auditions may do so by contacting Travis Kendrick, Manager Of Produced Theatre & Theatre Education, at [kendrick@midlandcenter.org](mailto:kendrick@midlandcenter.org).*

## AUDITIONS: What to Prepare/Expect?

1. Fill Out: the [Audition Form](#) before attending auditions  
*\*\*\*List any and all conflicts that you have with the [Tentative Rehearsal Schedule](#) in your audition form*
2. Email For Audition Appointment Time: Please email Programming Coordinator, Anna Rudnitsky, at [rudnitsky@midlandcenter.org](mailto:rudnitsky@midlandcenter.org) to receive your appointment time. When Anna emails an appointment time to you, you must respond to that email to confirm the audition slot.
3. Please Prepare: Please select and prepare 1 of the 4 monologue packets found here: [THESE SHINING LIVES audition monologues.](#)  
*\*\*\*The monologue packets may have one or more parts to prepare\*\*\**
4. Please Note: Actors will be considered for multiple roles, as appropriate, and may be asked to read additional acting sides at the audition. Physical copies of the Audition Sides will be available.

## REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES:

Please look over the [Tentative Rehearsal Schedule](#) (subject to change) to note any conflicts to put on your audition form.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Performers MUST be available for all technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances. NO exceptions.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Vaccination Policy-

All Center Stage Theatre volunteers are required to be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination upon the start of each production process.

### Mask Policy-

Masks are encouraged at all times while inside Midland Center For The Arts facilities.

### Build/Strike-

Center Stage Theatre asks that actors donate a minimum of four hours to the scenic or costume shop in some capacity, or assist with strike.

### Costume/Make-up Policies-

Center Stage Theatre asks that the actor provide shoes, dance tights, undergarments, and standard make-up (base, eyeliner, blush, powder, lipstick, etc.).

***\*More information regarding Center Stage Theatre and the policies please view the [Volunteer Relations Manual](#).***

## **CHARACTERS:**

**CATHERINE DONOHUE** – A young wife and mother of two. She works at the Radium Dial Factory. While she is quiet, sensitive and reflective at times, she is by no means weak. She is full of life and passion for her work, her friends, and her husband, Tom.

**CHARLOTTE** – A worker at the factory. She is outspoken and hard-boiled. She is competitive and has a biting sense of humor. Underneath this front, however, she is just as kind hearted as her friends. Also plays:

REPORTER 1 – Speaks outside of the courthouse during Catherine’s lawsuit, providing the opinion of the public.

**FRANCES** – A worker at the factory. She is the ‘moral backbone’ of the group, but is more flexible than she lets on. She acts as a mediator during the beginning of the show between Charlotte and Catherine. Also plays:

REPORTER 2 (Speaks outside of the courthouse during Catherine’s lawsuit, providing the opinion of the public) and AN OFFICIAL.

**PEARL** – A worker at the factory. Sweet and supportive, she is the “joker of the group.” But Pearl is avoidant and has a hard time coming to terms with her developing illness. Also plays:

DAUGHTER (Catherine’s young daughter. She is not childish, only innocent. She establishes the disconnect that has developed in Catherine’s life) and JUDGE 2.

**TOM DONOHUE** – The husband of Catherine Donohue, a riveter on the skyscrapers of Chicago. He loves Catherine and is extremely devoted to her, but is somewhat unsettled when his wife starts making more money than he does. Also plays:

DR. ROWNTREE – He extols the benefits of radium to cure common illnesses.

DR. DALITSCH – An incredibly honest doctor. The girls go to him and receive their separate, gruesome diagnoses. He reappears in the trial scene to confirm their conditions before the jury.

**MR. REED** – The overseer of the factory. His heart is usually with the girls, but when put under pressure he is a pawn of the Radium Dial factory and has to follow orders. Also plays:

RADIO ANNOUNCER – Much like Dr. Rowntree, the radio announcer makes a performance out of selling radium to the public. Boasting of its benefits and popularity, he sells the product along with a trio of radio station singers.

COMPANY DOCTOR – Much like Mr. Reed, the Company doctor is a pawn of the Radium Dial Company. He denies that the girl’s illnesses are related to their working conditions and the radium they are exposed to.

SON – Catherine’s son. He is not childish, only innocent. Only appearing once with his sister, he establishes the disconnect that has developed in Catherine’s life.

LEONARD GROSSMAN – A brash lawyer who has enough courage to take the girls’ case. Disturbed by the company’s treatment of Catherine and her friends.

JUDGE – Appears in the courtroom scene of Catherine’s trial versus the radium dial company.

*Midland Center For The Arts is committed to diversity and promoting a positive model of inclusion, and encourages performers of all races, ethnicities, ages, genders identities, gender expressions, disabilities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, and other diverse backgrounds to audition.*