



RADIUM GIRLS

BASED ON THE TRUE STORY

WINNER OF THE
2013 NYU ALFRED P. SLOAN FEATURE FILM GRANT
&
2016 RICHARD VAGUE FILM PRODUCTION FUND
&
2016 JEROME FOUNDATION GRANT



A mysterious illness
propels working-class
teenage sisters into a
radical coming of age.

CONTENTS

Synopsis.....	4
Director's Statement.....	5
Visual Style.....	6
Radium.....	7
Characters.....	10
Legacy.....	14
Contact.....	15

S Y N O P S I S

1925, New Jersey. Teenage sisters, Bessie and Jo, dream of faraway places as they paint glow-in-the-dark watch dials at the American Radium Factory. But when Jo develops a life-threatening disease, Bessie's world turns upside down. As the mystery of Jo's disease slowly unravels, Bessie falls in love with a young Communist and opens herself to new, radical ideas. She stands up to American Radium and forces them to admit they knowingly allowed the women to work with a toxic substance.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Radium Girls is based on a historical tragedy most people have never heard of: the 1920s factory workers who painted glow-in-the-dark watches while slowly being fatally poisoned by the paint they were required to use.

In their own time, the media colored their plight as the tragic cost of scientific progress – saying the company could not have known of the danger. But they did.

In fact, the radium company had commissioned a study identifying radium as toxic and kept it under lock and key while dial painting work carried on.

Eventually, other studies were done and the Radium Girls asked the company to pay for their bankrupting medical bills – and to admit the danger. The company refused. So six women decided to sue.

I am now the age some of the Radium Girls were as they awaited the trial on their deathbeds. Every day I wonder:

What would it feel like to learn that your employer was poisoning you? To learn that you, your sisters and friends would die within the decade? To be publicly slandered for questioning why? How drastically would your world view change?

The Radium Girls are the heroines the modern world needs to see. They are the real life Katniss Everdeens: working-class women who broke through fear to declare their rights as human beings. Despite the odds, they were not silent.

The Radium Girls are more than just a cautionary tale – they are an inspiration for workers and consumers everywhere to question the facts we take for granted.

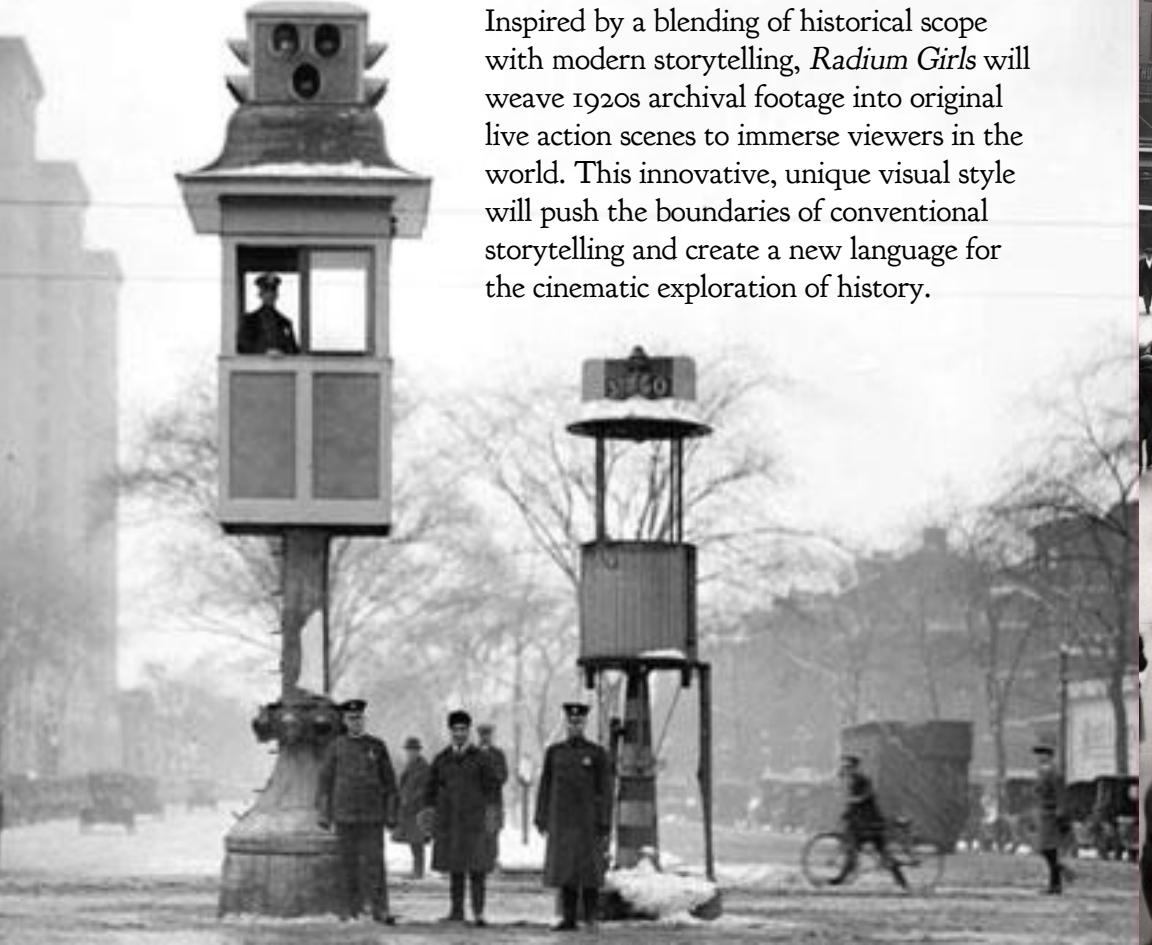
The Radium Girls were not poisoned in one fell swoop – it was years of incremental exposure to a substance that doctors and CEOs declared perfectly harmless.

In today's consumer driven marketplace, new products and technologies are introduced every day. Long term health and environmental impacts are often only understood in retrospect – when it's too late. We trust – but really, we do not know.

I want people to learn the story of the Radium Girls, to stare the injustice in the face as they did, to feel the outrage and the stakes of their fight and to carry it forward as they would have – had they lived.

Virginia

VISUAL STYLE

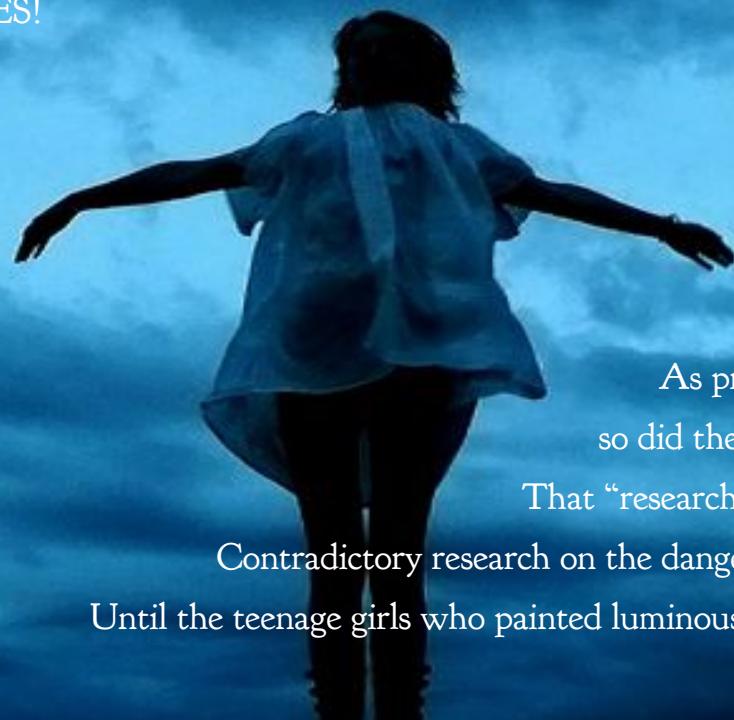


Inspired by a blending of historical scope with modern storytelling, *Radium Girls* will weave 1920s archival footage into original live action scenes to immerse viewers in the world. This innovative, unique visual style will push the boundaries of conventional storytelling and create a new language for the cinematic exploration of history.

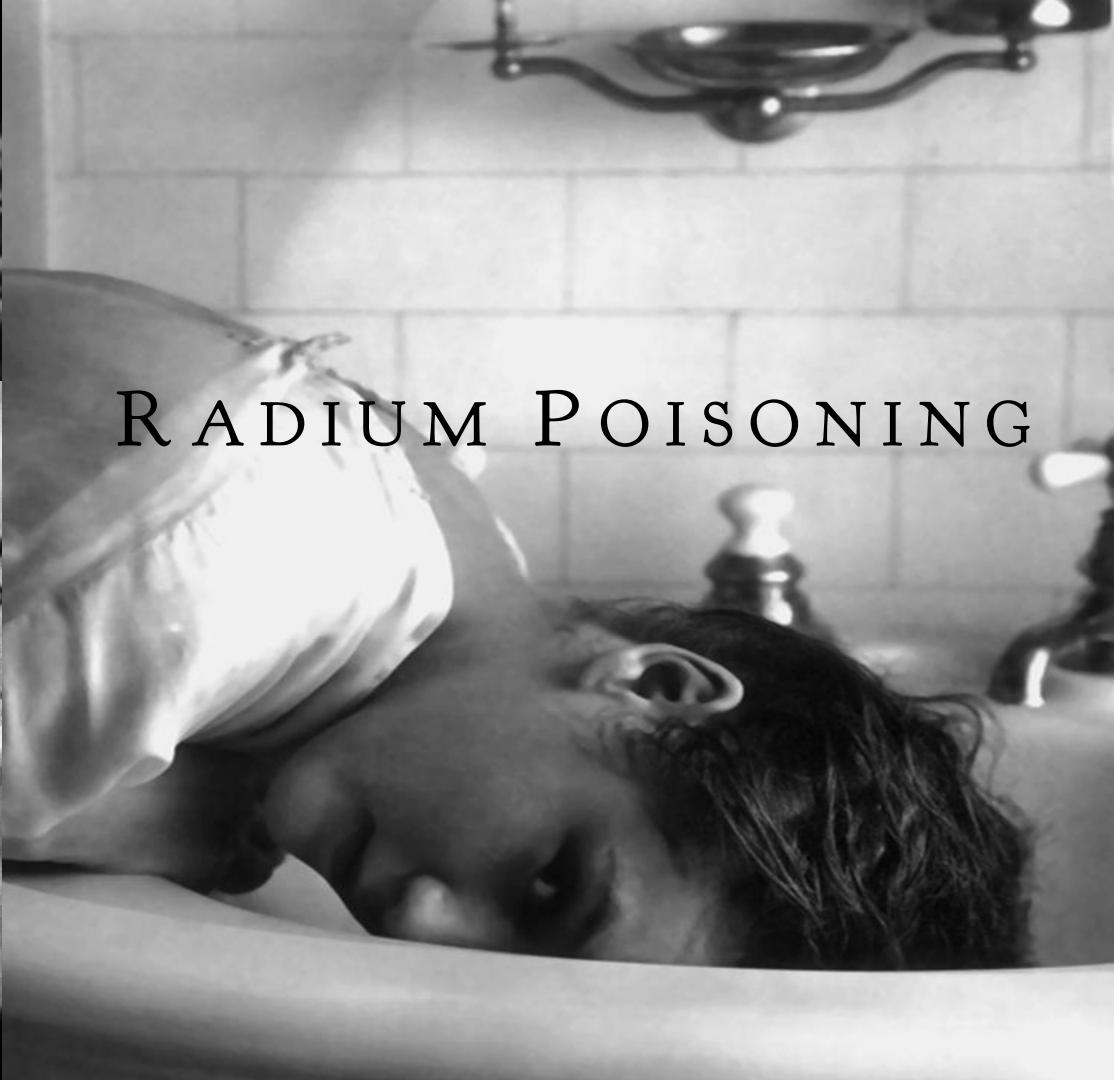
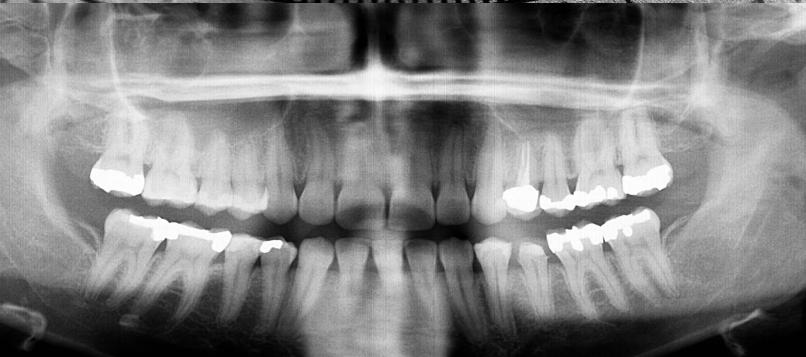


RADIUM

When Marie Curie discovered the luminous element RADIUM at the turn of the century, hopes were high.
Could this radioactive substance be the miracle elixir modern science had long awaited? YES!
Could RADIUM cure cancer? YES!
Could it cure impotence? YES!
Depression? YES!



As profits from RADIUM products soared,
so did the “research” proving it the miracle cure.
That “research” came out of RADIUM corporations.
Contradictory research on the dangers of radioactivity was largely ignored,
Until the teenage girls who painted luminous watch dials began to lose their teeth...



RADIUM POISONING

B E S S I E

Our heroine. Vivacious and unbridled, at 17, Bessie dreams of becoming a movie star until her sister Jo's illness turns her world upside down.

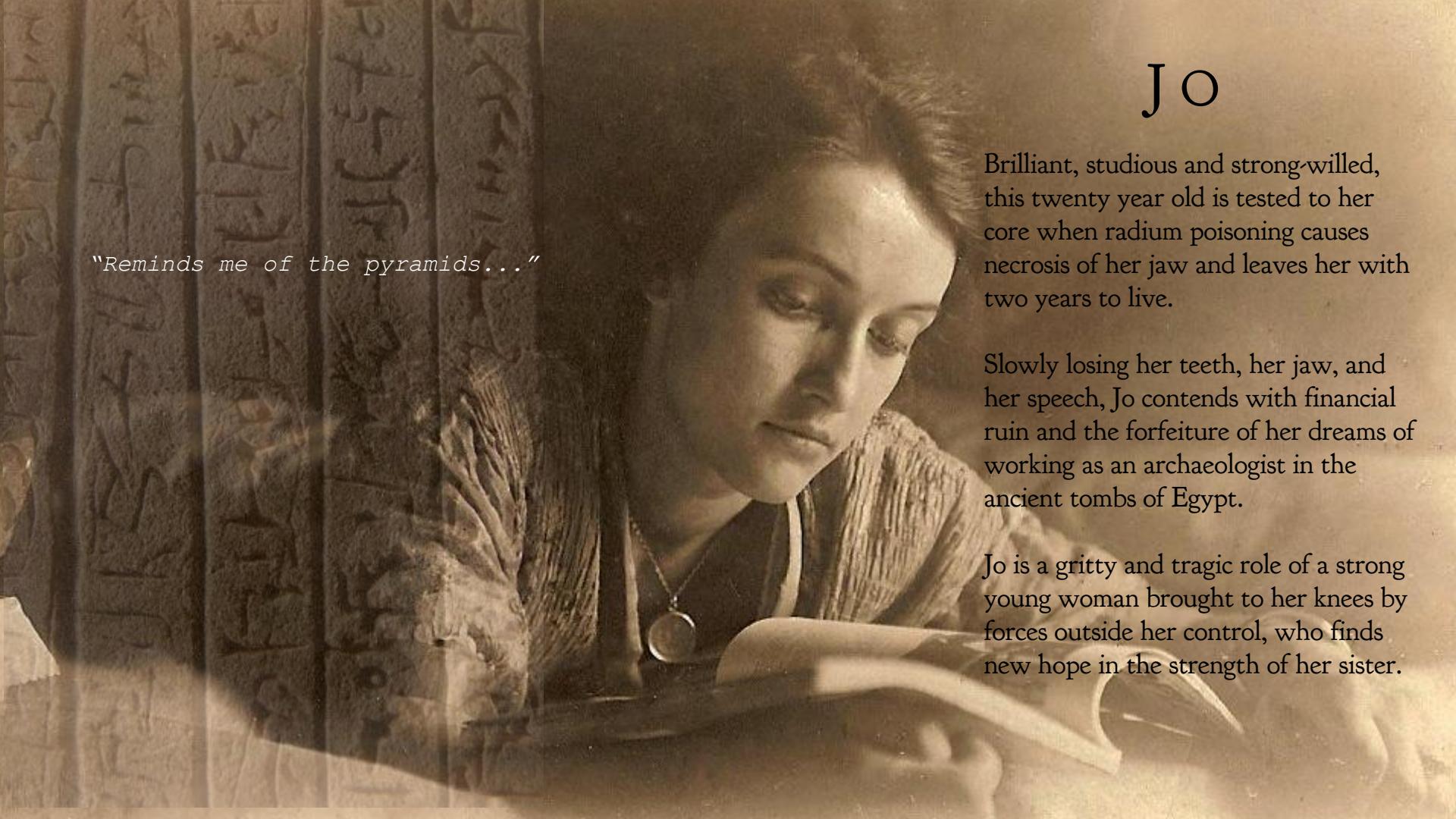
As she falls in love with a Communist photographer, she becomes fixated on winning justice for Jo and the rest of the Radium Girls.

But the time comes when she is forced to choose between the court case and Jo's well being.

Bessie is a tender and brave leading role that will inspire viewers of all ages.



*"I'm after their soul.
It's made out of money."*

A sepia-toned photograph of a young woman with short, dark hair. She is wearing a light-colored, patterned dress and a necklace with a small circular pendant. Her gaze is directed downwards, focused on a piece of paper or a book she is holding. In the background, there are large, weathered stone structures with hieroglyphic inscriptions, suggesting an archaeological setting.

JO

Brilliant, studious and strong-willed, this twenty year old is tested to her core when radium poisoning causes necrosis of her jaw and leaves her with two years to live.

Slowly losing her teeth, her jaw, and her speech, Jo contends with financial ruin and the forfeiture of her dreams of working as an archaeologist in the ancient tombs of Egypt.

Jo is a gritty and tragic role of a strong young woman brought to her knees by forces outside her control, who finds new hope in the strength of her sister.

"Reminds me of the pyramids..."

WILEY

Passionate and tireless, this dedicated activist is the backbone of the Radium Girls' fight against corporate power American Radium.

Struggling for years to designate radium as an industrial hazard, she must combat the doubts and fears of the dying women as well as a corrupt system stacked against them. She exemplifies the liberated modern woman of the 1920s and inspires the Bessie to dream beyond the silver screen.

The Erin Brockovich of *Radium Girls*, Wiley is a pivotal supporting role and a heroine who will inspire viewers young and old alike.

"Don't you want to know the truth?"



*"Never trust a money man.
Never have a partner."*

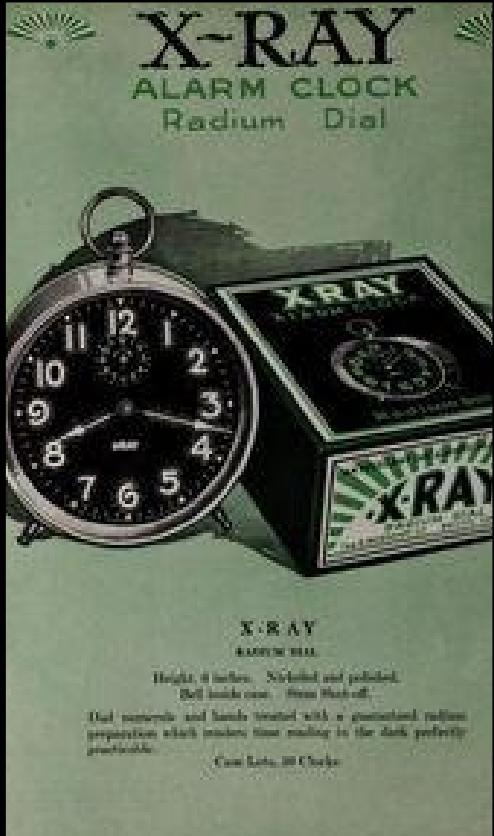
MR. LEECH

The brooding, enigmatic Chief of Quality Control for American Radium, Mr. Leech (40s) is Bessie's best hope for a whistleblower inside the company.

But it turns out he was the inventor of the glow paint that poisoned them. Despite his connection to the Radium Girls, he betrays them in court. Can he find redemption with Bessie elsewhere?

Mr. Leech is a key supporting role.

LEGACY



The real life Radium Girls didn't get the justice they deserved: although they changed public perception in NJ, radium dial painting continued across America.

By telling their story, we can continue the legacy started by the few brave workers who fought to bring the truth to light nearly 100 years ago.

The story of Bessie and Jo can inspire us all to engage with the world we live in and take the steps we can together to change it for the better.

CONTACT

Cine Mosaic

130 W. 25th St. 12th Floor

New York, NY 10001

212-625-3797

emily@cinemosaic.net



Six Women Who Await Beckoning Hand of Death

