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As many of you know from my theater column of many, many years ...

By Pat Taylor on January 31st, 2014 [Printer-Friendly](#)

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I love live theatrical productions! Of course some are disappointing, but each one invites you to consider different lifestyles and situations. This vicariously broadens the tapestry of your life experiences, while enjoying a night out with friends. Last weekend was a particularly rewarding one. I caught a pair of excellent plays, offered by two long-successful theater groups....

The Different Shades of Hugh – A World Premiere.



From l, Tom Musgrave, Coronado Romero, and Zachary Mooren star in the Road Theatre Company's World Premiere production of "The Different Shades of Hugh," written by Clete Keith and directed by Sam Anderson and now playing at the Road Theatre on Magnolia.

Written brilliantly by Clete Keith, this play held the opening night audience riveted throughout, and earned a rousing standing ovation! A tricky play to review for you, as there are secrets I must not reveal, which you will see when you catch it yourself ... and you must! It explores the complex and innermost madness and passion that lies in the soul of one particular artist. As Hugh, this artist doubting his work and stuck in a gray world ... Coronado Romero gives a dark and mesmerizingly powerful performance. Directed with soul searching passion by Sam Anderson, the audience was suspended in hypnotic bliss throughout. The play opens as Diane (Hugh's beautiful ex-girlfriend) arrives to help him set up an intimate art showing of his work in his apartment. An unsuccessful venture, Hugh plunges further into self doubt and manic self-exploration. When Maris, a lovely girl from the art gallery next door, and its abrasive curator knock on his door, his cerebral whirlwind of confusion and madness is exacerbated. (Played with sweet "girl next door" charm by Ellie Jameson and pompous perfection

by Stephan Smith Collins.) In Act Two, Hugh is visited by two weird and whacky artists, there to help him find his artistic vision ... and the plot thickens. As these two artistic nutcakes, Tom Musgrave and Zachary Mooren are riotously fearless! Sadly, I mustn't reveal much more, or I'll ruin your experiences. Act Two explodes with delicious twists n' turns, plenty of laughs, and revealingly unexpected events. This is a wildly creative script ... acted, directed, and produced with top notch skills all around. The mood setting, "behind the scenes" efforts were also eye & ear poppingly fabulous, and must be credited. David B. Marling (sound design), Adam Flemming (scenic and projection design), Jeremy Pivnick (lighting), and Jocelyn Hublau Parker (costumes). A mind boggling, hilarious, and totally unique production. Do not miss this one! Running through March 15 at The Road Theatre's second home located at 10747 Magnolia Blvd. in North Hollywood. For tickets call (866) 506-1248 or online at RoadTheatre.org.