

## **Radium Girls Character Descriptions**

This show is written for actors to have multiple parts, but the cast can be as large as needed. Depending on casting, actors may have more than one role.

Grace Fryer and Mr. Roeder will not be double cast in another role.

### **THE WOMEN IN THE FACTORY:**

GRACE FRYER-A top-notch dial painter, she is the heroine of the play, must have innocence and naivety but show great strength and conviction, 15 at the start of the play, 26 at its close

KATHRYN SCHAUB- Her friend and another dial painter, she is sincere in her friendship and shares the same struggles as Grace, 15 at the start of the play

IRENE RUDOLPH - Kathryn's cousin and another dial painter, 17 at the start of the play, Later she is in her 20s

MRS. ALMA MACNEIL- Their supervisor at U.S. Radium Corp.

### **THE COMPANY MEN:**

ARTHUR ROEDER-President of the U.S. Radium Corp., may seem cold-hearted and evil in his decisions, but he is ambitious and has a different set of motivations, not malicious in nature, 34 at the start of the play, 65 at its close

EDWARD MARKLEY- Legal Counsel for the company

C.B. "CHARLIE" LEE- Vice President of U.S. Radium Corp., later President of the company, supports the company at all costs

DR. VON SOCHOCKY-Founder of the U.S. Radium Corp., Inventor of the luminous paint, validates all with scientific fact and has a long journey to resolution, has a Ukranian accent

### **THEIR FAMILY & FRIENDS:**

TOM KREIDER-Grace's boyfriend, several years older than she

DIANE ROEDER-Married to Arthur Roeder

HARRIET ROEDER- Their daughter, 9 years old at first, later she is in her 30s

ANNA FRYER- Grace's mother

### **THE ADVOCATES:**

KATHERINE WILEY- The executive director, New Jersey Consumer's League

RAYMOND BERRY-An attorney for the dial painters

### **THE SCIENTISTS:**

DR. CECIL DRINKER.....A Harvard industrial hygienist

DR. HARRISON MARTLAND.....The county medical examiner

DR. JOSEPH KNEF.....A dentist

DR. MARIE CURIE..... Discovered radium

FREDERICK FLINN, Ph.D.....Columbia University industrial hygienist

THE PRESS:

REPORTER (JACK YOUNGWOOD).....A reporter, Newark Ledger

SOB SISTER (NANCY JANE HARLAN).....A tabloid reporter, New York Graphic, she provides ongoing commentary throughout the play and ultimately has her own interests in mind as well

THE WITNESSES: WILLIAM J.A. BAILEY.....An entrepreneur, manufacturer of Radithor

MRS. MICHAELS.....A consumer of Radithor SOCIETY

WOMAN.....Mrs. James (Cora) Middleton, a well-bred woman

CLERK.....An overworked public employee

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE CASE.

THE TIME: The 1920s THE PLACE: Orange, New Jersey

Bandon Playhouse Audition Call for Radium Girls.  
Directed by Stephanie Jones

Stephanie Jones moved to Bandon 2 years ago. She has over 20 years in professional theatre as a costume designer, costume shop manager. However one of her most important and favorite experiences was the Artistic Director for Pacific Okinawa Players. Where she directed many shows at the theatre. Every community deserves theatre, art, music and dance. I love that Bandon has a building for the arts. A theatre in town helps develop the skill of theatre, community spirit, and artistic sensibilities of those who participate, whether as producers or audience members. I am excited to get involved in the community and help spread my love of the arts.

"Radium Girls,." Synopsis: Inspired by a true story from the 20's, when radium was hailed as a miracle cure and luminous watch dials were a craze, Radium Girls follows a dial painter, who has contracted a mysterious illness, as she struggles against her employer, her family, and public opinion for recognition and justice.

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.

Author's Note Radium Girls is a work of historical fiction. Although it is based on events that occurred in and around Orange, New Jersey, between 1918 and 1928, the characters and incidents portrayed have been shaped to serve the drama. Certain characters are entirely fictitious and others are based on multiple individuals.

#### Main Character List

##### GRACE FRYER

female. Ages from 15 to 26 A lively and ambitious young woman who finds unexpected fortitude and wisdom through adversity. A Joan of Arc of the factory workers.

##### KATHRYN SCHAUB

female. Ages from 15 – 25 A dial painter, determined and life-loving, and defiant, to a point, as well as other roles.

##### KATHERINE WILEY

25 to 30 years old, female. Among this track's roles: An activist director of the consumer's league, an accommodating dial painter.

### SOB SISTER

35 to 50 years old, female. Among multiple roles: A sensational tabloid reporter, a nonsense taking factory supervisor, a devoted but anxious mother.

### DIANE ROEDER

40 to 60 years old, female. A seemingly obedient corporate wife who upholds a moral standard when those around her fail, along with other roles.

### ARTHUR ROEDER- : Pronounced = REED-er

male. Ages 35 to 65 President of US Radium, a dedicate company man, who slowly comes to realize his vaunted product his poisoning his workers, and becomes a moral champion in defiance of his colleagues—but too late.

### TOM KRIEDER

25 to 30 years old, male. Among this track's roles: a solid, but unambitious boyfriend; an energetic and serious reporter.

### CHARLIE LEE

35 to 60 years old, male. Company booster and corporate climber, among other roles.

### RAYMOND BERRY

35 to 55 years old, male. Civil rights lawyer, committed to bringing justice to a corporate bad actor, among other roles.

### DR VON SOCHOCKY- : Pronounced = VON Sa-SHOCK-y.

40 to 60 years old, male. Among this track's roles: An equivocating corporate counsel, an idealistic scientist, proud of his discovery and then mortified by its effects.