



## CRITICAL PRAISE

### JON MARANS'S OLD WICKED SONGS (2007)

CRITIC'S CHOICE "Pitch-perfect performances of Vincent L. Lonergan and Shawn Pfautsch" —Justin Hayford, *Chicago Reader*

CRITIC'S PICK "A play about classical pianists finding fellowship through art benefits greatly if the actors do their own musical stuntwork. In this smart production by a small treasure of a troupe, they do." —Barnidge, *Windy City Times*

"Superior to its big-star, big-budget predecessors ... Vincent L. Lonergan and Shawn Pfautsch are not only accomplished actors, but more than that, they are also musicians—and, as such, capable of vocal and instrumental melodic improvisations [in] this small brilliant gem" —Barnidge, *Windy City Times*

Must See! —Centerstage Chicago

"Lonergan's endearing, nicely balanced performance" —Vitello, *Daily Herald*

CRITIC'S PICK "Jon Marans raises the bar for the "hands" in his two-hander, in which a middle-aged, Austrian music professor and an arrogant young American pianist must be able to play classical piano. And sing. In German. And do these things not just credibly, but expressively. Songs could be excruciating, but the play, which feels a tad overworked in the metaphor department as well as overlong but it never feels like an also-ran in the hands of actors Vincent L. Lonergan and Shawn Pfautsch, whether they are playing the piano or playing off each other" —Powell, *Time Out Chicago*

### SAM SHEPARD'S FOOL FOR LOVE (2007)

"A knockout staging...down-at-the-heels sex appeal...excellent direction" —Metz, *Chicago Tribune*

"Everything you expect in a Shepard play...immensely satisfying...Snook is

especially impressive [and] nicely ambiguous" —Vitello, *Daily Herald*

Critics' Choice "...intimate, haunting" —Piatt, *Time Out Chicago*

"Ronan Marra's controlled direction beautifully emphasizes the script's power...Signal Ensemble Theatre truly allows the mastery of Shepard's initial vision to live" —Kirst, *Chicago Free Press*

"A coherent clutter-free production bringing the action home in a robust, riveting and, yes, 'relentless' 50 minutes without a second wasted" —Barnidge, *Windy City Times*

### SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET (2007)

"Signal Ensemble Theatre plays it straight with a masterful production - faithful to text and tone...Ambitious and passionate, this is a 'Hamlet' for purists...you won't want to miss it." —Vitello, *Daily Herald*

"This production is the work of the Signal Ensemble, a company quickly forging a reputation for elevating everything it touches." —Barnidge, *Windy City Times*

"Director Ronan Marra finds honest humor in many of Shakespeare's darkest, most disturbing corners...And Signal Ensemble Theatre's self-described straightforward production is blessedly free of conceptual clutter." —Hayford, *Chicago Reader*

### CONOR MCPHERSON'S THE WEIR (2007)

"Prentice and his talented cast make magic ... So convincing is this well-acted, well-paced production, you might find yourself tempted to order a pint and join in the conversation" —Vitello, *Daily Herald*

"The cast all but glows...The Weir runs a riveting 90 minutes, and we are never more sorry than when it's over." —Barnidge, *Windy City Times*

"A note-perfect set by Melania Lancy and subtle, unhurried performances" —Reid, *Chicago Reader*

Critics' Choice "By the end of the evening we want nothing more than a pint of Guinness and the company of friends. That's exactly the response this stirring production should provide" —Vire, *Time Out Chicago*

"Not to be missed ... This is a brilliant production of a fantastic play with five outstanding performances that unfolds as one mesmerizing night at the theatre. This is one of the finest plays of the year!" —Williams, [chicagocritic.com](http://chicagocritic.com)

"It's the Signal troupe, though, that deserves attention. The players emote with such a casual competence that you almost forget they're acting" —Foreman, [centerstagechicago.com](http://centerstagechicago.com)

"Attractive and solid" —Zarris, *Gay Chicago*

### HAROLD PINTER'S THE DUMB WAITER & EDWARD ALBEE'S THE ZOO STORY (2006)

Highly Recommended "The discoveries the company makes are amplified by exacting, astonishingly expressive performances" —Barnidge, *Chicago Reader*

"Signal Ensemble earns praise for clean direction and strong acting" —Vitello, *Daily Herald*

Critics' Pick "...Solid performances ... perfectly fine start to Signal Ensemble's fourth season" —Parsi, *Time Out Chicago*

2006 Outstanding Actors list: Christopher Prentice as Jerry —Barnidge, *Windy City Times*

Highly Recommended "Signal Ensemble Theatre once more shows why they are among the finest non-Equity troupes in Chicago." —Williams, [chicagocritic.com](http://chicagocritic.com)