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10-22-1992

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/22/1992 - Local Student Performs in EIU Play Jennifer Shields" (1992). 1992. 764.

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92-335

October 22, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LOCAL STUDENT PERFORMS IN EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PLAY

CHARLESTON, IL--Jennifer Shields, daughter of Sarah Thomas of Charleston, was recently selected to perform in an Eastern Illinois University production of "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds," by Paul Zindel.

"...Marigolds," winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Obie Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, is a play about an embittered, vindictive widow and her two young daughters.

In the play, Shields portrays Matilda (Tillie), the plain and soft spoken girl who develops a love for science and knowledge. Encouraged by her high school teacher, she undertakes a gamma ray experiment with marigolds.

Shields, a junior theatre/art major, is a 1986 graduate of Charleston High School.

Eastern's highest priority is excellence in teaching. The University's 10,000 students live on an attractive, safe 320-acre campus with a full range of extracurricular activities. Graduation rates are well above state and national averages.