

'Marigolds' is next production

The prize-winning play "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds" will be presented at Otterbein College Jan. 27-29 and Feb. 1-4.

Paul Zindel's off-Broadway hit will be presented in the Campus Center Arena Theatre on the Otterbein campus at 8:15 p.m. There will be a 2:30 p.m. matinee performance on Sunday, Jan. 29.

"Marigolds" opened in New York City in 1970 and was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award as the best play of the season and the Obie Award for best off-Broadway play. A year later it received the Pulitzer Prize. Zindel was also named the outstanding playwright of the 1969-70 season by the Variety Poll of Critics and received the New York Drama Desk Award.

Zindel, a high school

science teacher turned playwright, is also the author of "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little," which was staged by the Otterbein College Theatre in 1981.

The play is set in the messy home shared by the scatterbrained Beatrice, her two daughters, and an ancient boarder named Nanny. The elder daughter, Ruth is trashy and selfish, subject to epileptic seizures. The younger, Matilda, is painfully shy, lavishing her love on a pet rabbit and striving to excel in her science class.

It is Matilda's science project that gives the play its cumbersome title. But planting marigold seeds that have been exposed to atomic rays, Matilda demonstrates how some grow twisted and blighted while others mutate into splendid double blooms.

The cast for "Gamma Rays" will include Susan

Diol as Beatrice, Jodie Silk as Matilda, and Liana Peters as Ruth. Tracy Jones will play Nanny and Maria Magisano will have the role of Janice.

"The characters in the play are realistically drawn, not the two-dimensional characters found on television," said Geoff Nelson, guest director for the Otterbein production. "They demonstrate the ugly side of human nature as well as the hopeful side."

Nelson intends to set the play in the 1960s. "Although we could have set it in today's world, it seemed more appropriate to move it back a generation to the mid-60's since it's a play about the effect one's parents have on one."

Despite the often bleak tone of "Marigolds," Nelson pointed out that the play contains a great deal of humor. "The comedy usually arises from Beatrice's sarcasm," he said. "Nanny, the old boarder, is both pathetic and funny. The humor serves as a counterpoint to the drama."

A native of Maine, Nelson was guest director for last summer's Otterbein Summer Theatre production of "God's Favorite." Since then he has directed "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the True Grist Dinner Theatre in Homer, Mich., and had an acting role in a production of "Dracula" in Oklahoma.

In 1982, he directed the Players Theatre of Columbus production of "Talley's Folly." He currently holds a teaching position at the Josephinum Pontifical College and is a doctoral candidate at The Ohio State University.

Sets and lighting for "Marigolds" will be designed by theatre faculty member Fred Thayer; Otterbein junior Melanie Miles will design the costumes.

Tickets will be available beginning Jan. 23 at the Cowan Hall box office from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.



Man-in-the-moon beams

Liana Peters (left) and Susan Diol play daughter and mother in the Otterbein College Theatre production of Paul Zindel's "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds." The drama continues tonight at 8:15, tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., and Feb. 1 through 4 at 8:15 p.m. in the Campus Center Arena Theatre at Otterbein. The Cowan Hall box office is open one hour before each performance.



'Marigolds' opens Friday

To escape the wrath of her mother, Beatrice, played by Susan Diol, left, Tillie, played by Jodie Silk, turns to her pet rabbit for affection in the Otterbein College Theatre production of Paul Zindel's off-Broadway hit "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds," set for Jan. 27 - 29 and Feb. 1 - 4 in the Campus Center Arena Theatre at Otterbein. Performances will be at 8:15 p.m., with a 2:30 matinee on Sunday, Jan. 29. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour preceding each performance.

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Play opens Friday

Liana Peters (left) as Ruth picks a fight with her mother, Beatrice, played by Susan Diol (right) as timid Tillie, played by Jodie Silk, looks on. The trio plays a family locked in emotional conflict in the upcoming Otterbein College Theatre production of Paul Zindel's off-Broadway hit *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, set for Friday through Sunday and Feb. 1-4 in the Campus Center Arena Theatre at Otterbein. Performances will take place at 8:15 p.m. with a 2:30 matinee Sunday. Tickets are available at the Cowan Hall box office, 890-3028, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and for one hour preceding each performance.