

Radium Girls

Synopsis

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage—until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, *Radium Girls* traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire. Written with warmth and humor, *Radium Girls* is a fast-moving, highly theatrical ensemble piece for 9 to 10 actors, who play more than 30 parts—friends, co-workers, lovers, relatives, attorneys, scientists, consumer advocates, and myriad interested bystanders. Called a “powerful” and “engrossing” drama by critics, *Radium Girls* offers a wry, unflinching look at the peculiarly American obsessions with health, wealth, and the commercialization of science.

CASTING ROLES

ACTOR 1: GRACE

ACTOR 2: KATHRYN/SOCIETYWOMAN/HARRIET/SHOPGIRL/BOARD MEMBER# 1 /

ACTOR 3: IRENE/MISS WILEY/BOARD MEMBER#2/MRS. MICHAELS

ACTOR 4: SOB SISTER/MACNEIL/CLERK/MRS. FRYER

ACTOR 5: MRS. ROEDER/MADAME CURIE/CUSTOMER/BOARD MEMBER#3/

ACTOR 6: LEE/BAILEY/DRINKER/LOVESICK COWBOY/MALE SHOPPER/COURT

ACTOR 7: BERRY/MARTLAND/FLINN/STORE OWNER/

ACTOR 8: TOM/REPORTER/KNEF/VENECINE SALESMAN

ACTOR 9: MARKLEY/VON SOCHOCKY//ELDERLY WIDOW/PHOTOGRAPHER

ACTOR 10: ROEDER

CASTING DESCRIPTIONS:

Grace (F): The heroine, dramatic and fights for justice

Roeder (M): Mean spirited and coldhearted.

Tom (M): In love with Grace and supportive of her struggle, but thinks she is fighting for the wrong thing.

Markley (M): Legal representative of the Company. If he doesn't win, the company could lose everything.

Lee (M): Vice president of the Company, who has given everything to preserve U.S Radium.

Sob Sister (F): The collective conscience, a strong voice in the fight against U.S Radium.

Miss Wiley (F): Inspiring to say the least. The Executive director of New Jersey's Consumer's League. She's is blatantly strong willed, and unwavering.

Kathryn (F): Kathryn shares the same battle as Grace's. She is mild exploits her heartfelt moments.

Von Sochocky (M): Inventor, and extremely genuine. He carries the burden and feels accountable for countless deaths.

Mrs. Roeder (F): Virtuously supports her husband, and is without a doubt very strong, and influential.

Mrs. Fryer (F): Grace's hardworking Mother. She is a balanced and sensible person who never leaves her daughter no matter how hard things become.

Knef (M): What a wonderful and caring person...NOT! He's conniving, deceiving and schemes about around every corner. He is boisterous and loves to be seen and heard.

Berry (M): He's an honorable and, ethical man. He tends to be sympathetic and candid at the same time.

Reporter (M): Works in conjunction with Sob Sister and tells the news to the audience.

Flinn (M): A consultant that once studied at Columbia University to become an industrial hygienist He is convicted that science is never wrong, and that U.S Radium has not poisoned a single soul.

Macneil (F): Supervisor at U.S. Radium who believes her career is no joke.

Madam Curie (F):

Society Woman (F): Very polished and refined lady.

Clerk (f): Court Clerk.

Court (M): The judge.

Drinker (M): Industrial Hygienist. He works to reveal the truth...or does he?

Board Members 1-3 (M/F): U.S. Radium's Board Members;

Mrs. Michaels (F): A lover of medicinal therapy. Just a bit of radithor and she's a happy woman.

Harriet (F): The fashionable daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roeder.

Martland (M): Medical Examiner.

Lovesick Cowboy (M): LOL...

Venecine Salesman (M/F): Entrepreneur; sells with passion and determination.

Elderly Widow (F): Widow.

Male Shopper (M): Wants to make a deal as much as he wants to find a deal.

Customer (F): She loves a deal even more than Male Shopper.

Store Owner (M): Sells low, profits high.

Shopgirl (F): Dislike her job very much.

Photographer (F): Smile...on the count of three...1.2.3... you blinked!

Bailey (F): Poison maker; Radithor manufacturer.

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