Strange title covers enjoyable play

By Beth Harig
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The stage is magnificently cluttered with old televisions, a broken-armed couch, a mountainous pile of junk, a wrinkled print hanging crookedly on a rickety wall, more junk and a live bunny rabbit.

The play which accompanies this scene is Creighton’s production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama “The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds” by Paul Zindel.

Although the setting and title sound a bit strange, your opinion may change after viewing this enjoyable play.

Bitter widow

“Marigolds” is about a bitter widow, Beatrice, played by Kathy Christal, and her two daughters, played by Rebecca Elliott and Tammy Delaney.

They are struggling to find love and acknowledgment. Each member of the five-woman cast goes about her search in a different manner and each is convincing.

When Tillie (Elliott) begins to expose marigold seeds to radiation for a science project, an interesting parallelism surfaces. The effect that radiation has on marigolds coincides with the effect that a hopeless life has on the family.

Nanny (Margaret Stein) is an old woman who Beatrice takes care of for $50 a week, the family’s only income. Stein wears an incredible, custom-made mask which makes her look 90 years old.

Boiled cat

The entire cast is composed of Creighton students, except for Monica Perich, a senior who adds some unexpected humor to the play when she boils a cat for her science project.

Beautiful, rather sad music played between scenes adds to the desperate mood of the play.

Remaining performances for “Marigolds” are tonight and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center.