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THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS NEXT UP AT CYGNET THEATRE

Five strong female actors tackle this Pulitzer Prize-winning lyrical drama

"Most important, I suppose, my experiment has made me feel important - every atom in me, in everybody, has come from the sun-from places beyond our dreams."

-Tillie Hunsdorfer, The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds



SAN DIEGO, CA - *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* was the brainchild of a public school science teacher turned playwright, **Paul Zindel**. The work won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, and the Obie Award for best American play. Generations of audiences are familiar with the film version from 1972, which was directed by Paul Newman and starred his wife, Joanne Woodward and their daughter, Nell Potts. Cygnet's production is directed by **Rob Lutfy** and runs **August 30th through September 24th**. Opening night for media is **September 2nd**.

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds is the story of a wounded family unraveling at the age of innocence and at the age of no return. Life in the 1960s with Beatrice, an embittered single mother, resembles a hell more than a home for her two daughters. But Tillie, the youngest, finds her own way to connect to the world with resilience and hope. She is a keeper of rabbits, dreamer of atoms, true believer in life, hope, and the effect of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon marigolds.

"I'm thrilled to be working on a play that has contributed so much to the landscape of American theatre. 'It's right up there with the work of Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller.'" says Lutfy. "Because of its poetic and intense nature, it's also a very meaty piece for actors."

The role of domineering and combative Beatrice has attracted some of the very best actresses in the Method tradition including Shelley Winters and Joanne Woodward, as well as legendary character actors Joan Blondell and Eileen Heckart. Accomplished San Diego actor **DeAnna Driscoll** (*The Quality of Life*; Intrepid Theatre) steps into that role at Cygnet. Her hopeful and introverted daughter, Tillie Hunsdorfer, is played by 14-year-old **Abby DePuy** (*Festival of Christmas: The Angel's Arms*; Lamb's

Players Theatre). Completing the family trio is **Rachel Esther Tate** (*Stupid F**king Bird*) as Tillie's dysfunctional older sister Ruth. Rounding out the cast are **Carm Greco** (*Sunset Park*; Scripps Ranch Theatre) and **Michelle Trester** (*4000 Miles*; ion Theatre).

The production features set design by **C. Murdock Lucas**, costume design by **Shelly Williams**, lighting design by **Conor Mulligan**, and sound design by **Kevin Anthenill**. Wigs and makeup will be created by **Peter Herman**. **Dean Remington** will stage manage.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased in person at the box office located at **4040 Twiggs St.**, by calling **619-337-1525** or by visiting **www.cygnettheatre.com**.

THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS FACT SHEET

WHAT: Cygnet Theatre presents
THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS

WHERE: Cygnet Theatre
4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

WHO: Playwright: Paul Zindel
Director: Rob Lutfy
Scenic Designer: C. Murdock Lucas
Costume Designer: Shelly Williams
Lighting Designer: Conor Mulligan
Sound Designer: Kevin Anthenill °
Wigs and Makeup: Peter Herman°
Stage Manager: Dean Remington*

CAST: Abby DePuy (Tillie)
DeAnna Driscoll* (Beatrice)
Carm Greco (Nanny)
Rachel Esther Tate* (Ruth)
Michelle Trester (Janice Vickery)

*Member of Actors Equity Association, °Resident Artist,

DATES:
Previews begin: Wednesday, August 30
Press Opening: Saturday, September 2, 8:00pm
Closes: Sunday, September 24

Performance Schedule:
Wednesday & Thursday at 7:30pm
Friday at 8:00pm
Saturday at 3:00pm and 8:00pm
Sunday at 2:00pm and 7:00pm

CYGNATURE EVENTS:

Designer Showcase (Behind the Scenes forum) - September 5
Out Night (LGBT) - September 6
Theatre on Tap (Beer Tasting) and Friday Forum - September 8
Wine Night (Wine Tasting) - September 14

Pre Show Stage Chats - September 13 & 20
Post Show Stage Chats - September 15 & 22

PRICES:

Prices range \$38 - \$59 - Discounts are available for preview performances, children, seniors, students, active-duty military & groups of 10 or more.

HOW:

By Phone: (619) 337-1525
Online: www.cygnettheatre.com
In Person: Old Town Theatre - 4040 Twiggs Street

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Photos and PDF versions of recent press releases can be downloaded from the Cygnet Online Media Center. Visit www.CygnetTheatre.com for more information.

ABOUT CYGNET THEATRE



Cygnet Theatre Company produces a year-round season of professional Off-Broadway-style theatre as well as thought-provoking and engaging educational programming. Cygnet is committed to maintaining high standards of artistic and fiscal integrity, and serves more than 40,000 patrons annually from San Diego and beyond. Cygnet performs its mainstage productions at the state-of-the-art theatre in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. An active member of the San Diego community, Cygnet has outreach programs serving tens of thousands of students and community members annually. For more information, visit www.cygnettheatre.com.

CYGNET THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT

Believing in the power of theatre to startle the soul, ignite debate and embrace the diversity of the community it serves, Cygnet Theatre Company is fearlessly committed to the dissection, examination and celebration of the human story through the medium of live theatre.