

**HAMMOND THEATRE PRESENTS**

*These Shining Lives*



**by Melanie Marnich**

**"If one woman were to tell the truth about her life, the whole world would split open." -Muriel Rukyser**



**November 7-9, 2019**

# Directors' Notes

*These Shining Lives* isn't just a play about the lethal power of radium. It isn't just a play about a factory intentionally endangering its devoted female workers to turn a profit. It isn't just a play about how painful it is to say goodbye to those we love.

This piece of theatre is all of the things mentioned above, but it's so much more, just like the lives of the women in Ottawa, Illinois, who worked for the Radium Dial Company in the 1920's and 1930's. Sometimes a headline reduces a group of people to a singular element of their humanity, but this production doesn't do that. The word "shining" has two distinct meanings, in addition to deeper connotations throughout the play. I'd like to offer two of the definitions from Merriam Webster:

- Shining** (adj)
1. Emitting or reflecting light
  2. Possessing a distinguished quality

Catherine, Charlotte, Pearl, Frances, and many other women did literally shine: the radium was absorbed into their bodies from the "lip, dip, paint" routine they used on hundreds of watches per day, yet they also glowed from the inside out. These women and those who helped them fight for justice were truly distinguished. They were united in their courage and hope as they stood against a company that dismissed them, lied to them, and slandered their names. They truly shined, though their time was cut short.

It has been my pleasure to bring this important story to life. I'm immensely proud of the cast, crew, and production team, and of the commitment and creativity they've brought to this process. Many of the ideas you see on stage today are a result of true collaboration.

There's another definition for the word shine: "to perform extremely well." Our hope is that we have done this and brought you two hours of thought-provoking, compelling story telling.

- Lauren Tobiason

**In consideration of the performers and the audience, cell phone use and flash photography during the performance are prohibited. No food or drink is allowed in the auditorium (water is acceptable).**

**Please turn off all cell phones prior to the start of the show!**

# THESE SHINING LIVES

THESE SHINING LIVES received its World Premiere at Baltimore Center Stage in Baltimore, MD, 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, IL.

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

THESE SHINING LIVES is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services, Inc., New York.

**PLACE:** Chicago & Ottawa, Illinois | **SETTINGS:** Catherine & Tom's Home, The Radium Dial Workroom, Courtroom, The Shore of Lake Michigan | **TIME:** 1920s & 1930s

## Production Team

**DIRECTOR | Lauren Tobiason**

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR | Donald Chiarella**

**ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR | Pat Burns**

**COSTUME DESIGNER | Jacqui Maranhville**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | Isabel Berry**

**STAGE MANAGER | Emilia Azurmendi**

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS | Kaiya Bumbray & Katie Mason**

## Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the administrative and custodial teams for their essential support. We would also like to thank:

- Ms. McDonald for meal coordination
- Jonathan Hawkins for assistance with sound
- Mrs. McKirahan for printing and creative inspiration
- Hannah Grabenstein for rehearsal assistance
- The Meklir family for rehearsal photography
- Wilde Lake Theatre department for prop assistance
- Chinaza Ezeh for the trailer
- Sarah Lynn Nibber for acting insights
- The performing arts departments at Hammond for their support and flexibility
- Theatre department families for generously donating their time and energy

# The Cast

CATHERINE	<b>Skylar Shaffer</b> <b>Sarah Meklir</b>
TOM	<b>Carlos O’Ryan</b> <b>Ali Khalid</b>
CHARLOTTE	<b>Danielle Gilbert</b> <b>Julia Steinberg</b>
MR. REED	<b>John White</b> <b>Isaiah Olujide</b>
FRANCES	<b>Jasmine Britt</b> <b>Katie Marshall</b>
PEARL	<b>Sera Chase</b> <b>Sydney Finger</b>
GROSSMAN	<b>Avery Moe</b> <b>Kristina McKirahan</b>
COMPANY DOCTOR	<b>Michael McDonald</b> <b>Riley de Leeuw</b>
DR. DALITSCH	<b>Kelly Kujawa</b> <b>Kennedy Grant</b>
DR. ROWNTREE	<b>Sydney Phillips</b> <b>Jordan Kreh</b>
SON/RADIO ANNOUNCER	<b>Matthew Dietrich</b> <b>Deacon Sweeting</b>
DAUGHTER/REPORTER 2	<b>Zoe Sanders</b> <b>Alara Sheriff</b>
REPORTER 1	<b>Rachel England</b> <b>Max de Leeuw</b>
JUDGE	<b>Evan Jacobs</b> <b>Isabel Moskov</b>

Performers listed first appear Thursday and Saturday evening.  
Those listed second appear Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

# The Crew

## Sound

Jackson Biggs\*  
Melina Guth  
Carter Rakestraw  
Logan Seely  
Rahil Young

## Lights

Kofi Adu-Gyamfi  
Cynthia Amaghi  
Sean Becraft  
Gabriel Bierly  
Ana Davis\*  
Abigail Engle  
Jake Henschell  
Cameron Jones\*  
Isabel Sinnott  
Grayer Warren

## Costumes

Kyle Anderson  
Hallie Benda\*  
Chloe Booher\*

## Construction/Paint

Samantha Biggs  
Piper Burke  
Madeline Del Favero  
Nathan Hefty  
Emani Jones  
Helima Kargbo  
Ronan Kramer  
Ronan Kramer  
Robin Liao\*  
James Lightfoot  
Krista Matthew  
Bhumi Patel  
Lynn Phillips  
Genise Saint Vel  
Haven Sanders  
Maggie Vance\*  
Jenna Wilson  
Marissa Yelenik

\*denotes running crew

## CandyGrams

The sweetest way to say congratulations to a member of the cast or crew is with a CandyGram! Your candy will be delivered with your personalized note during intermission.

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# Biographies

**EMILIA AZURMENDI** (Stage Manager) is excited to work on her last play. She has enjoyed being a part of tech crew for all four years and is looking forward to continuing helping with theatre in the future.

**HALLIE BENDA** (Costume and Design) has been with the Theatre department at Hammond for three years. She's excited to help with *These Shining Lives*, and hopes to do more in the future!

**ISABEL BERRY** (Assistant Director) is a senior and loves theatre! She is also super excited for you to see the show. Isabel has been in nearly every play and musical since her freshman year, but has never been in production before. She wants to thank the cast, crew, and production team for making her last play at Hammond a fantastic and memorable experience!

**SAMANTHA BIGGS** (Tech Crew) was previously in tech crew did *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and was in the musical *Cinderella*. Now looking forward to a great opportunity to put on a great show this coming season with a great cast and crew.

**JASMINE BRITT** (Frances) is excited about the show. She is thankful for everyone around her for being so supportive. Jasmine hopes to be in more shows in the future.

**KAIYA BUMBRAY** (Assistant Stage Manager) is currently in her third year of theatre class at Hammond. Kaiya loves to study Dramaturgy and professional Stage Management. She is very excited to help out with this amazing production!

**SERA CHASE** (Pearl) is a senior at Hammond. She cannot wait for her first and sadly last play appearance. Sera wants to thank all of the cast, crew, and production team involved in this shining show. And she hopes to see you all in a few months for the musical.

**ANA DAVIS** (Co-Head of Lighting Crew) is enjoying her fourth year of lighting at Hammond. She'd like to thank all of the people who worked to make this show great, especially the rest of the lighting crew!

**MATTHEW DIETRICH** (Radio Announcer/Son) is thankful for the opportunity to perform with this amazing cast. As a freshman, he is excited for a future in the theater department.

**RACHEL ENGLAND** (Reporter 1), a sophomore, is very thrilled to be in her first Hammond production. She has made many great friends while in theatre and is excited to do more productions.

**SYDNEY FINGER** (Pearl), a junior, is in her fourth theatre production at Hammond. Sharing this experience with her fellow thespians, especially the Factory Girls, has been such an amazing opportunity. Growing closer with her friends has been such a blessing.

**DANIELLE GILBERT** (Charlotte), a junior, is so proud to be a part of Hammond's fall production. She'd like to thank her closest friends, family, and her loving boyfriend for always supporting her passions.

# Biographies

**KENNEDY GRANT** (Dr. Dalitsch) is very excited to start her theatre journey as a freshmen with this year's production of *These Shining Lives*.

**EVAN JACOBS** (Judge) is ready for his fifth production in a row at Hammond. Everything will be in order with him on stage!

**CAMERON JONES** (Co-Head of Lights) has done lighting for the Hammond Theatre Department for four years and enjoys working behind the scenes.

**ALI KHALID** (Tom) is excited to perform in his first play ever during his senior year. Ali was in *Cinderella* last year and is now in Theatre 3 GT. He also is currently a part of Hammond's marching band. He's proud of everyone's hard work and hopes you enjoy the show.

**JORDAN KREH** (Dr. Rowntree) is a senior who loves being in Hammond's musicals, but never before had the chance to perform in a play. Jordan is honored to help tell the story of these strong women and their families. She would like to thank Mrs. Tobiason for including her this year and everyone who supported her in the theatre program.

**KELLY KUJAWA** (Dr. Dalitsch) is excited to be a part of her fifth production. She's incredibly grateful to have the support of her friends and family. Enjoy the show!

**MAX DE LEEUW** (Reporter 1) is a freshman at Hammond and is excited to be a part of this play! He's excited to participate in future plays too.

**RILEY DE LEEUW** (Company Doctor) is a junior at Hammond and has participated in *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *The Wedding Singer*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Cinderella*. He enjoys reading, playing the viola, and hanging with friends. He is excited to return!

**KATIE MARSHALL** (Frances) is a senior who is so excited to have joined the Hammond Theatre Department! She is beyond thrilled to be a part of *These Shining Lives*, her first theatre production. She would like to thank her mom, dad, dog, and friends for enthusiastically supporting her pursuit of theatre, as well as Mrs. Tobiason and the show's amazing cast and crew.

**KATIE MASON** (Assistant Stage Manager) has worked on every show since her freshman year. This is her first year working on a production crew and she's looking forward to working on many more productions.

**MICHAEL MCDONALD** (Company Doctor) is a sophomore. He is excited to participate in his third Hammond Theatre production.

**KRISTINA MCKIRAHAN** (Grossman) is a junior returning to Hammond's Theatre Department for her third year and she looks forward to acting in another amazing performance!

**SARAH MEKLIR** (Catherine) is a junior in her fifth production at Hammond. She's honored to be involved in such a wonderful, earnest, and powerful show with this incredible group of individuals.

# Biographies

**AVERY MOE** (Grossman) is a junior who is very excited to be in her third production at Hammond.

**ISABEL MOSKOV** (Judge) is in her third show at Hammond and she is very excited to perform with her friends. She is also glad she didn't forget to write a bio this time.

**ISIAH OLUJIDE** (Mr. Reed) is a senior and is very happy to have added theatre to his list of things he did in high school including, marching band, percussion, and animation. This is his second play with Hammond and his third production. He is more than excited for you all watch his boss performance in this rich play with good laughs, and touching moments.

**CARLOS O'RYAN** (Tom) is a senior and this is his fifth show and unfortunately, final play at Hammond. You might remember Carlos as various antagonists in shows such as *12 Angry Jurors* and *The Wedding Singer*, but occasionally he's likable enough to play a nice guy, like Prince Topher in *Cinderella*. Occasionally. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**SYDNEY PHILLIPS** (Dr. Rowntree) is a senior this year. This is her fifth Hammond production, fourth being in the cast. She was a part of the pit orchestra for *Cinderella*, playing the cello, which she enjoyed. She loves the sense of community that the cast has and shares, and is grateful to be a part of it!

**ZOE SANDERS** (Daughter/Reporter 2) began her theatrical journey at the end of her sophomore year. This will be her fourth production at Hammond. She is grateful for the theatre department and the amazing opportunities it has given her. She also thanks the lovely cast and crew for being so supportive, caring and accepting. Although she is graduating this year, she will forever remember the experiences and memories of the past three years.

**SKYLAR SHAFFER** (Catherine) is a junior in her 4th show at Hammond. She considers landing the part of Catherine her biggest accomplishment and is ecstatic to perform in *These Shining Lives*!

**DEACON SWEETING** (Radio Announcer/Son) is a sophomore and this is the second production he's ever done. He is excited to be in *These Shining Lives*.

**ALARA SHERIFF** (Daughter/Reporter 2) has been in three Hammond productions. It keeps getting better and better each show and she loves everyone that is involved. She's glad to be a part of such an amazing cast!

**JULIA STEINBERG** (Charlotte) is excited to be in her first production at Hammond as a freshman! She would like to thank Mrs. Tobiason for this opportunity and the cast for being so welcoming.

**JOHN WHITE** (Mr. Reed) is thrilled to be in his fifth Hammond Production. John is now in his Senior year, previously being seen on shows like *The Wedding Singer*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Cinderella*. John hopes you have a good day (or night) while watching, and with his biggest role to date, he hopes you enjoy the show as much as he does.

So proud of you Sarah!!  
We love watching you  
pursue your passion,  
work hard, and make  
magic on stage with your  
amazing classmates!  
We love you  
- Mom, Dad, & Sean



Congratulations to our Shining  
Star, Sera!

You found your way back to the  
stage.

Continue to shine bright in all  
that you do!

- Love Mom and Dad

## SHOUT OUTS!

Break a leg, Julia! We're very proud of you!

- Love, Mom, Dad, and Michael

Sydney Finger we are so proud of you! You are certainly a 'shining  
life' in our lives!

- Love, Mom, Dad, Alex and of course Sasha!

Many thanks to the HCPSS Print Shop for these beautiful programs!

- Hammond Theatre



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*Central Maryland  
Youth Ballet  
Company*  
PRESENTS

# The Nutcracker Ballet

December 20 & 21, 2019

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm & Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm  
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School  
Performing Arts Center  
17301 Old Vic Blvd., Olney, MD 20832  
Ticket Prices: \$22 (adult~19 years & older)  
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# Upcoming Events

## - WINTER MUSIC CONCERTS -

Band and Orchestra: December 5 at 7pm

Choir, Jazz, & Percussion: December 10 at 7pm

## - DANCE COMPANIES & CLASSES IN CONCERT -

January 16 at 7pm

January 18 at 2pm and 6pm

Snow Date: January 25 at 7pm



## - SPRING MUSICAL -

### INFORMATIONAL MEETING

November 21, 2:15pm-2:45pm, room 104

### AUDITIONS

December 2 - December 4

### PERFORMANCES

March 12-14 at 7pm, March 14 at 2pm

Visit us at: [hammondhightheatre.org](http://hammondhightheatre.org)