

Spring theater preview

This is why they're hot

The shows you'll want to see this spring have one key creative force behind them—meet the people you need to know about.

Photograph by Stephen Schuster

Jason Craig Actor-rocker *The Fall and Rise of the Rising Fallen*

WHY HIM? Shaving your head and going nuts with an umbrella isn't the only way to reinvent yourself. Banana Bag & Bodice, the rollicking troupe responsible for last year's

underground mind-fuck *The Sewers* and the creepy hymn to carnivory *Panel.Animal*, has up and decided to become a rock & roll band. Cofounder and writer Jason Craig says the team is doing the equivalent of a stage dive. Besides bassist-vocalist Craig, the ad hoc musicians include Peter Blomquist, Jessica Jelliffe, Casey Opstad, Rod Hipskind and Heather Peroni. "Most of us have never played instruments before, but that's the beauty of it," Craig says. "We don't know what we're doing—just picking up guitars and strapping them to our backs."

WHY NOW? Their upcoming show, *The Fall and Rise of the Rising Fallen*, will follow the performers' meta-gig on a Scandinavian oil rig, and the group has six weeks to acquire its chops. Craig admits the decision to take up music was a tad seat-of-the-pantsish: "I don't have a plan. I do know we're not going to kill the drummer. This is really about generating fake hype about a band that doesn't exist." Which is why we already have our tickets.—HS

The Fall and Rise of the Rising Fallen plays Apr 26–May 12 at P.S. 122.

