

THE MASKERS THEATE COMPANY

PRESENTS

THE EFFECT OF
GAMMA RAYS
ON
Man-in-the-moon Marigolds

By PAUL ZINDEL



Directed By HARRY TUFFILL

Director's notes

I first came across this play in an anthology created by the American author, Stanley Richards, entitled *Best Plays of the 70's*. This is a collection of ten of the most successful and award winning plays in American theatre and includes titles such as *Da*, *The Elephant Man*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Sleuth*. Etc.

The play seems to be well suited to a studio production. It is in two acts with an interval. Although it is relatively short it does represent quite a technical challenge, especially in the sound department, with somewhere between 40 and 50 cues! Geoff Grandy has been busy selecting suitable music and sound effects that are so important in setting the atmosphere of the play. And don't miss his "talking telephone"! I have been pleased to cast three recent new members (Jan, Sarah-Jayne and Katherine) and that has meant that Alex Austin is not only the youngest member of the cast but also the longest standing Maskers' cast member.

One big advantage of a studio production is that we are able to build and rehearse on the set from an early stage. So a big thank you to the trusty carpenters who put it all together in double quick time. I know there are lots of others who have helped as well, my thanks to them all including Carla Evans who sketched the set, designed the flyers and programmes and advised on costume. There will be an after-show critique led by Albie Minns on Tuesday, May 16th at 7:45 in the Studio.

Cast

<i>Beatrice</i>	<i>Jan Spiers</i>
<i>Tillie</i>	<i>Alex Austin</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<i>Sarah-Jayne Wareham</i>
<i>Nanny/Janice</i>	<i>Katherine Harris</i>

Crew

<i>Production Manager</i>	<i>Sarah Murdoch</i>
<i>Stage Manager</i>	<i>Steve Clark</i>
<i>Sound</i>	<i>Geoff Grandy</i>
<i>Production Design</i>	<i>Carla Evans</i>
<i>Set Building</i>	<i>David Jupp</i>
	<i>Graham Buchanan</i>
	<i>Ken Hann</i>
<i>Set Painting</i>	<i>Ken Spencer</i>
<i>Lighting</i>	<i>Greg White</i>
	<i>Jez Minns</i>
<i>Props</i>	<i>Neil Iosson</i>
<i>Crew</i>	<i>Narinda Gill</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Angie Stansbridge</i>
<i>Box Office</i>	<i>Alan Baker</i>
<i>Front of House</i>	<i>Julia Jupp</i>
<i>Wardrobe</i>	<i>Olive Nash</i>

About the author

Paul Zindel was born in 1936 and grew up on Staten Island, NYC, with his mother and sister. His father left when they were very young, and his mother worked hard to keep the family together - moving from apartment to apartment and coming up with a string of get-rich-quick schemes. The constant changes in scenery sparked Zindel's imagination:

"By the time I was ten I had gone nowhere, but seen the world. I dared to speak and act my true feelings only in fantasy and secret. That's probably what made me a writer."

Zindel wrote his first play in High School, where his classmates noted his strange, macabre sense of humour. He soon found a mentor in the playwright Edward Albee, who taught a creative writing course at the college where Zindel studied chemistry. Zindel would later credit Albee as his primary inspiration, and by the time his studies were over he had finished his second original play.

Zindel became a teacher for the next ten years, whilst continuing to write as a hobby - *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* was the first of his works to be staged. This was followed by a similarly biographical memoir of his childhood - *The Pigman and Me*. Paul Zindel died of cancer at the age of 66 on 27th March 2003, whilst living in New York.

Coming soon from THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY...

The Wind in the Willows

By Alan Bennett

At Mottisfont Abbey

July 12 to July 22 (except July 17)

The Mayflower Box Office - 023 8021 8181

Greek

By Steven Berkoff

At the Maskers' Studio

October 2006

King Lear

By William Shakespeare

At The Nuffield Theatre

January 16 to January 20, 2007

The Nuffield Theatre Box Office – 023 8067 1771

Full information can be found on the Maskers website at
www.maskers.org.uk