Creighton's fall theatrical production

"The Heidi Chronicles" proves worthwhile

by Ben Cohen
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

'The Heidi Chronicles' opened on Wednesday, Oct. 6 at Creighton's Interim Performing Arts Center. The play is based on Wendy Wasserstein's 1989 Pulitzer Prize winning dramatic novel. The theatrical event of Creighton's fall semester was directed by Alan Klem, and is full of a host of Creighton students.

The play is a very dramatic piece centering on the chronicles of a woman, Heidi Holland, played very well by Senior Shayne Swiechicki. The lead role is challenged by life, and her choices to be different.

The play encompasses the theme of feminism in a rather nonjudgmental way.

"{This play is} one of the best projects I ever worked on."

— Shayne Swiechicki
Star of "Heidi Chronicles"

The settings about the stage, made you feel like a part of the subtle action taking place. The costumes were in a sense, contemporary, partly due to the time frame of the performance. The Heidi character was about sixteen in 1965, and follows her through three decades: the '60s, '70s, and the '80s, therefore it encompasses a 24-year period.

In speaking with star, Shayne Swiechicki, she stated how social and political issues of the decades throughout the play affected her character's relationships with others. "This play is about how people adapt to social life changes. This is the story of one woman's life and her relationships."

Senior Mario Schugel, who played the role of Scoop Rosenbaum, described his character as a rich, successful, and charismatic man whose ambition got what he wanted in his life. "The character I play, I see as very analytical and reflective, as well as, very determined and influential." Scoop grows up with our lead as almost a male model, for Schugel added that his character was symbolic of many a success story. "Scoop was born to succeed, and he did that becoming the editor of a magazine," said Schugel.

The students involved in this play have been working for about two months together, and in the opinion of star Swiechicki, "one of the best projects I ever worked on since I've come to Creighton. And Alan (director Klem) has been an incredible leader in this project and deserves all the credit."

The cast includes co-stars Mindy Hammontree (Susan Johnston), Chris Geiger (Peter Petrone), and Jennifer Hodges, Beth Armbrust, Krystal A. Kremla, Jean Gross, Tim Reilly, Brian Bowles, Melinda McFarland, Christina Jeanine Klem, and Kelly Klem.

"The Heidi Chronicles," obviously not to be confused with "Heidi of the Alps," will continue playing through Saturday at 8 p.m. with a matinee performance on Sunday the 10th at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are $5 for adults and there is a $2 discount for students and senior citizens.

In my opinion, the play is a great deal for students at $3. It's great entertainment for all ages.

"Heidi Chronicles" stars Mario Schugel and Shayne Swiechicki stop for a smile and a glass of champagne. The two can be seen on stage tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Creighton Interim Performing Arts Center.