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The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds

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Recommended Citation

"The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds" (1985). *Taylor Theatre Playbills*. 313.
<https://pillars.taylor.edu/playbills/313>

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Taylor Theatre Presents

Paul Zindel's



**THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS
ON
MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS**



**February 21, 22, 23, 28
March 1, 2, 1985**

**Little Theatre
Taylor University**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

About the Play

The action of this play focuses on Tillie, a shy, displaced high school student whose new-found interest in science begins to generate meaning in her life, and on her mother, Beatrice, a slatternly widow whose disillusionment with life is vented through her malicious treatment of Tillie and her elder daughter, Ruth, a girl given to violent epileptic seizures and equally violent reactions to her mother's hatefulness. As this play conveys the story of Tillie's experiment in radiation considering the effects of gamma rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds, it also conveys on a deeper level the effect of life's experiences on human relationships and potential. The patterns of the past, the opportunity of the present, and the hope of the future each find expression in the life experiences of Beatrice, Ruth, and Tillie.

In the lives of Beatrice and Ruth there is no sense of purpose, no sense of life's experiences having meaning beyond the most base pleasures of having one's back scratched, earning cigarettes, "making duty", and indulging one's fantasies. For Beatrice, the patterns of the past, grooved deeply by heredity and environment, are patterns of failure, disappointment and futility which limit present opportunity and future hopes. As for Ruth, Beatrice watches as she slowly becomes a dismal repetition of herself. The patterns of the past have a binding influence on the present and the future. Failure breeds failure. Repeated failure breeds disappointment, and repeated failure and disappointment breed futility. For Tillie, however, a cosmic frame of reference has opened her mind and heart to the design and power in the universe as revealed through the atom. Her new perspective on life's experiences characterized by expectation, vitality, and exuberance sharply contrasts with her old perspective, which remains that of Beatrice and Ruth, characterized by despair, atrophy, and death. "Atom. Atom.," she says, "What a beautiful word." This is the keynote of Tillie's new awareness and understanding of her personal-spiritual identification with all of creation through the wonder of the atom. The idea that a part of her being has existed for billions of years, emerging from a context of life beyond human limitation and weakness, inflames her intellect and her imagination. This eternal, perpetual process of change and transformation emerging from the patterns of the past, provides the opportunity of the present and the promise of the future for Tillie. It is, in her mind, the hope of all mankind.



About Theatre at Taylor

The primary role that theatre should play within our community is not merely another avenue for diversionary entertainment, nor merely another tool to utilize in propagating our beliefs. Theatre at its best should be an experience wherein we recognize that which is true about ourselves and others; that which helps us to fulfill our potential as creatures made in the image and likeness of God. This is the calling to which we aspire at Taylor University. It is the focal point of our endeavors in the theatre arts, and lies at the heart of a liberal arts education.

THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIIGOLDS

Directed and Designed by Dr. Oliver F. Hubbard

Cast

Tillie..... Priscilla Smith
 Beatrice Cami House
 Ruth Leah Oster
 Nanny Lisa Snapp
 Janice Vickery Laura Kroesen
 Peter Thumper

The Hunzdorfer home, 1970.

There will be a ten-minute intermission
between acts

We invite you to remain for a discussion period following
the Thursday evening performances.

This Evening's Music

includes a variety of selections by Simon and Garfunkel.

Acknowledgments

Our special thanks to Upland Drugs, the Upland Greenhouse, the Taylor Science Department, the Herb Frye household and Swallow Robin Dorm for their help in preparing for this show.

A Communication Arts Department Production



Our Next Production

The Rivals May 1-5



During Intermission

we invite you to visit the art exhibit of senior art major Donna Ault
in the Chronicle-Tribune Art Gallery on the main level.



As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use
cameras during the performance.

Production Staff

Assistant to the Director	Barry VonLanken
Technical Director	Dr. Oliver Hubbard
Set Crew	Todd Hoatson Karl Knarr Steve Robinson Brian Smith
Lighting Design	Priscilla Smith
Light Crew	PRISCILLA SMITH Sarah Adams Rob Cochrane Vicki Colestock Susan Cook Ed Drisdell Heidi Halterman
Audio Engineer	Barry VonLanken
Audio Technicians	CINDY ERICSON Greg Cox Megan Moe
Make-up	CINDY ERICSON Susan Glassburn Rochelle Manor
Properties	LISA SNAPP CAROL MILLS Sherry Coulter Lora Fulks Lisa Taylor Tim Trevan
Costumes	MELODY ANDERSON Cassandra Edgecombe Stacia Miller
House	LENORA COOPER Kelly Pool Sandra Bragg Jamey Schmitz Beth Clements Frank Sharp Beth Curran Tim Trevan Sally Perkins Brian Vanderford Debbie Peters
Program Cover Design	Jill Sprunger

About the Playwright

PAUL ZINDEL was born in Staten Island, NY in 1936 and has continued to make that area his home. He was graduated from Wagner College with B.S. and M.S. degrees and taught chemistry and physics in Staten Island High schools for several years until he established himself as a writer.

Zindel wrote "Marigolds" at the age of 25. The play was first produced in the Alley Theatre in Houston, TX. Other stage and television productions followed but the play did not reach the New York stage until April 1970. It opened to unusually warm critical praise, ran for 819 performances, and won for Zindel the Pulitzer Prize, the Obie Award and the Drama Critics Circle Award. Zindel was personally lauded with the New York Drama Desk Award and the Variety Poll of Critics Award as the outstanding playwright of the 1969-70 season. A film version directed by Paul Newman and starring his wife, Joanne Woodward, was released at the end of the same year. Zindel's second New York stage production, "And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little", was also successful on Broadway in 1971.

In addition to writing for stage, films and television, Zindel has become one of the top novelists for young adults with over 3,000,000 books in Bantam print.