

SDSS tackles Gamma Rays play

The dramatic and sometimes funny tribulations of a dysfunctional family are being presented in Stouffville District Secondary School's production of The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds.

The play runs May 11 to 13.

The 1964 comedy/drama written by Paul Zindel reflects the playwright's experiences growing up in a single-parent home. The play had successful runs on and off Broadway. It was made into a motion picture directed by Paul Newman in 1972.

Rehearsals for the play at SDSS began in October. Kristin Miller portrays Beatrice and Kim Walker is Tillie. Both students are in Grade 10. John Wideman plays Tyler, Nessa Hallman is Ruth and Tyler Stevens portrays Roy. All three students are in Grade 12.

A silent role of an aged man named Pappy is brought to life by Spencer Cawston.

The plays take place in the broken-down home of a dysfunctional family, Mr. Cawston explained. Pappy doesn't speak throughout the play, but the challenge is to portray the immobility and loss of hearing and sight that old age brings.

Roy goes into convulsions throughout the play and that is hard to do, Mr. Stevens said, because most of the acting he's done has been in comedies.

A live rabbit will share the stage with the student actors.

The play is directed by teachers Deborah Craig and Pat DiPede and is geared toward a mature audience.

Our Town with Hannelore Volpe

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and the play begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 each and are available at the door or in advance from student council members or at the SDSS main office.

\$260,000 grant for dance company

The Motus O dance theatre based in Stouffville has received a five-year operating grant totalling \$260,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The funds will allow the

avante-garde company to hire a general manager and marketing consultant. That means artistic directors, James and Cindy Croker and Jack Langenhuizen, will teach more classes in schools and develop new ways to promote arts in York Region.

The company was created in 1990 and performs throughout York Region, Canada and overseas. It has produced seven full-length productions for families, young people and mature audiences, such as The Little Prince, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Petrouchka and Alice.

On tour, the company offers movement and physical theatre workshops and residencies where local performers can join Motus O in public performances.

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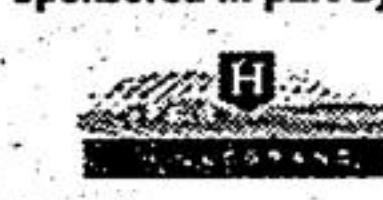
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