

These Shining Lives | Ms. Price, Director

Show Dates: November 14-16, 2024

Audition Information

for 2024 fall play



(Note: If you are cast, **you MUST be available for the Fall Play Retreat (Oct 5-8, 2024)** which is during Fall Break. See Ms. Price with any concerns.

About the Show:

These Shining Lives is a heartfelt drama that highlights the true story of the strength and determination of hundreds of young female factory workers in the 1920s and 30s who were callously exposed to radium poisoning in the workplace.

The play, although inspired by real people and actual events, is a work of creative non-fiction. It moves between fact and fiction, between reality and imagination, to create a theatrical world. As the playwright states in her forward, the show is "at times choral, at times docudrama, at times just a play...[with characters] that never sink into sentimentality or weakness. They have more strength than that."

As a director/designer, I find this script to be absolutely beautiful with so many possibilities for amazing character development and also striking design. The show is poetic, powerful, (at times) funny, and just plain lovely. It's an experience I'm sure the entire cast will love.

The History of "Radium Girls":

At the onset of WWI, several factories were established across the U.S. to produce watches and military dials painted with a material containing radium, a radioactive element that glows in the dark. Hundreds of young women were hired for the well-paying painting jobs because their small hands were well suited for the exacting, detailed work.

Radium had been discovered just 20 years earlier by French physicists Marie & Pierre Curie, and its properties were not well known. Because it had been used successfully in the treatment of cancer, many considered radium a miracle element, and a variety of commercial products were manufactured in which radium was an ingredient, including toothpaste and cosmetics.

The women hired to paint the dials came to be known as "ghost girls" because the radium dust to which they were exposed daily made their clothes, hair, and skin literally glow. What's more, the clock-face painters ingested the radioactive substance as part of their job. Because some of the watch dials on which they worked were extremely small, they were instructed to use their lips to bring their paint brushes to a fine point. When they asked about radium's safety, they were assured by their managers that they had nothing to worry about.

Of course, that wasn't true. It wasn't long before the "Radium Girls" began to experience the physical ravages of their exposure.

(Source: [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com))

The Characters:

Female Leads*

- ★ **Catherine Donohue** - a young homemaker who develops into a fighter as the story unfolds.
- ★ **Charlotte Purcell** - an outgoing, outspoken young woman who tends to hide her tender heart. She is a tough “leader type” at Radium Dial.
- ★ **Frances O’Connell** - the level-headed “moral backbone” of the Radium Dial group.
- ★ **Pearl Payne** - the jokester of the Radium Dial group. Easy-going and chatty, Pearl brings innocence and joy to the Radium girls. Pearl sings in the show.

Male Leads:

- ★ **Tom Donohue** - Catherine’s husband. Fiercely protective of his wife and a loving spouse.
- ★ **Mr. Reed** - a Radium Dial supervisor

Additional Characters:**

- ★ **Dr. Rowntree** - makes a brief appearance promoting the perceived value of radium
- ★ **Dr. Dalitsch** - doctor in Chicago who diagnosis radium poisoning when all other doctors gaslight the victims.
- ★ **Leonard Grossman** - the attorney who agrees to take the women’s case to court. He’s described in the script as vivid, avuncular, and aggressive.
- ★ **Company Doctor** - makes a brief appearance as the first doctor to evaluate the women. He manipulates Catherine and the other women into doubting their concerns for their own health.
- ★ **Judge** - appears in the court cases
- ★ **Reporters 1 & 2** - report on the court case
- ★ **Radio Announcer** - advertises for radium and Westclox
- ★ **Catherine/Tom’s son & daughter** - appear briefly. Could be played by High Schoolers or children

*Due to historical nature of the play, I plan to cast women in these roles - or individuals who identify as female.

** These characters could be played individually or with doubling. The director is open to both options.

About Auditions:

Auditions for the play are **Wednesday/Thursday, September 4 or 5** (sign up for ONE of those days online). **Be sure to BRING A COPY of a character/scene that you would like to audition with. Audition scenes (sides)/characters are provided at www.kristaprice.com** - use the drop down menu entitled **FALL PLAY** at the top of the page to access Fall Play Audition info.

Below are options for a sampling of characters. Since you are most likely unfamiliar with the play (and probably haven't read it), these few options are enough to give the director an idea of your abilities and commitment to character. Specific character roles and connections won't be dealt with until Callbacks.

Your chosen audition piece does NOT need to be memorized; instead, be familiar enough with it that you can show strong CHARACTER choices (in BODY, voice, face, pauses, etc.). Preparation helps with confidence.

For those who are unfamiliar with auditioning: You can audition for ANY role, but most people choose the character they most want (or a character that is closest to the type of role they want - small, medium or large). Despite what you audition for, you are considered for ALL characters unless you specify otherwise.

AUDITION OPTIONS (SIDES):

(provided **online** - see link above)

- ☆ **Catherine:** 2 options
- ☆ **Charlotte:** 1 option
- ☆ **Tom:** 2 options
- ☆ **Dr. Dalitsch:** 1 option
- ☆ **Mr. Reed:** 1 option
- ☆ **Radio Announcer:** 1 option

In general, I am looking for a **tight ensemble** of actors who have a **great attitude** and want to **work hard** at becoming truly excellent. If that's you (and you are cast) know that you will be work to create a show for which you are truly proud...but you'll also have a lot of FUN in the process.

Callbacks

Callbacks (the 2nd round of auditions) are by invitation only. If you make it to **callbacks**, it is required/assumed that you will/have **read the entire script** (which will be available online by the end of the week).

The focus of callbacks will be to see character combinations. It will involve **cold reads** (scenes from the script that you haven't prepared in advance), which is why reading the entire script is helpful for callbacks. (It's easiest to portray characters that you understand from the context of the story/script.)

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals will most likely start on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10** after school. All cast must attend.

Rehearsals will most likely be held **3-4 days/week (Mon-Thurs) after school (3:15-5:00/6:00)**. (Not all actors are required to attend every day - depending on the Rehearsal Calendar.)

A complete **Rehearsal Calendar** will be published the first week of rehearsals, and you **MUST** be available the days that your character is required to rehearse. No exceptions. (The Rehearsal Calendar is built from your Conflict Calendar, so be sure to give Ms. Price accurate and complete information.)

There are some **Saturdays** that we will be rehearsing and/or set-building. The following dates are possible Saturday rehearsals:

- ☆ **September 21**
- ☆ **November 2 & 9**
- ☆ **Play Retreat: October 5-8** (required).

In order to assure that I am able to work around your schedule (and only schedule you for times you ARE able to rehearse), **you MUST list ALL CONFLICTS** (appointments, lessons, special dates, vacations, band practice, choir rehearsals, concerts, curricular/extra-curricular activities, etc.) **on your CONFLICT CALENDAR**. I will try to avoid scheduling you when you are unable to rehearse, BUT **once the Rehearsal Calendar is published, I can no longer work around your conflicts, so LIST EVERYTHING on your Form!** Bear in mind, however, that if you have too many conflicts, being involved in this show may not be possible.

CONFLICT CALENDAR *(print out, fill out, and bring to auditions)*

List on the calendar times you **CAN'T** rehearse & **WHAT** the conflict is (with times).

If something is listed on calendar that you are involved in (ex: "Choir Concert"), **circle** it so I know.

Be sure to DOUBLE-CHECK WITH YOUR PARENTS! *(they may know about conflicts you don't)*

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 <i>(Play week 1)</i>	9 Play CALLBACKS	10 <i>(Board Meeting)</i> Rehearsal #1 (read-through in BB)	11 Rehearsal #2 (ON STAGE 3:15-5:00)	12 Rehearsal #3 (ON STAGE - 3:30-6:00)	13 <i>Spirit: Red, white, blue (Choir Camp)</i>	14 <i>(Choir Camp)</i>
15 <i>(Play week 2)</i>	16 Rehearsal #4 (ON STAGE - 3:15-5:00)	17 Musical Announcement? Rehearsal #5 (ON STAGE - 3:30-6:00)	18 Rehearsal #6 (ON STAGE - 3:15-5:00)	19 Rehearsal #7 (ON STAGE - 3:50-6:00)	20 <i>Spirit: Blackout (Home Football Game - LO)</i>	21 SATURDAY REHEARSAL ON STAGE (TIME TBA) -headshots -bring \$5 for lunch
22 <i>(Play week 3)</i>	23 MUSICAL AUDITIONS (leads)	24 (NHS Induction) MUSICAL AUDITIONS (ensemble)	25 Rehearsal #8 (ON STAGE - 3:15-5:00)	26 MUSICAL CALLBACKS (leads)	27 <i>Spirit: Construction</i> MUSICAL CALLBACKS (ensemble)	28 Marching Band Comp.
OCTOBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>(Play week 4)</i>	30 <i>(PT Conf 4-7)</i> Rehearsal? (ON STAGE - 3:15-5:00):	1 Rehearsal #9 (ON STAGE - 3:30-6:00):	2 (Count Day / full day Wed; Advisory + all 7 hours) Rehearsal #10 (ON STAGE - 3:15-5:00)	3 <i>(PT Conf 4-7)</i> Rehearsal? ON STAGE (3:15-6:30): All Cast - Run Full Show w/ SM?	4 <i>Spirit: Pink Out (Home Football Game)</i>	5 FALL PLAY RETREAT!
6 FALL PLAY RETREAT!	7 FALL PLAY RETREAT!	8 FALL PLAY RETREAT!	9 (KP @ Oakland Fine Arts Council during day) Rehearsal #11 (3:15-5:00)	10 (OMS Band Concert / Picture re-takes) Play Rehearsal #12	11 <i>Spirit: Camo</i> Rehearsal? (TBD)	12 <i>(Marching Band Comp.)</i>
13 <i>(Play week 6)</i>	14 Rehearsal #13 (3:15-5:30):	15 (OMS Choir Concert) <i>(shell in; HS choir tech?)</i> Rehearsal?	16 <i>(shell in; Choir Concert 6p-)</i> Rehearsal #14 in BB (3:15-5:00):	17 (Staff Mtng 3:05-3:50) Academic Awards Rehearsal #15 in BB (3:50-6:00)	18 <i>Spirit: Blue & Gold</i> HOMECOMING	19 HOMECOMING DANCE
20 <i>(Play week 7)</i>	21 <i>(shell in - Bandorama Rehearsal after school?)</i> Rehearsal?	22 <i>(shell in -Spooktacular)</i> Rehearsal #16 (3:30-6:00)	23 <i>(shell in - Bandorama)</i> Rehearsal #17 (3:15-5:30)	24 Rehearsal #18? (3:30-6:00)	25 <i>Spirit: Halloween (Home Football Game)</i>	26 <i>(Marching Band Comp.)</i>
27 <i>(Play week 8)</i>	28 Rehearsal?	29 <i>(Dance Tech?)</i> Rehearsal?	30 <i>(Dance Tech / Show)</i> Rehearsal?	31 Rehearsal #19 (3:30-5:30)	1 FALL PLAY LOAD IN (all actors/crew)	2 (Parent Education Fair) ***Daylight Savings - fall back FALL PLAY LOAD IN + REHEARSAL (Time TBA)
NOVEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 SUNDAY DRY TECH? (no cast)	4 DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL (calltime TBA - plan on 3:30-9:30 with the run after dinner)	5 (Election Day) DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL (calltime TBA - plan on 3:30-9:30 with the run after dinner)	6 DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL (calltime TBA - plan on 3:30-9:30 with the run after dinner)	7 (Staff Meeting 3:05-3:50) DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL (calltime TBA - plan on 3:30-9:30 with the run after dinner)	8 TBD - plan on being there for costumes, make-up, or rehearsal (after school only)	9 (MSVMA Musical Festival 7:30-4:30) SATURDAY REHEARSAL (REQUIRED) - with lighting designer! (Time TBA)
12	4 DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL (calltime TBA - plan on 3:30-9:30 with the run after dinner)	5 DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL (calltime TBA - plan on 3:30-9:30 with the run after dinner)	6 11 am KP Dr. appt FINAL DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL (calltime TBA - plan on 3:30-9:30 with the run after dinner)	7 <i>(Jack takes test after school)</i> FALL PLAY (7pm) Calltime TBA	8 FALL PLAY (7pm) Calltime TBA	9 FALL PLAY (2pm & 7pm) Calltime TBA (STRIKE after show)