

thing to shreds  
to create an  
love—maybe  
-itself. Well,  
is all right, but  
The widow and  
jokes, and in  
n's staging for  
ardity gives way  
ugging sort of  
ten the script  
of inspiration, and  
as some sexy-  
widow, but the  
0 minutes of too  
**R** *Through 3/9:*  
*PM, BoHo The-*  
*ood, 866-811-4111,*  
*10-\$12.*

me Rose" Hovick,  
cter in this 1959  
e, is one of the  
ican drama—right  
he DuBois, Mary  
oman—and Gary  
oped-down stag-  
is squarely on  
uise Pitre's fierce,  
As the desperate  
g to groom her  
eville stardom,  
e "pioneer  
ontier" Arthur  
lls for and her

*Bryn Mawr, 773-728-7529, redtwist.org, \$25-\$35.*

**R** **Magical Exploding Boy** In the Actors Gymnasium's latest spectacle-laden performance, a clown pretends he's run off to join the circus. Pretending, after all, is "cheaper than therapy," as the narrator reminds us in a moment of metacommentary. The plot, as much as it exists, is mostly an excuse for impressive pageantry: aerial artistry, drumming, tumbling, remarkably flexible aliens, and several changes of scenery, from the underworld (narrated by Jacques Cousteau) to outer space, where an astronaut moonwalks. AG's focus on team building is on vivid display: here are performers who know how to work together. So what if the narrative isn't linear? our narrator sings. It doesn't mean "the art is inferior." Indeed. —**SUZANNE SCANLON**  
*Through 3/23: Fri 7:30 PM, Sat 4:30 and 7:30 PM, Sun 3 PM, Actors Gymnasium, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes, Evanston, 847-328-2795, actorsgymnasium.com, \$15-\$20.*

**The Playboy of the Western World** First, a translation: "playboy" is the early-20th-century Irish term

Matt. —**ZAC**  
*3/8: Sat 7 P*  
*Sheffield, \$*

**Sweet Pho**  
that Michael  
broad satir  
tious contr  
er are so fo  
that Helen  
having sex.  
point, once  
dog they're  
of, everyth  
tragic; all h  
is become  
mournfully  
cago's "unc  
point to ma  
admonition  
lives are un  
cible Theat  
debut. Dire  
find a conv  
the comed  
ing in a pro  
somewhere  
**HAYFORD**  
*PM, the Fr*  
*runciblethe*

**Unshelved**  
Audrey she  
specifically  
her son. Ry