Paint Branch Fall Play, Flowers for Algernon, Opens Friday, November 11, 2011

On Friday, November 11, Paint Branch Perspectives will present Flowers for Algernon by David Rogers. The play, based on the beloved novel by Daniel Keyes, runs for two consecutive weekends, November 11-12, and November 18-19. Doors open at 7:00 pm with the show beginning at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $5.00 for students and $7.00 for adults.

Flowers for Algernon, an American classic that inspired the award-winning movie Charly, is the story of an intellectually disabled man, Charlie, whose experimental quest for intelligence mirrors that of Algernon, an extraordinary lab mouse. In poignant diary entries, Charlie tells how a brain operation increases his IQ and changes his life. As the experimental procedure takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpasses that of the doctors who engineered his metamorphosis. The experiment seems to be a scientific breakthrough of paramount importance – until Algernon begins a sudden, unexpected deterioration. Will the same happen to Charlie?

Though it's classified as science fiction, Flowers for Algernon is much more. It delves deep into the human mind, provokes introspection on human relationships, and forces us to confront a philosophical question: What does it mean to be one's self? The novel was first published in 1958, and 53 years later it still feels recent and relevant. Is it possible to surgically raise a person's intelligence? How do the intricacies of human relationships work? What truly is self-identity?

Be sure to join the cast in an engaging evening of exploring what being a human really means – even for a short while.