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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.

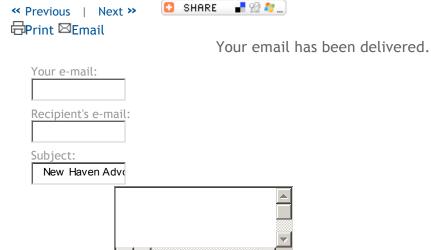
The wailing drama about an abused deaf, dumb and blind child with a pinball affliction stars local synthpop icon Chad Raines (in photo), whose plastic-haired patchouli-stoked dance-happy trio The Simple Pleasure appeared in a Yale School of Drama production of Brecht's Baal last year. (The band was also 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.

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