

Corona Del Mar's Radium Girls Radiates With Female Empowerment written by Mia Perez, a senior at Aliso Niguel High School

Paying homage to the 1920s Radium Girls, Corona Del Mar High School's production of Radium Girls encapsulates women's struggle to be heard in a male-dominated field. As female dial painters—Grace Fryer, and Kathryn Shaub, amongst others—begin reporting illnesses they believe to be a result of exposure to radium, they demonstrate immense determination against the men who aim to silence them.

Brooklyn Hamilton as Grace Fryer depicts Grace's growth from being a meek, obedient worker in the factory to an empowered woman who has found strength in her voice, demanding justice and respect from those who have wronged her and her friends.

Mady Lubavin and Keirnan Stoughton as Diane and Arthur Roeder depict the underlying misogyny of the 1920s. Lubavin channels a motherly nature and a balance of emotions, even as Stoughton belittles and insults her in an outburst caused by his pent-up frustrations.

Dr. Sabin A. Von Sochocky (Nolan Crane) embodies true heartbreak through a quivering voice and hand when he reveals the true effects of radium exposure, expressing utmost guilt through his physicality.

The synchronization of the Radium Girls working in the factory repeating a cycle of motions illustrated how mundane the work truly was and set the ambiance of the workplace. Their synchronization later returns in Grace's nightmare, creating a sense of unease. Marie Curie's (Dania Obaidi) voice booming over the actions creates a haunting effect.

Makeup design (Natt Ashworth) in conjunction with lighting (Emma Duluas) creates the eerie atmosphere of Grace's nightmare through UV lights and glow-in-the-dark paint on each of the Radium Girls' faces, giving the illusion that their faces were stretching out as a result of their illnesses. Ashworth's design additionally illustrates the progression of the girls' health throughout the show, through the necrosis on jaws and Dr. Von Sochocky's hand.

The modular set design (Kaelen Knowles) allows for multiple areas of play throughout the show, and the stage manager, Katherine Popper, times each set change in synchronization with both lights and sound cues (Kayde Osgood).

Radium Girls at Corona Del Mar speaks to women both across history and today and truly embodies women's constant fight to make their voices known.