By Beth Harlig
Entertainment Editor

Kathy Christal came to Creighton from San Bruno, Calif., for pre-med studies. She will leave as a well-known theater major.

Christal said she came to Creighton because she had always lived in California and wanted to live in a different part of the country for a while.

She wasn't happy in pre-med and said that, in the back of her mind, she realized that she had wanted to perform ever since she was little.

Glad she came

Christal said she is glad she came here. "It is a small department but there are a lot of good quality people in it." She feels the department is special because the people involved in theater really want to be there and love it very much.

As for the advancement of her career, Christal also feels Creighton has been good for her in many ways. "It doesn't have a name as a renowned theater school, but I've had the chance to do so much," Christal said.

"I have been able to do all different roles and there is no better way to get better in theater than through experience."

Christal's current project, "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds," will be her last at Creighton. Although she has thought about leaving, she said she has not really thought about "Marigolds" as her last show. Christal said she is just trying to make the best of her last weeks here.

"Marigolds" was written by Paul Zindel, who also wrote the novel "The Pigman." Christal plays the mother, Beatrice, a character who has many different sides.

'Very unhappy'

"I've been afraid of Beatrice sometimes because she's very unhappy. She has all these dreams and her life did not turn out how she wanted it to," Christal said.

She said she had to ask herself, "Is my life going to be this way?" Because of this, Christal said, the play has not always been fun, but it has been a good experience.

'I always say, 'The one I'm doing right now,'" Christal said, when asked about the toughest role she has done.

She said each role is difficult because she must go beyond the surface of the character and make it mean something to herself and the audience.

"It's a lot of time. But when I don't have it, I don't know what to do with myself," Christal said.

Christal said it is hard to pick a favorite production out of the ones she has participated in at Creighton, adding that she really enjoyed "The Taming of the Shrew," last fall.

"I had not done a full Shakespeare production before. It was nice to work with the language and try to make it understandable," Christal said.