Directed by Jo Slowik

NOVEMBER 13 - 15
NOVEMBER 19 - 22

Philip Lynch Theatre Box Office:

Wednesday – Friday, 1 – 4:30 pm

Phone: (815) 836-5500
Email: boxoffice@lewisu.edu
Website: www.lewisu.edu/plt
Twitter & Facebook: @pltlewisu

Best way to contact us is email or through our social media sites. We are not checking voicemails on Mondays and Tuesdays. Thank you for your patronage.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

“Marnich has an ear for warm, natural dialogue that eschews snark quips and truisms... the play’s linguistic honesty satisfies.” – Time Out

“... has a humanistic glow... clockwork precision... an initially comic and ultimately tragic look at how individual women find employment within a system more concerned with profit than safety.” – Variety

“Perfect, touching and wistful... beautifully tragic.” – Talkin’ Broadway

“...subtly stylized language and a sensibility that’s delicately oddball, even when probing troubling topics.” – The Washington Post

“The stakes couldn’t be more vividly portrayed. Catherine’s courage shines brighter as body weakens. Still, we leave the theater aching from the impact of this true tale, which only gains power from the artifice of its telling.” – ExpressMilwaukee.com

“...genuine, moving, and a true work of art that will pull at your heartstrings and leave you thinking long after the final curtain.” – BroadwayWorld.com
Rehearsals for *These Shining Lives* began October 12. There are six student actors, one student stage manager and the director attending rehearsals in the PLT which has a physical distance capacity of forty-three. Two weekly rehearsals have taken place on Zoom to minimize our time together. In addition there were scheduled rehearsals with as few as one or two actors. The production plan is to film the show, and stream the recorded performance. There are two scheduled live post-show talkbacks, on opening night and Thursday, Nov. 19, since theatre students won’t have the live performance experience.

Additional face-to-face protocols cover all of the following:

- Use of the Lewis App for health screening.
- QR code scanning for contact tracing in production spaces.
- Reduced contact between students and staff via physical distancing.
- Hand washing protocols.
- Sanitization of high touch surfaces including props and stage furniture.
- Sanitization of shared equipment such as in makeup room, costume shop and the tech booth.
- Reduced physical contact in close shared spaces, such as dressing rooms, and tech booth.
- Everyone in the performance space is masked, and physically distant both on and off the stage.
- Performers will use body microphones for the filming of the production.
- At no time will a performer physically touch another performer unless they are wearing gloves.
- Production staff are masked and physically distancing at all times when attending rehearsals, dress rehearsals and filming.
- Taking temperatures twice during the face-to-face time spent together.
- Rehearsal notes are given electronically through a private Facebook group for the cast and crew to reduce time spent together.
- Actors will have staggered call times for use of the makeup room. The space has been measured, and current social distancing allows for six performers in Makeup 1 and three performers in Makeup 2.
- The tech booth and crew will follow the same physical distancing, and sanitization protocols as the performers.

**PLT FACULTY**

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Catherine Wolfe Donohue (played by Kyra Savage of Romeoville) opens *These Shining Lives* by stating to the audience: “This isn’t a fairy tale, though it starts like one. This isn’t a tragedy, though it ends like one.” *These Shining Lives* is set during the 1920s through the late 1930s and tells the true story of four women working at the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa, IL who contracted radiation poisoning from painting watch dials with radium glow-in-the-dark paint. They unknowingly ingested deadly amounts of radium by licking paintbrushes in a “lip… dip… paint… routine” to do their work. The company manager, Mr. Reed (played by Lukas Roy of Palos Park) tells them that there is no evidence that radium is harmful and provides scientific evidence of its health benefits. The company employed over 1,000 women who turned out about 4,300 watch dials each day.

After a period of time, Catherine’s husband Tom (played by John Kladis of Palos Hills) notices that his wife’s hands have started glowing in the dark. Catherine and her co-workers: Charlotte Purcell (played by Katie Horn of Sturgis, MI), Frances O’Connell (played by Saenovia Poole of Bolingbrook), and Pearl Payne (played by Kelsey Papineau of Mazon) develop ailments, including teeth and jaw infections, anemia, fainting spells, and severe arm and leg pain. Eventually, Charlotte Purcell has her left arm amputated at the shoulder due to the sarcoma that has spread throughout her entire body. Several local doctors, including the company doctor, overlook the women’s medical concerns and prescribe aspirin.

The women travel to Chicago to find a doctor willing to put his reputation on the line and diagnosis them with radium poisoning. Bonded in friendship and faced with their mortality, the women seek out charismatic Chicago attorney Leonard J. Grossman to bring a legal challenge against their employer. The saga holds an important place in the history of the fields of health, physics, and the labor rights movement. The seven-year legal battle and resulting publicity was a factor in the establishment of occupational disease labor laws.

Philip Lynch Theatre Manager and Assistant theatre professor Jo Slowik of Joliet directs the play called “wistful and beautifully tragic.” Assistant theatre professor and designer Andrew Nelsen of Joliet designs minimal scenery with a focus on elegant lighting and the use of void spaces. Resident costumer Celeste Mackey of Joliet has conceived costumes to illustrate the 1920s fashion which entered the modern era in which women liberated themselves from constricting clothing and began to wear more comfortable clothes. Working behind the scenes are Austin Jones of Steger (stage manager), Alexander Schedel of Bolingbrook (assistant stage manager), Julia Egizio of Plainfield (properties manager), Katie Szymkiewicz of Chicago (sound design and board operator), Jacob Wolniak of Crestwood (body microphone operator) and Dave Pomatto of Naperville (assistant technical director).
The dramaturgy for *These Shining Lives* is in our back yard. Ottawa is only about an hour southwest of campus. Production director Jo Słowińska took a walking tour of the locations found in the play and created a YouTube video. Patrons can find the video by subscribing for free to the Lewis University Philip Lynch Theatre YouTube channel.

Previous PLT guest director Greg Kolack connected the production team to the son of attorney Leonard Grossman. A Zoom meeting was held on October 30 with Leonard Grossman, Jr. discussing his father’s legal legacy on the case known as “The Society of the Living Dead.” Insights were gained on the seven year legal battle in which the radium poisoned women eventually prevailed.

**Watch the show from the comfort of your home!**

Purchase streaming links from the PLT Website: lewisu.edu/plt

Click on the “Buy Tickets” link on the left-hand-side. An email address is required to send the purchasing patron a link to the streaming production. Purchase tickets for the number of people watching the live stream, please.

Purchases must be made geographically within a reasonable range of the PLT community and is not available nationally.

Twenty four hours prior to the event, patrons will receive an email from the box office with a streaming link and password to the performance. Thirty minutes prior to showtime, click on and open the Vimeo link from your email and enter the password.

The link will open in your internet browser, we recommend using Google Chrome or Firefox. Alternatively, you may have to copy/paste the link from your email to an internet browser.

Please do not share the link.

A stable internet connection is REQUIRED. It is recommended to avoid using WiFi. Connect directly to your network with a cable, if possible.

Please know that streaming productions is imperfect. The possibility exists for the audio to drop out or the image to freeze. We’ll do our best to minimize the possibilities in this brave new theatre world! Questions?

Email: boxoffice@lewisu.edu
On Monday, October 12 the PLT hosted the Arts & Ideas Performing Arts Series **Unveiled** as a live streamed performance to Lewis University’s YouTube channel without a physical audience present. In her critically acclaimed one-woman show, Rohina Malik created five Muslim women characters who serve tea and share what lies beneath the veil.

On Thursday, October 15 Assistant Professor and PLT Manager Jo Slowik facilitated two workshops on the Theatre of the Oppressed for the 2020 Peace Teach-In. Creator and founder of Theatre of the Oppressed Augusto Boal believed that “we must work persistently for just peace. Our humanity cries out for us to rapidly expand bridges over the next decade. Just peace means human flourishing for all.” Students, faculty and staff participated in the face-to-face, physically distant activities or attended via a Zoom Meeting using a web cam and had the ability to participate in the Zoom chat. **Pictured are students from the Acting One class (clockwise) Jazmin Torres Aguillon, Alexandria Wilson, Matthew ‘Vinny’ Vineyard, Lukas Roy and Jordyn Spangler.**

Throughout the month of October, the PLT created a Halloween themed library display case complete with a handout of an edible, washable blood recipe for students, faculty and staff. Props and costume pieces were used from PLT productions such as **Big Fish, Frankenstein, Young Frankenstein, The Tempest and Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde.**
Congratulations to Lewis University students: Alex Schedel, Haley Marchewka and Katie Horn on their KCACTF Region 3 Irene Ryan acting nominations for their performances in the live streaming production of *All in the Timing* by David Ives.

On Wednesday, October 14 the PLT hosted a conversation with singer Michael Sheldon featured on the new Netflix series *Sing On!* hosted by Tituss Burgess (*The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*). Michael joined the dialogue via a Zoom Meeting.

*Sing On!* is a reality competition show that consists of six contestants performing songs around a shared theme. Michael appears in episode four which featured *Love Songs*. A jackpot of money is determined by how vocally accurate a singer is to the song's original recording.

Michael Sheldon is originally from Lockport, and he has been singing and performing since he was 8 years old. Music has always been his passion, and has allowed Michael to develop confidence and acceptance of himself. Michael graduated from Millikin University in 2017 with a B.A double major in Music and Communication.

While in college he was a member of Millikin's top ensemble The University Choir where he was able to tour throughout the United States, and also travelled to Spain. At Millikin, he was also a member of an all men's Acapella group, seVen, the renaissance group *Tudor Voices* and he was recruited to be a part of the Millikin Opera Theatre.

In 2017, Michael began working with producer Sky Miller, who produced his first professional album, *O Night Divine*. In 2019, Michael released his first original song *Fine* on all streaming services. His most recent musical endeavor is his *Purpose* EP. Michael lives by a motto created by radio host Bobby Bones, “Keep Failing, Until You Don’t.” Michael doesn’t fear failure, he embraces it.
Milestones

10/10/2020
Hope Matheson Slowik
& Noah Slowik ’19

Oct. 10, 2020
Mr. Jeff Weiss ’15, ’19 &
Mrs. Katy Papineau-Weiss ’16
2020-2021 PLT Season will be presented in a virtual format until further notice.
Subscriptions are not available. boxoffice@lewisu.edu, (815) 836-5500

Feb. 12-14 & Feb. 18-21, 2021
Silent Sky
WRITTEN BY LAUREN GUNDERSON

April 16-18 & April 22-25, 2021
THE ROMANCERS
WRITTEN BY EDMUND ROSTAND

VIRTUAL AUDITIONS!!
MONDAY, DEC. 14, 6:30 PM
THE GUYS by ANNE NELSON

- CASTING:
  2 WOMEN & 2 MEN
- ZOOM AUDITIONS ONLINE
- COLD READINGS AVAILABLE
  IN THE BOX OFFICE &
  THROUGH LEWIS UNIVERSITY
  HERITAGE THEATRE COMPANY
  FACEBOOK EVENT
  SHOW DATES: JAN. 20 &
  30, 2021

https://aesnet.zoom.us/j/97264232007?dn
QUESTIONS? CONTACT PRODUCTION DIRECTOR,
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