

# These Shining Lives at SWOSU

11.10.2015

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Art, Communication and Theatre has opened the box office for the department's next theatrical production, *These Shining Lives*.

The production is November 19-21 at 7:30 p.m. each evening in the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre on the Weatherford campus.

Playwright Melanie Marnich said although inspired by real people and actual events, the play is a work of creative nonfiction. It moves between fact and fiction, between reality and imagination, to create a theatrical world.

SWOSU production director Steve Strickler said the play depicts the lives of a group of women who worked in the Radium Dial Company in Ottawa (IL) during the 1920s and '30s. Their job was to paint dials on the faces of clocks and watches. They would twirl the paint brush between their lips to make a point and dip it in the powder – which had a radium compound in it to make the watches glow.

Over time, the ladies had ingested so much radium that they began to have severe health problems. *These Shining Lives* shows the desire the women had to be a part of the workforce, earn a living, and fight the system that was leading to their death.

Admission for the production is \$5 for adults, \$3 for non-SWOSU students, and free for individuals with a valid SWOSU ID. For more information or to make reservations, call the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre Box Office at 580-774-6046. Box Office hours are 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday.