

H southern california notes



By Mavis Manus

A comatose man re-emerges into consciousness in a multilayered, multimedia theatrical event about the miraculous power of the brain to re-write and heal itself. The world premiere of **PLASTICITY**, written by Ovation, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle and LA Weekly award-nominated co-writers **Alex Lyras** and **Robert McCaskill** is now in an eight-week run at the **Hudson Guild Theatre** in

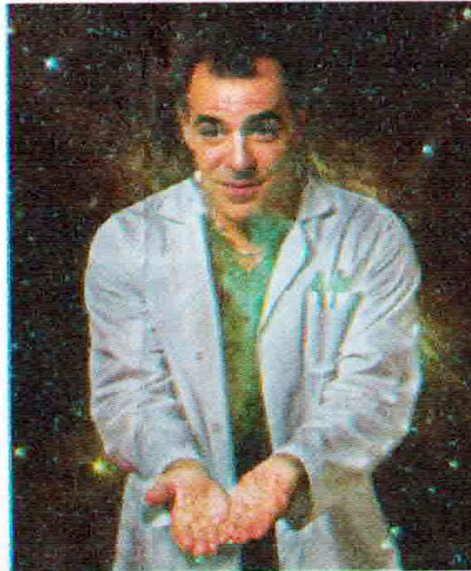
Alex Lyras, as neurosurgeon Dr. Rumi Singh, ponders the connection between neurons and the stars in multimedia play, 'Plasticity.'

PHOTO BY JANATHAN SCHELL

Hollywood.

McCaskill and Lyras team up with composer **Ken Rich**, visual artist **Corwin Evans** and editor **Peter Chakos** to create a profound, humorous and highly ambitious tour of the collective unconscious.

Blending cutting-edge science with masterful storytelling, **PLASTICITY** takes the audience deep inside the mind of David Rosely, even as he lies in a coma. A



hovering circle of doctors and loved ones, including David's twin brother Grant, are all played by Lyras in an unusual solo performance: the actor not only creates multiple characters, but interacts with them on stage through the use of integrated projections.

Lyras comments: "After 20 years of writing together, your inspirations start to align. Rob and I share a curiosity for the science of consciousness. We've also both had experiences where medical crises brought groups of people together around a hospital bed, and the results are always dramatic. People often go to extremes when driven by the power of love. And there's a poignance to memories then the stakes are life and death."

Brain plasticity (from the Greek word 'plastos' meaning molded) refers to the extraordinary ability of the brain to modify its own structure and function

following changes within the body or in the external environment. The play also examines important end-of-life issues, as David's friends and family consider whether or not to "pull the plug."

The Hudson Guild Theatre is located at 6539 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles 90038. To purchase tickets phone 323-960-7787 or go to www.plasticitytheplay.com.