

# What's All This About Hugh Downs?

I felt too restless to write blogs, but I'm too tired to take the kids anywhere, so it's either write in my blog or sit here on my computer looking up scary ailments that could be afflicting my husband. So blogging it is...

As you may have read on other tangents.org blogs, our community theater is about to open its production of The Nerd – an (I still hate putting the word “an” in front of hilarious, but oh well) hilarious comedy written by Larry Shue. My husband is portraying the Nerd, a character named Rick Steadman, who is without any social ettiquette whatsoever, to put it mildly. He does an excellent job at the part, if I do say so myself, and that's a compliment, really it is – he's not a nerd in real life! In the play, Rick has an autographed picture of Hugh Downs, and all this time during rehearsal, I've been wondering, who is Hugh Downs? The name sounds familiar, but I didn't know anything about him, so I looked him up. Turns out he is a fellow Ohioan, born in Akron, went to high school in Lima, and he's still alive. He anchored the newsmagazine show 20/20, hosted the Today show, was the announcer for The Tonight Show with Jack Paar, and he also hosted the game show Concentration.

So having an autographed picture of Hugh Downs *is* quite nerdy. But then again, I looked him up on wikipedia, so what does that make me?