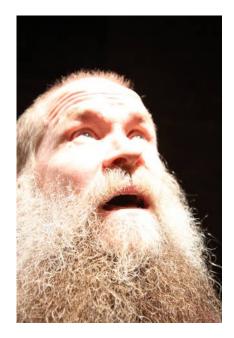
## The latest Reader performing arts reviews

Sharon Lurye

- Johnny Knight
- Rush Pearson in Diary of a Madman

Our latest performing arts reviews are here, hot off the real and virtual presses—but only a select few are positive enough to warrant a *Reader* recommendation. According to Tony Adler, you can't go wrong with Steppenwolf Theatre's Garage Rep this year: all three entries are worth seeing (though for entirely different reasons). And Laura Molzahn suggests you make Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak's *The Delicate Hour* your dance fix for the week.

Also recommended are DreamLogic Theatrework's *Elder Gods*, a promenadestyle adaptation of H.P. Lovecraft's *At the Mountains of Madness*; the Actors Gymnasium's sweet *Lost and Found: A Recycled Circus*, featuring an outstanding cast of adults, teens, and kids; and *They Are Dying Out*, Trap Door Theatre's version of a 1973 satire by Austrian provocateur Peter Handke. The intimacy of a black-box set makes for great theater in Mary-Arrchie's revival of the 2008 Tracy Letts comedy *Superior Donuts* and



(Re)discover Theater's *Hamlet*, which amps up the classic play's sex appeal by emphasizing the relationship between the melancholy Dane and Ophelia. (Hurry if you want to see *Hamlet*: it closes Saturday.)

Other new Shakespearean efforts: Chicago Shakespeare's Freudian twist on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Idle Muse's production of *Shakespeare's R and J* by Joe Calarco, in which boys at a boarding school mount a clandestine performance of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Albert Williams evaluates a touring production of *South Pacific*, Dan Jakes takes a read on *Diary of a Madman* at Prop, and Kerry Reid peeks at *Man Boobs* from Pride Films and Plays. We also review Wild Claw's *Kill Me*, about a woman who believes she's invincible, and Circle's *The Ritz*, the comic tale of a straight man who tries to avoid his murderous brother-in-law by hiding out in a gay bathhouse.

Finally, our critics give less than enthusiastic receptions to *Devil May Care*, a tedious drama about a pastor and a spinster, and *My Kinda Town* from Nothing Special Productions (need we say more?).