

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 promenade-style 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?).

