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## Stage

### Do You Think It's All Right?

Summer Cabaret at Yale: The Who's "Tommy."

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Thursday, June 19, 2008

By Christopher Arnott



*Kathleen Cei Photo*

Chad Raines plays "Tommy."

Seeing, feeling, touching and healing *The Who's Tommy* just got a whole lot easier. To open their main 2008 summer season, the [Summer Cabaret at Yale](#) has scaled down the classic-rock opera to the

intimate dimensions of its basement space at 217 Park St. and rescored it for a four-piece rock band instead of the usual expansive rock ensemble or pit orchestra.

The wailing drama about an abused deaf, dumb and blind child with a pinball affliction stars local synthpop icon **Chad Raines** (in photo), whose plastic-haired patchouli-stoked dance-happy trio The Simple Pleasure appeared in a Yale School of Drama production of Brecht's *Baal* last year. (The band was also a hit at last month's [New Haven Advocate Readers' Appreciation Party at BAR](#)). Mike Donahue, known at Yale for his imaginative Ibsen overhauls (*Brand* at the school-year Cabaret, and *Peer Gynt* as his thesis directing project), directs. Donahue graduated from Yale this month but is hanging around to helm this season's Summer Cabaret, which is transitioning from a separate summer-theater entity into an aspect of the now year-round Yale Cabaret. *Tommy* has an unusually long run for a Summer Cabaret show, June 18 through July 5, with a special high-ticket (\$75) pre-show season-opening bash June 18.

(203) 432-1567 , [summercabaret.org](http://summercabaret.org).

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## Winter Special

A few holiday plays and musicals outside the norm in and around Greater New Haven this theater season

By Bill Squier

12/11/2008

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