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**PERFORMING ARTISTS
COLLECTIVE ALLIANCE**

1505 State St. Erie, PA • (814)616-PACA • paca1505.org

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing

RADIUM GIRLS

BY D.W. GREGORY

directed by **Char Newport & Zachery Hoffman**

Bella Fried • Ava Gardner • Kristina Perzel • Karen Biebel • Hannah Richardson
Luke Scribner • Eric Learn • Michael/Ariel Jeffrey • Michael Harper • Sam Comfort



Purchase tickets at paca1505.org

3 weekends • 8 performances

July 18 - Aug 03, 2025

[Thu Fri & Sat] Doors 7:00pm • Show 7:30pm
[Sun Matinee] Doors 1:30pm • Show 2:00pm

Performing Artists Collective Alliance

1505 State Street, Erie, PA (814)616-PACA

Northwest

ECGRA

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CAST

Grace Fryer: Bella Fried

Roeder: Luke Scribner

Kathryn/Society Woman/Harriet/Shopgirl/Board Member #1:

Ava Gardner

Irene Rudolph/Katherine Wiley/Mrs. Michaels: Kristina Peszel Hayes

Sob sister/Mrs. MacNeil/Clerk/Mrs. Fryer: Karen Biebel

Mrs. Roeder/Marie Curie/Clerk/Customer/Board Member #3:

Hannah Richardson

Lee/Bailey/Male Shopper/Court/Lovesick Cowboy: Eric Learn

Tom/Dr. Knef/Reporter/Venecine Salesman: Michael Harper

Dr. Von Sochocky/Markley/Widow/Photographer: Sam Comfort

Raymond Berry, Fredrick Flinn PhD, Dr. Harrison Martland, Dr. Cecil

Drinker, Store Owner: Michael/Ariel Jeffrey

CREW

Directors: Char Newport & Zachery Hoffman

Stage Manager: Kenna Stevens

Stage Crew: Bethany Trempel

Technical Direction: Dave Schroeder

Dramaturg: Rie Witherow

up
next>>>>

Benevolent Beers, Erie Ale Works: Jul 31

Erie Gives Day: Aug 12

American Idiot: Aug 21-31

Vaudeville Frolic: Sep 6

POTUS: Sep 11-21

**info & tickets:
www.paca1505.org**



Ava Gardner (she/her) (Kathryn/Society Woman/Harriet/Shopgirl/Board Member #1) is so moved to be returning to PACA after ten years. She is a junior Musical Theatre major at Long Island University and has recently performed in two devised/original works there. You can find Ava on social media @avacadabruh and she hopes you enjoy the show! Fun Fact: Radium has hundreds of isotopes, including one whose half-life is 1,600 years!

Michael Harper (He/Him) (Tom/Dr. Knef/Reporter/Venecine Salesman) is grateful to be making his PACA debut this year. He's recently been seen in Ruthless at Mercyhurst, along with Julius Caesar at Shakespeare in the Park. Fun Fact: In 1928, a cartoon titled Steamboat Willie debuted the character Mickey Mouse.

Michael/Ariel Jeffrey (he/she) (Raymond Berry, Fredrick Flinn PhD, Dr. Harrison Martland, Dr. Cecil Drinker, Store Owner) is very excited to do his second show at PACA! Michael was recently seen in Boys in the Band at PACA as the Midnight Cowboy and Prince of Egypt at the Erie Playhouse as a member of the dance ensemble. Ariel is thankful to everyone in her life that has made his parts in Radium Girls possible! Fun Fact: Miles B. Kitts, Erie's Mayor in the 1920s, was nearly indicted for "neglect to discharge duties" due to his perceived permissiveness towards the speakeasies and brothels in the city.

Eric Learn (he/him) (Lee/Bailey/Male Shopper/Court/Lovesick Cowboy) is excited to make his PACA debut with Radium Girls. Having nothing done any theater before, he couldn't ask for a better cast or crew to dip his toes in the water! Fun Fact: Radium is more scared of you than you are of it! It won't hurt you as long as you believe it can't!! [This official statement from a representative of the US Radium Corporation has not been evaluated for accuracy by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.]

Kristina Peszel Hayes (she/her) (Irene Rudolph/Katherine Wiley/Mrs. Michaels) is thrilled to be making her stage debut at PACA. Inspired by Kate Moore's history on the Radium Girls (and the encouragement of her sister-in-law), she can't wait to take the stage with the rest of the cast to tell this story. Fun Fact: The first feature-length talkie, The Jazz Singer, was released in 1927; it was also the first musical!



Karen Biebel (She/ Her) (Sob Sister/Mrs. MacNeil/ Mrs. Fryer) is overwhelmingly excited to get to be a part of this play that gives all the feels. She is also thrilled to get to witness such wonderfully talented humans just play off of each-other. Most importantly, she wants to thank her husband, Matt, for always being in her corner, her one and only somebody and her best friend. Fun Fact: People of the 1920s had an energy and enthusiasm for all sorts of fads, but especially events that tested the limits of human endurance, such as eating competitions, gum-chewing contests, long-distance tango races, and kissing marathons.

Sam Comfort (he/him) (Dr. Von Sochocky/Markley/Widow/Photographer) is making his PACA debut with Radium Girls. He is a veteran of media productions for the better part of 15 years, including Anything Goes, Carnival, Dracula, Our Town, MIndhunter, and numerous student films. He is very proud to be part of such a dynamic cast and production. He would like to thank his wife, Averie, for her support and encouragement in his return to the stage. Fun Fact: Sam's family has a long labor history. As recent immigrants to the United States in the 1920s, they worked in the steel and glass industries that thrived in the Pittsburgh area. They were also all proud union members and labor safety advocates, roles that continue to this day.

Bella Fried (they/them) (Grace Fryer) is a Gannon theater design major. They've recently enjoyed helping design The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Midsummer Night's Dream, and Steel Magnolias at Schuster Theatre. Fun Fact: The First Red Scare in 1919-1920 contributed to a significant reduction in the influence of labor unions throughout the 1920s.

Luke Scribner (he/him) is happy to be returning for his third show at PACA (previous shows include The Lion in Winter, Long Day's Journey Into Night, and Single Bookstore at Drama shop). Apart from theatre, Luke enjoys other creative outlets such as drawing, working on independent cartoons, and playing D&D with his friends. Fun Fact: In 1925, Robert Kolbe, son of an Erie fish magnate, patented a flash-freezing method; Clarence Birdseye wouldn't patent his method for another two years.

Hannah Richardson (she/her) (Mrs. Roeder/Marie Curie/Clerk/Customer/Board Member #3) is proud to make her PACA debut with this show, cast, and crew. She can be seen all around town, haunting local theatres, lost in a book at the public library, or filming for her Youtube channel (@secondwaltzstudios). You can see Hannah next alongside her sister in their act for the Vaudeville Frolic which is raising funds for PACA's 5th floor renovations! Fun Fact: Vaudeville, the notorious theatre movement from the 1890s-1930s, is an integral part of theatre culture today, and has given us so many greats like Charlie Chaplin and Josephine Baker.



PACA currently has several studio spaces available for rent, ideal for artists, small businesses, or non-profits. For more information, text Mark at 814-434-0687



Zachery Hoffman (he/him) (Director) is so excited to be making his Directing debut at PACA with Radium Girls. Recent Directing credits include: Would You? Or How My Roommate Turned into a Hotdog, The Brother's Size, Incognito, The Antipodes, Stop Kiss and multiple otherwise productions. He loves bringing his visions to life and helping an entire team tell a story. Fun Fact: Prohibition, which started in 1919, led to Erie's significant role in providing Canadian liquor like whisky to northwestern Pennsylvania and the surrounding regions.

Char Newport (she/her) (Director) is thrilled to be making her directing debut with this timely and powerful play. She has been in several plays since she began acting in 2019, and has played - among other things - a zombie, a goat and a New Jersey housewife on the PACA stage. When not in the theater, she owns Creature Connection, a pet sitting business. Fun Fact: Maria Salomea Skłodowska-Curie[a] (Marie Curie) was one of the first Polish mountaineers. She established routes in the Tatras and was one of the first women to wear trousers when climbing the mountains.

Kenna Stevens (they/he) (Stage Manager) never seems to stop picking things up and putting them down for various productions around Erie, including stage managing PACA's recent production of Bat Boy, and also as their job on the WQLN show Chronicles. Fun Fact: Presque Isle used to be an EPA-designated superfund site when a failed natural gas well (dug in 1910 and abandoned in 1920) began leaking noxious sludge onto Beach 7. It has since been plugged and no longer poses a threat to human health... probably.

Bethany Trempel (she/her) (Stage Crew) is excited to join the crew for Radium Girls after taking a break from theater to get her masters in counseling. This will be her first show with PACA. Fun Fact: In the 1920s, X-rays were used at stores to see if people's shoes fit correctly.

Rie Witherow (they/them) (Dramaturg) is elated to be able to lean back into their historian roots for this production. They spend more time backstage than on. Some favorite directing roles include The Musical Comedy of 1940 and The Crucible. They previously ran Edinboro University's theater where they continually taught the ideology of the importance of historical and political education in theatre. They believe from that work we can change our artistic culture and re-radicalize the arts. Not So Fun Fact: The bodies of the Radium Girls registered as radioactive up until the 90's. They very well might still be radioactive. The graves have not been checked since.

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