

THESE SHINING LIVES

Based on the true story of the spirited women who worked at the Radium Dial Company

For Immediate Release | Feb 23, 2023



Next month, **The Studio Theatre™ Tierra del Sol** (806 San Marino Drive, The Villages, FL) opens the fourth and final production of its seventh season, *These Shining Lives*, by Melanie Marnich.

In 1922 Catherine joins Charlotte, Frances, and Pearl to work at the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa, Illinois. They are hired to paint glow-in-the-dark watch faces with the newly discovered element, radium. The company pays by the watch, encouraging them to be as efficient as possible while disregarding potential risks. Over the next decade, mysterious problems arise that threaten their health. Bonded by years of friendship, they decide to fight against the corporation that kept them in the dark about the true risks of working with a radioactive material. Based on the true story of the "Radium Girls," *These Shining Lives* shares their spirit, energy, and verve. Moving but never dreary, this lovely imaginative play tells their story of persistence, friendship, and justice that inspired lasting change.



ASHLEIGH ANN GARDNER (Catherine Donohue) is an Orlando based Actress and was most recently seen on The Studio Theatre's stage in *The Cake* and *Ada and the Engine*. For her role in *The Cake*, Gardner received a Broadway World Nomination in 2022 for best Performer in a Play. Gardner has her Master's Degree in Literary, Cultural, and Textual Studies from the University of Central Florida. A multi-instrumentalist, Ashleigh plays 6 and 12-string acoustic guitar, electric guitar, soprano ukulele, and mandolin. A member of the Dramatists Guild of America Ashleigh was the recipient of a \$5,000 playwriting grant from New Generation Theatrical for her play *Qualia: a post nuclear play*, presented at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in October 2019. *Qualia* was subsequently given a Virtual Reading by The Studio Theatre in May of 2020. For more, visit ashleighgardner.com.

806 San Marino Drive, The Villages, FL 32159
(352) 751-7799 | www.TheSharonStudio.com

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CLARE LOPEZ (Charlotte / Reporter #1) Clare is from Sacramento, CA and *These Shining Lives* will be her debut at The Studio Theatre. She is currently the Director of Education at Book From Tape Acting Studios and repped by Brevard Talent Group. She has her BA in Theatre & Music from Saint Martin's University. And she's a Graduate of Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Of her performance in *Peter & The Starcatcher*, at the Baldwinsville Theatre Guild, Len Fonte reviewed, "*Lopez is winsome and strong as the precocious Molly. Clearly embodying the girl power that drives the show, she is firmly in control, and in a show driven by whimsy, never looks silly, even when speaking in with her father in a silly dodo language.*" More on Lopez here: www.clare-lopez.com.

The complete cast includes: **Robin Dunavant** (Frances/ Reporter #2/ Official), **Cayla L. Jones** (Pearl/ Daughter/ Judge 2), **Joe Metcalf** (Tom Donohue/ Dr. Rowntree/ Dr. Dalitsch), **Kevin Kelly*** (Mr. Reed/ Radio Announcer/ Company Doctor/ Son/ Judge/ Leonard Grossman), **Kimberly DiPersia** (U/S Catherine/ Pearl) and **Leslie Becker** (U/S Charlotte/ Frances).

The Theatre Management and Creative Teams are composed of Producer **Jason Goedken** and Artistic Director **Whitney Morse**; Associate Artistic Director, **Angel Creeks**; Director, **Nathaniel Niemi**; Dramaturgy/ Assistant Stage Manager, **Stephanie Bezio**; Set Designer/ Props Design/ Set Dressing, **Joshua E. Gallagher**; Costume Designer **Kristen Taylor**; Lighting Designer/Lead Electrician, **Collin Hall**; Lighting Director, **Mason Shell**; Original Music and Sound Design, **Alexander Sovronsky**; Audio System Designer, **Luke Bezio**; Projections & Audio Programmer, **Amanda Nipper**; Director of Production, **Danielle Paccione**; Technical Director, **Clayton Becker**; Company Manager/Videographer, **Ryan Loeckel**; Production Manager, **Leslie Becker**; Stage Manager, **Madison Youngblood**; Swing Stage Manager, **Grace Zottig**; Lead Carpenter, **Alison Scharvella**; Literary and Casting Associate, **Jordan Gregson**; Senior Marketing Coordinator, **Taylor Adkins**; Marketing Associate, **Olivia Williamson**; The Studio Theatre House Manager, **Alec Speers**; Assistant House Managers, **Nichole Pollack**, **Eve Kopsolias**, and **Mark Kirschenbaum**.

- **What:** *These Shining Lives*
- **Where:** The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, 806 San Marino Drive, The Villages, FL.
- **When:** March 28 – April 29, 2023
- **For tickets:** www.TheSharonStudio.com | (352) 751-7799
- **Price:** \$15 previews | \$35 performances | **NEW Student Discount \$10 Off**
- **Sign Language Interpretation Show:** April 18, 2023

The Studio Theatre's Mission is to inspire the residents of Central Florida to examine relevant issues by elevating them through innovative and intimate storytelling. **Think outside the box, inside the box.**

Media Contacts for The Studio Theatre are:

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*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers, appearing under a special agreement with Actors' Equity Association.