Audition Packet

Please read all the information contained in this packet.

Audition    September 4\textsuperscript{th}    @ 3:15
Audition    September 5\textsuperscript{th}    @ 2:45
Callbacks   September 6\textsuperscript{th}    @ 2:45

Help us fight for the rights of the Dial Painters...
Auditions…………………Wednesday, September 4th @ 3:15  
Thursday, September 5th @ 2:45

Callbacks……………….. Friday, September 6th @ 2:45

Performances…………….November 14-16th @ 7:00

AUDITION GUIDELINES

The audition will consist of a dramatic monologue of the student’s choice, which should be between 30 seconds and 1 minute. Please try and keep your monologue within the time limit. Longer does not necessarily mean better. If you have any questions regarding the general auditions, please see Mr. Calvert.

Auditions will take place in the Auditorium.

Students are required to come prepared to the audition with the attached audition form completely filled out. This will help with time management.

SHOW 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. Scripts will be available for check-out when they come in.
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

The rehearsal schedule for *Radium Girls* will be very demanding. Besides unique character development, the cast will be working very hard with script and character analysis, dramatic elements, blocking, and transitions. A commitment must be made to this show to make every rehearsal. The following schedule will be closely followed...

**Monday**    **Tuesday**    **Wednesday**    **Thursday**    **Friday**    **Saturday**
2:45-5:30    2:45-5:30    5:00-8:00    2:45-6:00    2:45-6:00    TBA

No one may miss the last two weeks (tech week & production week) of the rehearsal process. No Exceptions.

CASTING REQUIREMENTS

This show has a large number of casting opportunities for males and females. There are 37+ characters in the show with 12 mature male roles, 15 dramatic female roles, and 10+ Non-gender. Even with the 37+ characters, the characterization demands are extremely challenging. The entire cast must be qualified in the skills of characterization, analysis, and playing dramatic moments and being HONEST. Some of the cast include...

- **Grace Fryer**          Dial painter, protagonist, very challenging
- **Kathryn Schaub**       Dial painter, friend of Garce, romantic
- **Irene Rudolph**        Dial painter, straightforward, friend to Grace
- **Arthur Roeder**        President of the US Radium Corporation
- **Raymond Berry**        Attorney for the Dial Painters
- **Edward Markley**       Counsel for the US Radium Corporation

See attached sheets at end of packet for a full list of characters/descriptions...

MATERIAL SELECTION

For the purpose of this show, please use a comedic/dramatic monologue from any printed play, NO ORIGINAL or FILM Materials. Once a monologue has been found, please analyze it for content, style, and subtext. Really try and understand the meaning of the text and discover the dramatic moments.
Avoid climatic material, which requires great explanation or emotional intensity. Remember your material must have emotional peaks that are used effectively and honestly. In addition, avoid dull and passive pieces that dwell on character or plot exposition. Your character should be actively involved in overcoming obstacles in order to fulfill an immediate objective or decision.

Think of your audition as a 1 minute one act play entitled "The Audition of (your name)", arranged by, produced by, and starring yourself. Your audition should contain: 1) your entrance, 2) introduction of selection, 3) transition from yourself to character, 4) presentation of the selection, 5) transition back to yourself from character, and 6) a thank you.

PRESENTATION

Dress comfortably. Do not try to costume yourself, and avoid apparel that contradicts your character. Avoid hairstyles that might hide your face.

Plan to use just one chair, or nothing, in your staging. The focus should be on you, not the set design.

No props should be used unless it is something you might normally carry (hand props).

CALL BACK INFORMATION

Call Backs will be on Friday, September 6th from 2:45 pm to until we are finished. The callback list will be posted Friday morning on the CALL BOARD outside Mr. Calvert’s room 213, Ms. Haga’s room, 105, and the auditorium. **Please review the character list before coming to callbacks.** Movement exercises and other improvisations could be included in the call back along with reading scenes from the play.

JUST BECAUSE YOU DO NOT MAKE CALL BACKS DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NOT BEING CONSIDERED FOR A PART IN THE CAST. The final cast list will be posted at 7:30 am in the same locations as the call backlist on Monday, September 9th.

Any QUESTIONS please see Mr. Calvert in Room 213.

Good Luck ....
Radium Girls
Character Profiles

Grace (F): She’s our story’s heroine, but her path to this position is not direct. Grace is the definition of a dynamic character. In the early years of her life Grace plays by the rules. She follows instructions, keeps quiet, and quite simply does as she told, trusting that others have her best interests at heart. However, the naivety of her youth soon gives way as she witnesses a taste of the cold realities that life often holds. Once awakened, Grace stoically surges against the tides of power to seek justice for those who have been wronged. Those who seek to fill this role will exhibit their understanding of Grace’s complexity through their scene reads. Ladies, Grace is not an easy assignment. She must display wonderful versatility throughout the show. I want to see her strength, but I also need to see her humanity and vulnerability beneath the surface. Show me her dimensions. Grace carries the show, and the actor who claims her part will show outstanding strength in audition.

Roeder (M): It would be easy to view Mr. Roeder a coldhearted, evil man. Unfortunately, even coldhearted, evil men do not see themselves as such. Roeder is not a malicious man, per say. Yes, he makes a series of horrible, problematic decisions. However, he does so with the belief that he is justified in his actions. At least, that is what he must tell himself to survive each day during his ordeal. Roeder is a man of ambition. He is emblematic of the American success story. He is intelligent, decisive, and innovative. And before you right him off as being purely selfish and conniving, reflect on his motivations. He has a company for which he is responsible. He has employees that require his strength. He has shareholders who require his perseverance. The actor who seeks to fill Roeder’s shoes will display the inner struggle that this all-too-human character undergoes. However, the struggle is only visible in tiny, delicately portioned moments of unintended honesty.

Tom (M): Tom is a decent guy. Quite honestly, I wish Tom displayed a little more complexity in our story. Still, he’s a solid character. He
provides the unwavering emotional support that Grace requires. Did I say unwavering? Whoops. There’s our complexity. Tom loves Grace with all of his being. He stands by her even as her condition deteriorates. Still, he isn’t always one hundred percent in support of Grace’s decisions. He challenges her thinking and fights to convince her of what he believes to be correct. In doing so, he represents those who influence our thinking the very most, our loved ones. Tom does not challenge Grace for the sake of selfishness. His council is intended to protect her. Tom should be played as a typical working-class man of his era. He’s self-reliant, dedicated, and honest.

Markley (M): Markley is the company’s legal representative. Markley’s take on the situation that erupts within the company is simple; he must prevail against those who would bring down his employer. During power struggles, the black and white of right and wrong often gives way to shades grey. We know this to be true, and few exhibit this reality better than Markley. I haven’t quite developed my feel for this character yet. Markley should be portrayed as being an unyielding force of energy for his company. Still, he should not be played blatantly malicious. As is the case with everyone else, he does what he thinks is right.

Lee (M): Mr. Lee is the Vice President, later president, of company. After devoting his life to U.S. Radium he feels compelled to preserve it to the bitter end. Lee works to maintain the company to which he has committed his life. Again, I’m open to some different interpretations of this part. Be creative, and show me your take on the guy.

Sob Sister (F): She’s an interesting character. I’ll be honest, I was a bit surprised to learn just how large of a role she had. She provides the ongoing commentary of our story, filling the audience in with updates between scenes. Ladies, if you seek this role I want to see a somewhat stereotypical take on a reporter of this era. However, be careful. She’s not a cartoon, she’s a person. Sob Sister is our societal conscience, leading an increasingly strong voice of protest against a clearly harmful entity to the public, U.S. Radium. Sound
nice? Well, she isn’t perfect. In the clearly running theme of the show, even Sob Sister looks out for her own interests.

Miss Wiley (F): Here’s our source of inspiration. Miss Wiley is a woman ahead of her time. She campaigns for social justice and seeks to fight tyranny wherever it exists. As the executive director of New Jersey’s Consumer’s League, Miss. Wiley stands up for the working-class men and women of her state. She should be played as unapologetically strong, determined, and idealistic. She is a progressive thinker, and her battle is the make the world a better place for the little people who have no voice. Without these individuals’ tireless efforts, the world would be a much worse place. Ladies, show me strength, pride, and conviction in audition as you read for this role. She is the catalyst for action from which our heroine springs forth.

Kathryn (F): Kathryn is Grace’s partner in battle. Working alongside Grace at U.S. Radium, Kathryn experiences everything that Grace undergoes. She works in tandem with Grace to put forth her argument against their former employer. The actor who seeks to play Kathryn will have a run for her money. A weak actor will play the character without the vital sincerity she requires, given a melodramatic performance during one of the most touching scenes of the show. Give me a clear, honest read of this character in audition. Show me your depth of understanding of Kathryn. Impress me.

Von Sochocky (M): I still don’t pronounce his name correctly. Anyway, I really like this character. He almost seems to be the most sincere male character of the show. He has a long path towards resolution. As the inventor of the magnificent translucent paint, he bears the ultimate responsibility for the deaths of countless human beings. Realizing this truth, he works to do what is right as time progresses. Guys, one thing this character requires is a solid use of dialect. Impress me with your preparation for this role. He’s a wonderful character. He represents the humanity of the company.

Mrs. Roeder (F): I have to be honest, she is present in one of my favorite scenes of the show. Mrs. Roeder is Roeder’s support
mechanism. She positively influences her husband, encouraging his support for those with difficult lives. She also shares in the struggles her husband undergoes, personally dealing with public censure for her husband’s actions. She must battle to find justification for maintain support of her husband amidst an avalanche of condemnation against him. It is no easy task. Again, Mrs. Roeder is not an easy character to portray.

Mrs. Fryer (F): Grace’s wonderful mother, Mrs. Fryer is the guiding force behind Grace’s early development. She is a decent, hardworking woman. Mrs. Fryer is a rational and reasonable person. She stands by her daughter through thick and thin. However, when she feels that her family’s ability to survive is at last on the line, she resolves herself to steer Grace towards a new path. Grace’s ultimate decision towards the end of the play is interesting. Perhaps her mother’s influence convinces her after all. Mrs. Fryer has a wonderful amount of stage time, and she is a solid character.

Berry (M): The council for our protagonists, Berry works to build the case against U.S. Radium. He’s a decent, moral man. He’s also one of the few male characters that isn’t unsympathetic in one way or another. Although I hate saying this, he can be played fairly straightforward. He works on behalf of the common man. He fights for justice.

Knef (M): What do you want him to believe in? He’s more than happy to voice that opinion in your presence. He’s insincere, manipulative, and devoid of convictions. In our first encounter with him we believe he’s a wonderful, sympathetic person. Later on, we see that he’s anything but. Still, as with all human beings, he must believe his actions are justified. He is perhaps the clearest display of one of the show’s themes; he works for his own best interests. Guys, this is not the largest role of the show by any stretch. Still, Knef is a wonderful part to play. He requires versatility and complexity. He will present a challenge, but he’s someone the audience is apt to remember.
Reporter (M): The other half of our dynamic press duo, the Reporter tells joins Sob Sister to present the news to the public. I’m open to a few interpretations of this character. Let’s see what you’re thinking in audition, girls/guys.

Flinn (M): He is an industrial hygienist from Columbia University. Science provides the ultimate truth, right? Scientists see understanding, regardless of where their findings may lead them... right? Well, who’s paying bills? Like anything, science can be corrupted by money. Flinn is a paid consultant who provides credible testimony that U.S. Radium is not responsible for the illness and deaths of its employees.

Irene (F): Yet another colleague of Grace, Irene is one of the first employees to succumb to her illness. She’s a mid-tier character. Not a bad part, to be sure.

Macneil (F): The enforcer! Ms. Macneil is a supervisor at U.S. Radium. As the senior female in a position of management, she takes her job very seriously. She works one step above the girls on the floor, and knows all too well it is her responsibility to keeps things moving smoothly. Management requires responsibility and sacrifice. She does her duty well.

Madam Curie (F): Not a bad role. In audition I will be seeking a candidate who can present a solid dialect. Do your homework, ladies. Show me some preparation. Curie has few decent scenes, so take her seriously.

Society Woman (F): Exemplary of a proper lady, Society Woman leads official ceremonies and hosts the cream of the crop of good society. I want to see polish and refinement on the part of the actor cast in this role.

Clerk (F): A clerk of the court.

Court (M/F): A judge.
Drinker (M): A Harvard industrial hygienist, Drinker is the man behind uncontaminated scientific research. His findings represent actual truth and not paid truth. How is his true presented? Well, out of context at first. Want to favorably quote a man whose work proves your wrongdoing? Easy, just select a few small slivers of what he has written and ignore the rest.

Board Members 1-3 (M/F): These are the U.S. Radium Corporation’s board members. The tow the company line, again, for their own best interests.

Mrs. Michaels (F): “A consumer of Radithor,” which sounds like a descriptions from something on the SciFi Channel. She can’t help it, she loves the stuff!

Harriet (F): is the daughter of Arthur Roeder, Age 9 at the beginning of the play, Harriet loves to climb trees. Later in her 30’s, she tells her father how he needs to forget the past.

Martland (M): He’s “the county medical examiner.”

Lovesick Cowboy (M): kind-hearted man who offers solitude in time of death.

Extras: Townspeople, courtroom attendants, employees of U.S. Radium, etc.
Audition Form

Name: __________________________________

Parent/Guardian Names: __________________________

Address: ____________________________

Home Phone #: (____) ___________ Parents’ Work #: (____) ___________

Cell Phone: __________________________ Age: _______ Grade: _______ Gender: M F

Height: _______ Weight: _______ Hair Color: _______ Id #: _______

Theatre Classes Taken (if any): ____________________________

Class Schedule:  Subject ___________________________ Room ___________________________

- Period 1
- Period 2
- Period 3
- Period 4
- Period 5
- Period 6
- Period 7
- Period 8

CONFLICTS (all rehearsals will be from 2:45-5:45 on M-F unless otherwise noted) Please list ALL conflicts including COLLEGE VISITS/AUDITIONS/CONCERTS/OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

If not cast, would you be willing to help on one of the following committees.... (check one)
Set_____ Props_____ Costumes_____ Publicity:_____

Please read carefully and mark your response in the box below:

I will accept any role:  Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please explain:

"We take our cue from Konstantin Stanislavski: "There are no small parts, only small actors."

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COMMENTS: Possible Role: ___________________________

Voice/Projection 1 2 3 Characterization 1 2 3 Performance 1 2 3

Believability 1 2 3 Presence 1 2 3 Concentration 1 2 3

Preparation 1 2 3 Callback Y/ N

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