'Chaillot' uses satire, hits capitalism

The latest Creighton theater production, "The Madwoman of Chaillot," is a satirical two-act play that hits the idea of capitalism as the source of society's problems.

The play was written by Giraudoux in 1943 during the German occupation of France. Dr. Susan B. Dieckman, assistant professor of fine arts and director, said the play depicts a group of greedy capitalistic types plotting to destroy Paris in an attempt to get oil, but are opposed by a madwoman and her friends.

This madwoman is dynamically portrayed by sophomore Mary Kelly. Her personality is effectively transmitted to the audience by Kelly's eloquence and stage presence.

During the first act, the madwoman lives in a fantasy world but is rudely awakened by friends after a young man attempts suicide. The madwoman thus asserts herself and devises a plan to rid humanity of capitalistic crooks.

In one scene, millionaires are gathered around a table planning how to find oil in Paris and start a war. The millionaires were played by Don Gibbs, instructor in Modern Languages; Arts juniors Mark Mazzei and Richard Mudrak; and Arts freshman Robert Dolan.

An excellent satirical defense of capitalism by Greg Learned was one highlight of the second act. Another was the performances by three madwomen: Patti Dugaw, Rectory Office secretary, Arts sophomore Delia Haller, and Arts senior Beth Martin.

Both acts include scenes with a street singer, Arts senior Barb Walton, playing the guitar.

Performances in the Eppley Little Theatre continue Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.