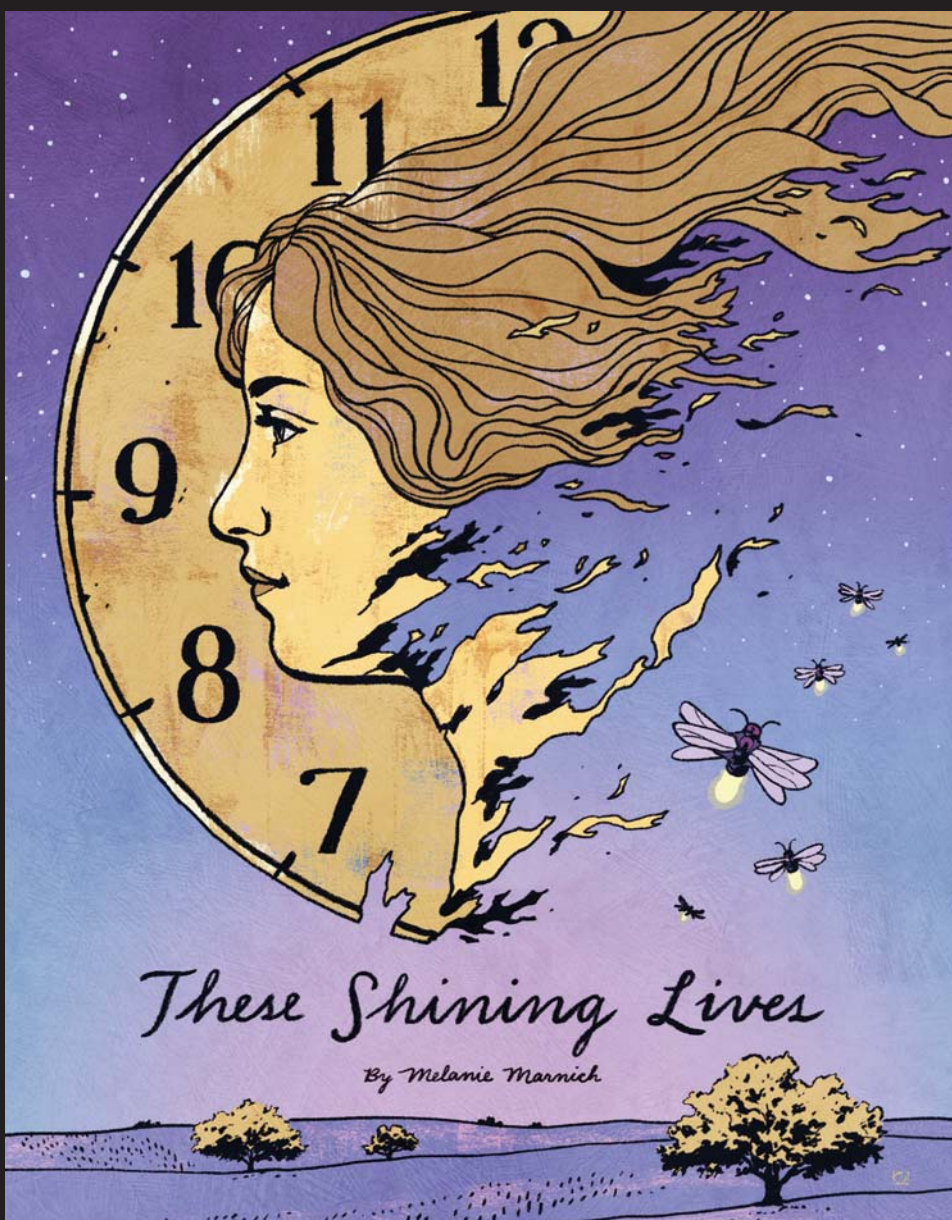




# *These Shining Lives*

*By Melanie Marnick*



PRESENTED BY WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE

September 19-21 & 25-28, 2014 Mainstage Theatre directed by Cindy Gendrich  
Performances nightly 7:30 pm, except Sundays at 2 pm



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Who doesn't love the 1920s? Glamorous! Modern! Exciting! Right? Women have gotten the vote. Jazz is bringing a new, exciting rhythm to life, and even if Al Capone is running Chicago, people seem to have a new sense of freedom--and money to spend on cars, clothes, parties, speakeasies, and fancy watches that glow in the dark.

The young women that *These Shining Lives* so beautifully draws are a product of this modern time, yet they also remind us of its dangers. Workplace safety rules (or the lack thereof), incentivizing of high-tech work through generous wages (\$40/week for painting watches!), and hazy medical understanding of radium all made a career at the Radium Dial Corporation a more complicated proposition than these "girls who wanted to work" could have expected.

As you'll see in dramaturg Mike Griggs's lobby display, radium was a real scientific marvel at the turn of the 20th century. Its uses were varied and innovative, but today they seem shocking. Our current scientific knowledge is also incomplete, though, and we need only look at recent discoveries about BHA, hydrofluorocarbons, and more, to remind us of that. Do we really know what we're putting into our mouths, bodies, and environments? Maybe the "radium girls" situation is not as different from ours as we would like to believe.

That said, this is not a play designed to scare. It's a celebration of these young women and their friendships, and I feel a deep sense of kinship with them. My grandmother, Vada Minear, worked in the Burgess Battery Factory in Freeport, IL in the 1940s, bringing home about \$15/week. It wasn't a glamorous job, and she sometimes burned her skin and clothes with battery acid and solder. Her daughter (my mom, Jan Gendrich), has spent many hours telling me about her youth in a cold-water flat, and the challenges she and her family faced. It's inspiring to think that my grandmother supported her four kids and herself on that meagre salary, raising them to be strong, self-sufficient, and unafraid of hard work.

The young midwestern women who faced down the Radium Dial Corporation seem (though better paid) to be cut of the same cloth--brave, warm, supportive gals who refused to be bowed by pressure or circumstance. I'm proud to share their story with you. And I'm equally proud of the team who has worked with me to put this production together. They have been a dream. Finally, I'd like to dedicate this play to my mom, Jan, and her mom, Vada, who have been with me, in person or in spirit, throughout this process. No one could have been better inspiration.

## INFORMATION

NO PHOTOGRAPHY, NO RECORDING, NO TEXTING. In consideration of performers and other patrons, please turn off any cell phones and electronic alarms and leave all paging devices at the Box Office. The use of laptops and cell phones is prohibited in the theatre. As always, please remember that the use of cameras and all recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the theatre. Smoking is prohibited in the building. To be reached in an emergency, please leave your name at the Box Office when you arrive. Any audience member disturbing other patrons or causing a disruption of the performance will be asked to leave without a refund or exchange of ticket.

**There will be one 10-minute intermission during this production.**

Wake Forest University Theatre presents  
*These Shining Lives*  
by Melanie Marnich  
September 19-21 & 25-28, 2014

Director  
**Cindy Gendrich**

Scenic Designer  
**Jonathan Christman**

Lighting & Projection Designers  
**Jonathan Christman  
& Andrew Hayes\*§**

Costume Designer  
**Caitlin Quinn**

Sound Designer  
**Isabella Curry\***

Stage Manager  
**Justice von Maur\*§**

## CAST

CATHERINE.....Johanna Beach\*§  
CHARLOTTE.....Alyssa Gera\*§  
FRANCES.....Natalie Brashear\*  
PEARL.....Hayley Greenstreet\*  
TOM.....Solomon Jordan\*  
MR. REED/DR. DALITSCH/RADIO ANNOUNCER.....Philip Kayser\*  
DR. ROWNTREE/COMPANY DOCTOR/GROSSMAN.....Mike Griggs\*  
JUDGE/SON/CHILD AT BEACH.....Eli Bradley\*§  
REPORTER 1/BACKUP SINGER/DAUGHTER/CHILD AT BEACH.....Caroline Whalen  
REPORTER 2/BACKUP SINGER /CHILD AT BEACH.....Valerie Medoff\*

\*Anthony Aston Players member

§Presidential Scholar in Theatre

## SETTING

Chicago and Ottawa, Illinois. 1920s and 1930s.

Produced by special arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., New York.

THESE SHINING LIVES received its World Premiere at Baltimore Center Stage in Baltimore, Maryland on April 30, 2008, Irene Lewis, Artistic Director; Michael Ross, Managing Director.

It was developed at Baltimore Center Stage in Baltimore, Maryland, as part of their First Look Festival; The History Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota, as part of their Raw Stages Festival; Northlight Theatre in Skokie, Illinois; Primary Stages as part of their Primetime Reading Series; and TheatreWorks in Palo Alto, California, as part of their New Works Festival.

It was commissioned by Northlight Theatre in Skokie, Illinois.

Facts from the book *Deadly Glow* by Ross Mullner were used with permission of the author.

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Johanna Beach** (Catherine) is a senior Theatre major from Barrington, Illinois and is so thrilled to be a part of *These Shining Lives*. At Wake Forest, Johanna has performed in *Our Country's Good*, *VOX*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Wake World*, *Almost, Maine*, and *Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight*. She would like to thank Cindy for her encouragement and ongoing mentorship and Justice for all of her hard work on this production. Love to the fam, Beanie, and the Radium Girls.



**Eli Bradley** (Judge/Son/Child at Beach) is looking forward to his first show at Wake Forest! He's from Boulder, Colorado where he did shows throughout high school. Past roles include Barfee (*25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee*), Ko-Ko (*Hot Mikado*), and the Baker (*Into the Woods*).



**Natalie Brashear** (Frances) is a senior (eek) Art History major and Theatre minor at Wake. She is delighted to be appearing on the Mainstage with such a wonderful cast and crew. Shout out to the Radium Girls for filling this experience with incessant giggling. Thanks to Cindy for this opportunity, and Justice "BK" von Maur (and Jay and Cheyenne) for keeping me in line ;). Thanks to friends and family for the love and support. (I dedicate this performance to Stellaluna Brashear who will always always be shining.)



**Jay Buchanan** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore planning to double major in Politics/International Affairs and Theatre. A Presidential Scholar in Theatre, his primary focus up to this point has been performance; *These Shining Lives* is his first experience as a member of the production team. He would like to thank Cindy and Wake Forest University Theatre for this opportunity to expand his horizons; he would also like to make a shoutout to Justice and Cheyenne, his fellow downers.



**Isabella Curry** (Sound Designer) is a senior from Cold Spring Harbor, New York. She is excited to be working on her eighth Mainstage production and thanks Cindy for the opportunity. You may have heard some of her previous work in *Hairspray*, *Noises Off*, and *The Laramie Project*. She hopes you enjoy the show and congratulations to the cast and crew!



**Alyssa Gera** (Charlotte), a senior Presidential Scholar for Theatre and Theatre & Communication double major, is absolutely thrilled to be a part of this year's first Mainstage production, *These Shining Lives*! She'd like to thank the cast and crew for constantly blowing her away with their many talents throughout this process, her fellow Radium Girls for being a true source of love, laughs, and friendship, her awesome friends and family, and (warning: sappy alert) her better half, Graham, for being an endless supply of support, love, and encouragement. She hopes you enjoy this beautiful show.



**Hayley Greenstreet** (Pearl) is a senior Theatre major at Wake Forest University. While she has been at Wake, she has been involved in a number of productions, both on the technical and the on the performance ends. Although she is not entirely sure what she will be doing a year from now, she hopes to be involved in productions outside of Winston-Salem. Ultimately, Hayley wants to be a theatre educator but would like to get some actually "real world" performance under her belt first.



**Mike Griggs** (Dr. Rowntree/Company Doctor/Grossman/Dramaturg) is thrilled to be working on this production as both a dramaturg and an actor. Originally from Charlotte, he is a senior Theatre major and Vice-President of the Anthony Aston Players. He would like to thank his families, both at home and at Wake, for their constant love and support.



**Andrew Hayes** (Lighting & Projection Designer) is a junior this year studying Theatre and Computer Science. This is his second time designing with Jonathan Christman on the Mainstage. He enjoys working in the university scene shop, playing video games, playing guitar, and reading a good book (though not necessarily at the same time.) He would like to thank his girlfriend, his family, and the faculty of Wake Forest University Theatre for supporting and putting up with him. He would also like to thank the electrics team who helped him with this show, as without them, he might have gone bald.



**Solomon Jordan** (Tom) is a senior English major and Theatre/Computer Science double minor. Previously seen in *Almost, Maine*, *As You Like It*, *VOX* and *Embers & Stars*, he's also a member of Wake Radio, Best Buddies and the incredibly proud Vice-President of the Wake Forest Can-I-Poet?

spoken word group. Sol would like to thank Cindy for her awesome direction, and the rest of the cast and crew for all of their hard work and for being awesome in general. He thanks his friends and family for everything else.



**Philip Kayser** (Mr. Reed/Dr. Dalitsch/Radio Announcer) is thrilled to have the opportunity to help tell such a compelling and significant story! Philip is a sophomore from Apex, North Carolina and an Economics major with Pre-medical credits. This is his fourth show at Wake and fifteenth

show in total, with recent credits including *Our Country's Good*, *Embers and Stars*, and *Hairspray*. He would like to thank his mom, dad, and brother for their love and support.



**Valerie Medoff** (Reporter/Backup Singer/Child at Beach), a sophomore from Wilmington, Delaware, is thrilled to continue her involvement with the Wake Forest Theatre this year. Valerie, an intended Theatre major, makes her onstage debut in a Mainstage production with her involvement

in *These Shining Lives*. She has performed in *Upton Abbey*, *Make it Work: A Freshman Production* and *Laughtracks* and was part of the crew for *Our Country's Good* and *Hairspray*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being a pleasure to work with and her friends and family for being so supportive. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Justice von Maur** (Stage Manager) is a sophomore from Nassau, Bahamas. *These Shining Lives* is her second stage managing experience at Wake Forest, as she had the pleasure of assistant stage managing *Embers and Stars* last Spring - also under the wonderful direction of Cindy Gendrich. She

would like to thank the cast for their beautiful work, the production team for guiding her through this experience and her assistant stage managers who are absolutely incredible in every way. She hopes you enjoy the show.



**Caroline Whalen** (Reporter/Backup Singer/Daughter/Child at Beach) is a sophomore from Chappaqua, New York. This is her first Mainstage production at Wake Forest, and she couldn't be happier to be a part of such an incredible show. She wants to thank Cindy for giving her this opportunity and the cast and crew for making the process a great one, as well as her friends and family for all their support!



**Cheyenne Zuck** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman at Wake Forest from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is currently planning to double major in Political Science and Theatre with a minor in Classics or Russian. She is so excited to be pulled into shows so early on and honored to work with such a talented, fun group of people for her first show in her college career. Here's to an incredible four years with the Wake Forest Theatre Department and how incredible she knows it will be.



## SPECIAL THANKS

IPLACe, Jan Gendrich, Vada Minear, Robert Wilkinson, Wanda Balzano, Jonathan Cardi, Simone Caron, Michael Green, Tina Walsh, Helen McGettrick and all the librarians at the Newberry Library in Chicago, the librarians and archivists at the Northwestern Library in Evanston, IL, and at the LaSalle County Historical Society & Museum, the Ottawa Public Library, and the Rutgers University Library, Yolanda Davis at the Journal of the American Medical Association, Woody Hood, Molly Dunn, Lakshmi Krishnan, Joan, Bob, and Anne Daley, Al Duddleston, Michelle Froese, Twin City Stage, Brent's Shoe Repair, Jeff and Lindsey Sachs, Pat Lord, and Robert Vietrogoski, Special Collections Librarian at Rutgers University's George F. Smith Library in Newark, for being so helpful in the dramaturgical research process.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dramaturg.....                  | Mike Griggs* with Emily Nedvidek*§                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Assistant Stage Managers.....   | Jay Buchanan*§, Cheyenne Zuck§                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Properties Master.....          | Serena Cates*                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Properties Assistant.....       | Hope Peterson*                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Master Electrician.....         | Andrew Hayes*§                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Electricians.....               | Eric Bray*, Hope Peterson*, Will Ormand<br>Imogen Jenkins, Langdon Page*, Tracy Wegner                                                                                                                |
| Scene Shop Assistants.....      | Serena Daya*, Andrews Hayes*§, Alexa Erb*, Serena Cates*<br>Emily Williams, Isabella Curry*, Hope Peterson*, Tracy Wegner<br>Hayley Greenstreet*, Monty King, Langdon Page*, Price Dawson, Eric Bray* |
| Assistant Costume Designer..... | Alyssa Gera*§                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| First Hands.....                | Alyssa Gera*§, Natalie Brashear*, Sarah Stitt<br>Melody Wang, Sean Maness*, Jay Buchanan*§                                                                                                            |
| Wardrobe Assistants.....        | Sean Maness*, Hayes McAlister, Ashton Smalling*, Melody Wang                                                                                                                                          |
| Wigs & Makeup Assistants.....   | Sean Maness*, Melody Wang                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Grips.....                      | Jessi Wagner*, Tracy Wegner                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Fly Operator.....               | Eric Bray*                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Light Board Operator.....       | Ella Andrews                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Sound Board Operator.....       | Erin Farmer                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Photographers.....              | Bill Ray III, Ken Bennett, Leslie Spencer                                                                                                                                                             |
| House Managers.....             | Jake Skillings, Hayden Newman*                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Box Office Staff.....           | Hayden Newman*, Emma Northcott*, Ben Benzing<br>Emma Stockert, Jessi Wagner*, Gretchen Burke, Alacyia Young                                                                                           |
| Ushers.....                     | APO Fraternity, Anthony Aston Players, WFU Dance Company                                                                                                                                              |

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

|                                            |                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Director of Theatre.....                   | J. E. R. Friedenber                                                                                   |
| Administrative Assistant.....              | Carol Lavis                                                                                           |
| Staff Assistant.....                       | Richard Williams                                                                                      |
| Technical Director.....                    | R. Trevor Anderson                                                                                    |
| Costume Studio Supervisor.....             | Kim Phoenix                                                                                           |
| Costume/Props Conservator.....             | Alice Barsony                                                                                         |
| Audience Services Coordinator.....         | Leslie Spencer                                                                                        |
| Instructional Technology Specialist.....   | Ryan McCollum                                                                                         |
| Production Archivist.....                  | Mike Griggs*                                                                                          |
| Office Assistant.....                      | Heather Sullivan*                                                                                     |
| Department Chair/Associate Professor.....  | Dr. J.K. Curry                                                                                        |
| Director of Dance/Associate Professor..... | Nina Lucas                                                                                            |
| Director of Film Studies/Professor.....    | Dr. Woodrow Hood                                                                                      |
| Professors.....                            | Dr. Cindy Gendrich, Mary Wayne-Thomas                                                                 |
| Associate Professors.....                  | Sharon Andrews, Jonathan Christman, Dr. Brook Davis<br>Rob Eastman-Mullins, Christina Tsoules Soriano |
| Associate Teaching Professors.....         | Lynn Book, Leah Roy                                                                                   |
| Assistant Teaching Professors.....         | Brantly Shapiro, Chris Martin, Josh Foldy                                                             |
| Part-Time Instructors.....                 | Debra Sayles, Robert Simpson, Tina Yarborough-Liggins                                                 |
| Teaching Fellows.....                      | Amy Beasley, Caitlin Quinn                                                                            |
| Accompanists.....                          | Erick Eaton, Hashim Saleh                                                                             |

\*Anthony Aston Players member

§Presidential Scholar in Theatre

# WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

2014-2015 Season

September 12, 2014

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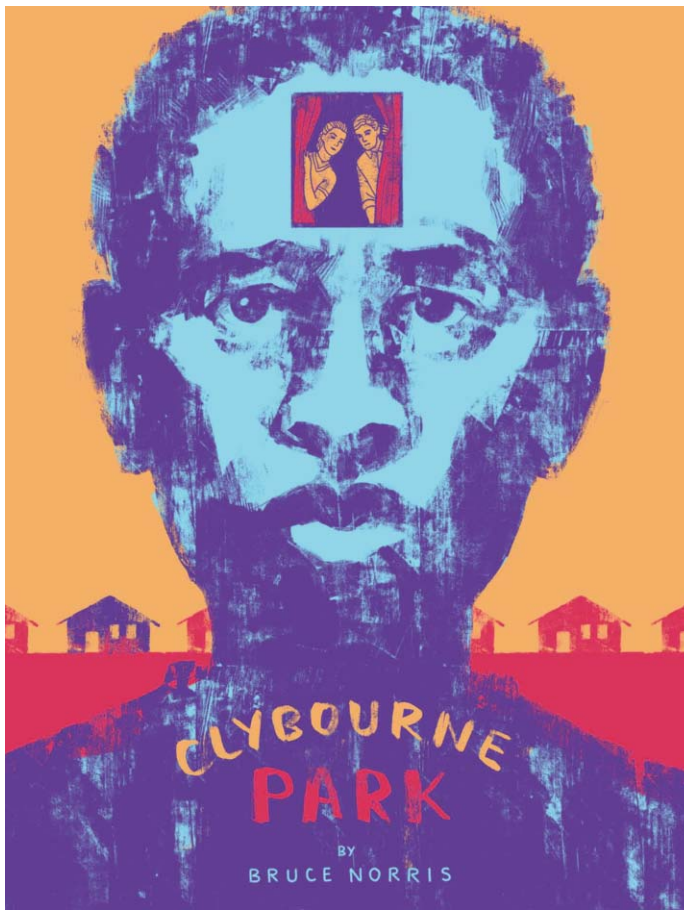
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*by Bruce Norris*

Directed by Sharon Andrews

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Nov. 2 & 9 at 2:00 PM  
Mainstage Theatre

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Subscription includes admission to the Studio Series in Spring of 2015.

To upgrade your ticket to a season pass, please see the Box Office attendant for details.

### **These Shining Lives**

*directed by Cindy Gendrich*  
September 19-21 & 25-28, 2014

### **Waiting for Godot**

*directed by Brook Davis*  
February 6-8 & 12-15, 2015

### **Clybourne Park**

*directed by Sharon Andrews*  
October 31-November 2, 6-9, 2014

### **Love's Labor's Lost**

*directed by John E. R. Friedenberg*  
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