


[Reviews](#)
[Previous Reviews](#)
[Interviews](#)
[Actors](#)
[Letters](#)
[Special Features](#)

HEDDA GABLER

Antaeus
Theatre

Reviewed by Carol
Kaufman Segal



Hedda Gabler, Henrik Ibsen's 1891 drama is the final production of the Antaeus Theatre Company's season as they prepare to open in the fall in their newly renovated cultural arts complex in Glendale.

As is usual with the Antaeus Theatre Company, this production features three different casts, The Pistols, The Generals, and The Fjords. The Fjords perform Thursdays and Fridays, which is a mix of The Pistols and The Generals. My review is based on the production performed by The Fjords. It is astutely directed by Steven Robman who opted to move the time period up from 1891 to the 1920's in order to give it more freedom of style.

Hedda Gabler (Jaimi Paige) is the daughter of a patrician general, obviously, a spoiled, , complex, and calculating woman who demands much more than she gives. Upon returning from her honeymoon with her husband George Tesman (JD Collum), she does not hold back her disdain for him, their lovely home, or her boring honeymoon. It is obvious that Hedda never loved him and we have to wonder why she married George in the first place.

George is an aspiring academic who is working diligently on his research in hopes of being offered a professorship at the University of Oslo. Suddenly his rival Ejlert Levborg (Daniel Blinkoff), and we soon

discover Hedda's former lover, arrives on the scene with Thia Elvsted (Kwana Martinez). Thia is a former schoolmate of Hedda's and she, unfortunately, feels a friendship towards her. She has left an unhappy marriage to be with Ejlert. Ejlert has already had a manuscript published and has been working with Thia on a sequel that he feels will be a masterpiece.

Because they were once, schoolmates, Thia feels that she can confide in Hedda. Never mind that she is having an affair with Hedda's former lover who is also her husband's rival. (Or does that fact really matter?) Obviously jealous, Hedda hopes to come between them. The tragic fallout of each of the characters becomes the result of Hedda's dastardly manipulation of everyone who gets in her way.

Hedda Gabler is a stunning production with outstanding artists. The cast is phenomenal, the direction superb, the set by Se Hyun Oh is beautiful, and the lavish costumes by Leah Piehl are lovely. Any of the three casts will bring a wonderful experience to any theatergoer.

Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 PM, Saturdays at 2 PM and 8 PM, and Sundays at 2 PM through July 17. The Antaeus Theatre is located at 5112 Lankershim Blvd., in North Hollywood. For tickets, call (818) 506-1983, or go online at www.Antaeus.org.

Highly recommended

Comments? Write to us at: Letters@ReviewPlays.Com

