

# MIZZOU THEATRE

*WELCOME TO THE STAGE*



**RADIUM  
GIRLS**  
BY D.W. GREGORY

**March 13-17, 2024**  
Rhynsburger Theatre



Theatre  
University of Missouri

# RADIUM GIRLS

BY D.W. GREGORY

**A PLAY IN TWO ACTS**

**DIRECTOR**

Dr. Claire Syler

**COSTUME DESIGNER**

Briann Johnson

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Gabriel Levi

**SCENIC DESIGNER**

Samantha Driggers

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Steve Miller

**STAGE MANAGER**

Elise Hawley

**SOUND DESIGNER**

Eliza Brooks

**CO-DRAMATURGS**

Ellison Land and Sara Wiley

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law.



# Theatre

University of Missouri

Welcome to the Rhynsburger Theatre and our production of *Radium Girls* by D.W. Gregory. This play is based in historical fact focusing on the young women who worked as dial painters in the 1920s. The workers were poisoned by the innovative Undark luminescent paint of the period. The newly discovered element of radium was touted for its many health benefits as well. The true long-term effects of radium, while not immediately evident, took a toll on the health of many. The play follows these women and their struggle for justice.

In April, we will be presenting *Iphigenia Crash Land Falls on the Neon Shell that Was Once Her Heart (a rave fable)* by Caridad Svich. We are looking forward to having the playwright in residence to work with our students during the rehearsal period with the support of a Missouri Arts Council grant.

The Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre returns in June with performances of *Charlotte's Web* in our studio space and the popular *9 to 5* on the Rhynsburger stage. We look forward to seeing you !

Thank you for your continued support of Mizzou Theatre  
Enjoy the show!

Dr. Mimi Hedges  
Chair, MU Department of Theatre

---

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When the undergraduate theatre students presented D.W. Gregory's play *Radium Girls* at the 2023-2024 season selection meeting, I sat forward in my seat. I knew the story—a group of young women who, in the early twentieth century, developed radium poisoning by painting luminous watch dials at their workplaces. I also knew that the plight and legal action of these women had helped to reform occupational labor law and shape some of the rights of modern workers. The play's focus on justice and workplace safety resonated for me, but I was also impressed that our extraordinary MU Theatre majors wished to stage a play of such historical significance. I took up the students' call and agreed to direct our production.

Directing plays that represent history onstage requires engaging with past, present, and future realities. Most of the characters you meet in our production—Grace Fryer, Arthur Roeder, Charlie Lee—were real people whose legacies (and families) are forever marked by their encounters with radium. Historically, these people were from a range of ethnic backgrounds, which today are all generally read as “white.” Our production of *Radium Girls*, however, joins present efforts—across theatre, television, and film—to tell historical narratives while representing the breadth of US society. As such, our production invites you to notice how a particular US history is complicated and expanded when the story of the “radium girls” is performed by the diversity of the MU student body. In so doing, we hope this production presses you to consider how the legal action undertaken by a brave group of young women nearly one hundred years ago continues to protect people in contemporary labor struggles today and tomorrow. My thanks to MU Theatre majors for drawing me into this important story.

Dr. Claire Syler

---

## DRAMATURGS' NOTE

The following incorporates real headlines and quotes from 1920s newspapers:

### **POISONED! - AS THEY CHATTED MERRILY AT WORK**

**Radium Girl(s) Await Death at Orange, New Jersey**

**What would you do if you had been told...that you only had one year to live? Five young women of New Jersey are living their answers to that...question.**

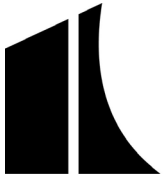
**Easy work and...good pay brought about one hundred and fifty women to the factory of the United States Radium Corporation in Orange, New Jersey.** There, they were instructed on how to use radium to finely paint the glow-in-the-dark details of watch faces.. As of 1926, **7 young women who worked in that factory were already in their graves, at least 3 more were sure to die in a few months.** These women were the victims of radium poisoning and sued the United States Radium Corporation. **Once the material lodges itself in the human body, science knows no way to get the restless little radium out. The patient begins to be pale, weak, and as the bones and tissues decay, very painful abscesses develop and death finally ends a long period of helpless suffering. The radium plant denied that it was in any way responsible for the deaths... of their employees. Nobody knew that the hand of death punched the time clock for those [in] the radium watch factory.**

When asked about her **cruel fate,...Grace Fryer (27) remarked, "I'm not utterly discouraged. I've seen others grow ill, have watched them die. But I'm still alive and hoping. Who knows? Some doctor may find a remedy yet."**

**That is to say, there is a bright side; these discoveries, illuminated by the dark case of radium girls like Grace Fryer, are of the utmost value... in medicine.**

Sara Wiley and Ellison Land

Co-Dramaturgs



## The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF Regional Festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

---

## CAST

Grace Fryer.....Kaylah Janssen  
Kathryn Schaub & Ensemble..... Aaliyah Jones  
Irene Rudolph & Ensemble..... Ivy Reed  
Mrs. MacNeil & Ensemble..... Summer Dunkley  
Mrs. Roeder & Ensemble.....Zoey Heinrich  
Mrs. Fryer & Ensemble.....Jessica Peterson  
Miss Wiley & Ensemble..... Delaney Eischen  
Sob Sister & Ensemble..... Shannon Windt  
Arthur Roeder.....Trey Betler  
Charlie Lee & Ensemble..... Aron Williams  
Raymond Berry & Ensemble..... Ben Tatum  
Tom Kreider & Ensemble..... Andy Romero-Compain  
Edward Markley & Ensemble..... Matthew Antonacci  
Dr. Von Sochocky & Ensemble.....Luca Freccia  
Reporter & Ensemble.....Jeremiah Coleman

**SETTING:** Orange, New Jersey, 1918-1940s

**INTERMISSION:** There will be one 15-minute intermission between Act I and Act II.

Produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

Originally produced by “Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey” and developed with a commissioning grant from The Ensemble Studio Theatre/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Project.

---

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager .....	Maggie McCormick
Hair/Makeup Designer .....	Max Contreras
Assistant Costume Designers .....	Alex Drury, Summer Dunkley, Sina Golzy
Properties Manager .....	Mimi Hedges
Properties Assistants .....	Charles Knocke, Jasmine Osuji
Light Board Operator .....	Sean Dimes
Sound Board Operator .....	Gabrielle Thomas
Wardrobe Crew.....	Haylee Allen, Sofi Armfield, Malakai Howard
Running Crew .....	Olivia Stephens, Clark Monroe
Master Electrician .....	Joey Seevers
Electrics Crew .....	Hamza Abu, Aidan Engbert, Isabella Sokolova
Scenic Studio 1320 Assistants .....	Alex Drury, Mike Melillo, Abby Murphy, Dani Myers, Michael Kuria
Stichers .....	Sophie Campos, Chris Dixon, Alyson Evans, Taylor Hatfield, Claudia Lindgren, Yada Olson, Melody Tate
Wig/Makeup Management.....	Millie Brode, Grace Hall
Costume Shop Stock Management .....	Madison Ade, Keshae Holloway

Your generous donation will help keep the curtain rising  
on live theatre at Mizzou. Scan below to give.





**MU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE CREW AND STAFF**

Director of Production/Artistic Director ..... Mimi Hedges  
 Head of Costumes ..... Marc W. Vital II  
 Technical Director ..... Zach Alley  
 Scenic Studio Supervisor.....Cyan Crockett  
 Assistant Technical Director ..... Vincent Williams  
 Costume Shop Manager.....Manda Apony-Moriarity  
 Cutter/Draper..... Mackenzie Miller  
 Costume Shop Tech ..... Lydia Taylor  
 Academic Advisors .....Alex Anderson,  
 Katie Brueggeman  
 Front of House Director .....Jabarbara Jennings  
 Assistant Box Office Manager ..... Andrew Schulte  
 Scenic Studio Assts.....Maggie McCormick,  
 Carter Davidson, Robert Dresselhaus,  
 Emma Pavik, Evan Saunders,  
 Joey SeEVERS, Ellie Utterson  
 Front of House Staff.....Cecil Cantrell-Harris,  
 Alex Drury, Delaney Eischen,  
 Bryleigh Giffin, Syed Ali Hashmi,  
 Abigail Henshaw, Jack Kunkel,  
 Catelynn Liniger, Chance McKim,  
 Andrew Shulte, Shrushti Shah  
 Business Affairs ..... Pat Garmon  
 Graphic Design .....Amanda Long

Scan to sign up for the Mizzou Theatre newsletter to stay up to date on upcoming shows and special events!



---

**2023-2024**

**MU THEATRE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Richard + Patricia Wallace Endowment for the Arts**

Zach Apony-Moriarty, Brandon Riley

**Donovan and Peggy Rhynsburger Scholarship**

Haley Frazer, Ariel Hall

**Terry Perkins Scholarship for Comedic Acting**

Delaney Eischen

**Sol Feinstein Technical Theatre Scholarship**

Jaeden Knehans, Cedric Singleton

**John Ross Berneche Acting Scholarship**

Ben Tatum

**Tom Berenger Acting Scholarship**

Aaliyah Jones

**Musical Theatre Scholarship**

Chance McKim

**Richard Hennessey Scholarship**

Elise Hawley

**George C. Scott Memorial Acting Scholarship**

Gabe Levi

**Dan Springer Memorial Scholarship**

Wren Miller, Kennedy Rhoades

**Freshman Special Talent Scholarship**

Daniel Smith

**Jon Hamm Scholarship**

Jeremiah Coleman

**Dr. Marcia Berry Scholarship**

Kaylah Janssen

**Carla Waal Johns Scholarship**

Kasey Lynch

**Francis Mccurdy Memorial Scholarship**

Irene Gasarah

---

## Curators Scholarships

Zach Apony- Moriarty	Haley Frazer Irene Gasarah	William Morris Kennedy Rhoades
Sophia Axelbaum Riley Clark	Ariel Hall Elise Hawley	Brandon Riley Andres Romero-
Jeremiah Coleman Ryan Cohen	Kaylah Janssen Aaliyah Jones	Compain Daniel Smith
Brayden Corniels Zachary Czarnik	Jaeden Knehans Gabe Levi	Cedric Singleton Ben Tatum
Angelina Derry Lucian DiPofi	Kasey Lynch Chance McKim	Zach Vajda Sara Wiley
Delaney Eischen	Wren Miller	

## MU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE FACULTY

Kevin Brown, Associate Professor  
M. Heather Carver, Professor  
David Crespy, Professor  
Les Gray, Assistant Professor  
Mimi Hedges, Department Chair, Associate Teaching Professor  
Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor  
Claire Syler, Associate Professor  
Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor

---

# 2024 SPRING/SUMMER SEASON

**APRIL 24- 28**

***Iphegenia Crash Land Falls on the Neon Shell  
That Was Once Her Heart (a rave fable)***

Written by Caridad Svich, Directed by Dr. Kevin Brown  
Tickets \$22, Studio 4, McKee Gymnasium  
*Recommended for mature audiences.*

---



**JUNE 12-16**

***Charlotte's Web***

**JULY 3-7, 10-14**

**9 to 5**

**SCAN FOR  
TIX AND  
SHOW  
INFO.**



**Theatre**  
University of Missouri