



Radium Girls Audition information

15th - 18th May 2024 - St. Barnabas Church, Southfields

Show summary

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.

Our production

We want the audience to feel like they have stepped onto the streets of New Jersey in the mid 1920s. The play is set over a decade - 1918 to 1928. There will be period costumes with a minimal set design. Our main tool will be acting to translate the power of the script.

Radium Girls has a flexible cast size. We are hoping for 10 actors to portray all 30 characters. From an actor's point of view, you will have the chance to “jump” from one character to another with the help of your voice, your physicality, your costumes and your acting.

Pre-audition meeting

An information evening will be held on **Sunday 25th February at 7.30-8.30pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road, Southfields, SW18 5EP** - which is also where our production will come to life in May! This information evening will give you an idea of the atmosphere and style of the show, as well as answer any questions you might have about our production. It's a great chance to get to know your other auditionees, meet the creative team, and chat to current members about the society.

Auditions

Preliminary auditions will take place on **Thursday 29th February** from 7.30pm-10pm and **Sunday 3rd March** from 2 pm-5 pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road.

The Audition form will be available on the website (www.cygnetplayers.com/shows/radium-girls/) on Sunday 18th February. To book your audition you must submit your form by midnight on Monday 26th February. Audition slots are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Audition slots are for an hour and you will be given a more specific slot a few days before your audition (please check your email and spam). If you have trouble attending any of the available slots, please contact cygnetsradiumgirls@gmail.com.

Recalls for larger rolls will be held on Thursday 7th March from 7.30pm-10pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road. Please note we do not plan to hold recalls for all roles.

Audition pieces

Audition materials for all parts can be found [here](#).

Our production requires most actors to portray more than one character, and the character groupings are listed in the character descriptions below (for example, the actor playing Kathryn will also play Harriet, Society Woman and Board Member #2). For your first audition, you should prepare the audition piece(s) for the characters highlighted in green in your chosen group below. During your audition, we would also like to see how you would portray the other characters in the same group, so please come prepared to do so. We recommend choosing a line or two from your audition piece, and thinking how you would present that line as the different characters in the group.

The materials for the recalls are [here](#). Some characters will be required to repeat material from the first audition.

We strongly suggest that you do some research about the play and your preferred character before the audition. You do not have to know the scenes by heart, but being well acquainted with it would be preferred.

If there is more than one audition piece, please prepare both.

Character descriptions

Note on casting: *Radium Girls* features a flexible cast size of 9 or 10 actors meaning that there will be doubling of characters. While you need only prepare the audition piece(s) for the character(s) highlighted in green in your chosen group below, please choose a line or two from that piece and think about how the other characters in your group would say that line.

Note on gender of parts: Within the doubling of parts, you may have to play both male and female characters. We will be open to changing some genders for the smaller characters.

Note on ethnicity: There are no specified ethnicities in our production so we encourage all ethnicities to apply for any of the roles.

Note on disability accommodation: We encourage people of all abilities to audition. Accessibility information for our rehearsal and performance venues can be found at the end of this document. If you think you may need any specific adjustments for auditions or have any questions please email cygnetsradiumgirls@gmail.com.

Note on accents: An American accent is preferred but not essential; some characters may have emigrated to America from their home countries (such as Ireland), so feel free to bring us something different!

Actor 1:

Actor 1	Note	Age	Description
Kathryn	Main (Woman)	20 to 30	Kathryn is one of the primary dial painters featured in the factory. She is the first of them to realise the extent of their danger. Kathryn most forcefully fights for answers at first, but quickly becomes cynical when faced with corrupt bureaucratic systems and additional complications.
Harriet	Featured (Woman)	15 to 30	Harriet is Arthur and Diane Roeder's daughter. She is nine years old at the beginning of the play, but grows into her 30s at the end.
Society Woman	Featured (Woman)	20 to 30	Mrs. James (Cora) Middleton, also known as Society Woman, is a well-bred woman. She is connected to the Marie Curie Radium Club and hosts a Marie Curie speaker event for reporters and club members.
Board #2	Featured (Man)	25 to 35	Board member in the USRC (United States Radium Corporation)

Actor 2:

Actor 2	Note	Age	Description
Wiley	Main (Woman)	25 to 35	Katherine Wiley is a human rights advocate and the executive director of the New Jersey Consumer's League. She is one of the most determined characters, and she represents the potential for positive future change. She tirelessly fights for the factory girls. Wiley is a selfless individual and is mostly motivated to make the world a better place by helping others as best she can.
Irene	Featured (Woman)	17 to 25	Irene is one of the primary dial painters featured in the factory. She is also Kathryn's cousin. At the beginning of the play, Irene is the most lively of the friends. She is playful and pulls pranks at the factory using their paint. She is straightforward and determined.
Shopgirl	Featured (Female)	15 to 30	Part of the ensemble

Actor 3:

Actor 3	Note	Age	Description
Sob Sister	Main (Woman)	30 to 40	Sob Sister is a tabloid reporter who writes for the New York Graphic. Overtime, she reads news updates and headlines aloud, participates in press conferences, and shares information with the public. She is the representation of how journalists can be heartless in the face of tragic events.
Mrs Alma Macneil	Featured (Woman)	30 to 40	Mrs. Macneil is Grace, Irene, and Kathryn's supervisor in the factory. She is strict about the rules, and wants to ensure the dial painters work at a high level.
Mrs Fryer	Featured (Woman)	45 to 50	Anna Fryer is Grace's mother. She is mostly concerned with Grace's well-being. She is a bit single-minded, focusing mostly on practical things, and doesn't often consider the whole picture.

Actor 4:

Actor 4	Note	Age	Description
Mrs Roeder	Main (Woman)	40 to 50	Diane Roeder is married to Arthur Roeder. Diane is intelligent and feels conflicted between supporting her husband and confronting the accusations made against him.
Marie Curie	Main (Woman)	40 to 55	Dr. Marie Curie is the French scientist who discovered radium. She preaches radium's healing powers, and advertises for fellow women to join the "Marie Curie Radium Club" which is intended to fund radium research focused on humanitarian aid.
Mrs Michaels	Featured (Woman)	40 to 50	Mrs Michaels is a consumer of Radithor (pronounced RAY-da-thor).
Drinker	Featured (Any gender)	35 to 45	Drinker is a Harvard industrial hygienist and an unbiased researcher. Unlike other industry "professionals," Drinker is not paid off by Roeder. Rather, Drinker creates a truthful health report after investigating the U.S. Radium Corporation. (Note: Drinker can be played as a woman or a man as they were both researchers and both investigated the company)
Customer	Featured (Any gender)	40 to 50	Part of the ensemble

Board #1	Featured (Man)	40 to 50	Board member in the USRC (United states radium corporation)
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Actor 5:

Actor 5	Note	Age	Description
Grace Fryer	Main (Woman)	18 to 28	Grace is one of the primary dial painters featured in the factory. She follows instructions diligently and trusts the authority figures around her. However, as her friends begin to exhibit symptoms, she grows into an uncompromising woman who is both stoic and vulnerable.

Actor 6:

Actor 6	Note	Age	Description
Arthur Roeder	Main (Man)	40 to 50	Though Roeder acts rashly in difficult situations, he is not an inherently bad person. He does what he can to protect what he deems to be important, and dehumanises the girls and their difficulties to justify his immoral actions. However, when the reality of radium's detrimental impact on his workers fully sinks in, Roeder feels terrible and regrets his previous mentality and decisions.

Actor 7:

Actor 7	Note	Age	Description
Markley	Main (Man)	30 to 35	Markley is a counsel for the U.S. Radium Corporation, and directly counsels Roeder. Markley is a rational and direct man who is ethically ambiguous.
Photographer	Featured (Man)	30 to 35	Ensemble
Clerk	Featured (Any gender)	30 to 35	Ensemble

Actor 8:

Actor 8	Note	Age	Description
Tom	Main (Man)	25 to 30	Tom is Grace's fiancé. He works as a postal worker and is slightly concerned about finances. He is fully

			dedicated to Grace, and envisions a future with her and their hopeful children.
Reporter	Main (Man)	25 to 30	Reporter is a member of the press who writes for the Newark Ledger. Overtime, he reads news updates and headlines aloud, participates in press conferences, and shares information with the public.

Actor 9:

Actor 9	Note	Age	Description
Lee	Main (Man)	35 to 45	Charlie Lee serves as the Vice President under Roeder at the U.S. Radium Corporation. He later becomes President of the company. The morality of Lee's decisions fluctuate over time.
Flinn	Featured (Man)	40+	Flinn is an industrial hygienist from Columbia University with a Ph.D. Flinn is paid off by the U.S. Radium Corporation.
Bailey	Featured (Man)	30 to 40	Bailey is an entrepreneur and a manufacturer of Radithor (pronounced RAY-da-thor).
Male Shopper	Featured (Man)	30 to 35	Ensemble

Actor 10:

Actor 10	Note	Age	Description
Berry	Main (Man)	30 to 35	Berry is a human rights advocate and an attorney for the dial painters. He is very true to type, as he productively and intelligently works for the common man and fights for justice with wit and heart.
Von Sochocky	Main (Man)	40+	Von Sochocky is the founder and ex-president of the U.S. Radium Corporation. The position was succeeded by Roeder. Von Sochocky also notably invented the luminous paint containing radium, however he didn't know about its poisonous nature at the time of its invention. He feels deeply guilty about his contribution and its harmful impacts.
Knef	Featured (Man)	40+	Dr. Knef is a two-faced dentist. Though he is honest and caring during his first appointments with the factory girls, he quickly becomes manipulative and self-serving when he realizes he can capitalize off their situation.
Martland	Featured (Man)	40+	Martland is the county medical examiner.

Store Owner	Featured (Man)	35 to 45	Ensemble
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Rehearsals and shows

Rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.30pm-10pm. There will be 4 Sunday rehearsals across March to May at 2pm-6pm. Rehearsals will mostly take place at St Barnabas Church Hall, Lavenham Road, Southfields, SW18 5EP. The first rehearsal will be Tuesday 12th March.

As the play is quite long and most actors would be playing many parts, we are planning on having every cast member called for every rehearsal to make it easy to rehearse a scene, work on the text or work on the voice. Please let us know your availability as accurately as possible on the audition form. We understand that people may have long-standing commitments and holiday bookings that can't be moved, but please do your best to prioritise the show as much as possible.

Show week at the venue is from Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th May 2024 with a full cast called:

- Sunday 12th May – Get-in, all cast required 10am-9pm
- Monday 13th – Technical rehearsal, 2pm-Late (cast called from 6pm)
- Tuesday 14h – Dress rehearsal, 5pm-11pm (cast called from 6pm)
- Wednesday 15th- Friday 17th – Shows, call time 6pm-11pm (7:30pm show)
- Saturday 18th – Shows, call time 12pm-Late (2.30pm show, 7.30pm show, get-out)

We may also ask cast members to help promote the show (e.g. through leafleting) in the local area one day closer to the performance dates.

Membership and show fee

There is an audition fee of £10 if you are not a current paid-up member of Cygnet Players. This can be paid at your audition in cash or by card, or please let us know if you wish to make a bank transfer in advance. If you are successful and are cast, you must then become a member of the society. Your £10 audition fee will be offset against your show fee. If you are already a member, you will not need to pay an audition fee.

Membership is £35 a year if you pay as a one-off, or only £30 when you set up a standing order (we can provide you with a standing order form to fill out). This lets you audition for both our musicals within that year, as well as our annual play. It also gives you members' rates for our social events.

In amateur dramatics, because we are self-funded and doing this for fun, a show fee is paid by participants to cover all the costs of the show - things like performance rights, venue hire, scenery, costumes, lighting, insurance and lots more! For *Radium Girls*, the fee will be **£65**.

The cost of living has risen sharply recently and we don't want financial circumstances to be a barrier to participation. If you are concerned about the show fee or membership cost, or due to current circumstances you are unable to pay the full amounts upfront, please speak to the Cygnet Players committee in confidence to arrange a payment plan by emailing info@cygnetplayers.com.

Contact

Please contact cygnetsradiumgirls@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Good luck with your audition!

About Cygnet Players

Cygnet Players is a young and vibrant company based in South West London. We rehearse in Southfields and put on shows in Putney, Fulham and other venues in South West London. We usually perform two musicals and a play every year, as well as putting on various concerts and other events. We also have regular social events, which are great opportunities to meet and catch up with other Cygnets. We always welcome new members, so if this is your first show with us – welcome to the family!

For more information about the company in general, have a look at our website at www.cygnetplayers.com or email info@cygnetplayers.com.

You can also find us on social media:

- Facebook – www.facebook.com/cygnetplayers
- Instagram – [@cygnetplayers](https://www.instagram.com/cygnetplayers)
- TikTok – [@cygnetplayers](https://www.tiktok.com/@cygnetplayers)

Diversity and inclusion

Cygnet Players strives to create an accessible and welcoming environment for members and audiences. We are committed to diversity and inclusion within our casting and storytelling to

ensure there are opportunities for all people, from every walk of life, to take part.

As part of this, we are committed to a conscious casting process; making conscious decisions about how a show can be cast, rather than following the “traditional” model that repeats whatever has been done before. We are always open to non-traditional casting, and conscious artistic decisions will be made whenever race, ethnicity, gender or other factors are a key component of the story or integral to the relationships between characters. Where this is the case, it will be clearly highlighted in character breakdowns.

Cygnets is a member of the South West London amateur theatre societies’ Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Accessibility Group (IDEA): a group of five societies working towards improved diversity and inclusion in amdram.

We are open to feedback to improve our processes and create a warm and welcoming atmosphere that creates opportunities for people of all ethnicities, gender identities and physical abilities.

If you have any suggestions, feedback or ideas please speak to a member of the Committee or Production Team, or email swamdramidea@gmail.com.