

MORONGO VALLEY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

GROVES CABIN THEATRE PRESS RELEASE:

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER
THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS
OPENED TO FULL HOUSES AT GROVES CABIN THEATRE IN MORONGO VALLEY
WILL PLAY SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ONLY THROUGH OCTOBER 24

Paul Zindel's Pulitzer Prize winning play, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds* opened to full houses of very satisfied playgoers at **Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley. The touching drama, directed by talented **Kathleen Marion** (*Lend Me A Tenor, Sylvia, The Curious Savage*), will be performed Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through October 24.

In addition to capturing the 1971 Pulitzer Prize, "*Marigolds*" received the Obie Award and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award as Best American Play of the season. One of Off-Broadway's greatest successes, this powerful and moving study of an embittered, vindictive widow and her two young daughters has been hailed as one of the most significant plays of our time. The NY Post's reviewer declared, "...I don't know of a better (play) of its genre since *The Glass Menagerie*," the New York Times termed it "...beautiful," and the NY Daily News called it "a great human drama." The play was later made into a critically acclaimed Motion Picture starring Joanne Woodward and directed by her husband, Paul Newman. Director Marion says, "This moving story helps put us mindful of the ways in which we impact the lives of those with whom we're in close relationship. It also highlights the ray of hope that steadfastly resonates with the very magic, the very Spirit of life itself...and our profound relationship with it."

Frowzy, acid-tongued, supporting herself and her two daughters by taking in a decrepit old boarder, Beatrice Hunsdorfer wreaks a petty vengeance on everybody about her. One daughter, Ruth, is a pretty but highly-strung girl subject to convulsions; while the younger daughter, Matilda, plain and almost pathologically shy, has an intuitive gift for science. Encouraged by her teacher, Tillie undertakes a gamma ray experiment with marigolds that wins a prize at her high school—and also brings on the shattering climax of the play. Proud and yet jealous, too filled with her own hurts to accept her daughter's success, Beatrice can only maim when she needs to love and deride when she wants to praise. Tortured, acerbic, slatternly, she is as much a victim of her own nature as of the cruel lot that has been hers. And yet, as Tillie's experiment proves, something beautiful and full of promise can emerge from even the most barren, afflicted soil. This is the timeless lesson of the play and the root of its moving power and truth.

The cast for "*Marigolds*" includes Desert Theatre League award winner **Donette Swain** in the role of Beatrice, with **Lindsay Campbell** as older daughter Ruth and **Lisa Goldberg** as the younger Tillie; **Savya Lee** and **Joy Groves** share the part of Nanny, and **Katy Peacher** plays Janice.

Groves Cabin Theatre has won multiple Desert Theatre League awards for its high-quality productions. The 24-seat theater offers one of the most intimate theatrical experiences in the world—that experience having been described as being "like a fly on the wall, witnessing real life happening before my eyes." **The limited seating means early reservations are a must.** There will be a "**Talk Back**" session after each performance; the cast will discuss with the audience their rigorous preparation for these emotionally demanding roles.

The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds will be performed Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 PM through October 24. Tickets are \$10 (\$8 for seniors 60+ and students). **Groves Cabin Theatre** is located at 8768 Desert Willow Trail in Morongo Valley north of Highway 62 (look for the large red, white, and blue stone on the north side of the highway). For additional information and reservations call! (760) 363-6126.

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