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Musical theater report: THE AVANT-GARDIST

Brendan Connelly may be a new-music nerd, but there's nothing wimpy about his fearless adaptation of Macbeth. By Helen Shaw

It comes as no surprise that the guy who wrote a concert piece called They don't care about the details but fuck with the structure and they'll crush your spine refuses to see himself as part of the musical-theater mainstream.



Photograph: Michael Kirby

For THC's 2006 Kabuki take on Major Barbara, a clanging score dictated highly formalized speech; in last year's Drum of the Waves of Horikawa, similar Japanese stylings were incorporated into a postpunk, thunderously percussive soundscape.

Connelly, 32, wants to bind text and note together, but not for grand gestures. "Opera composers are interested in the heights of emotion," he says.

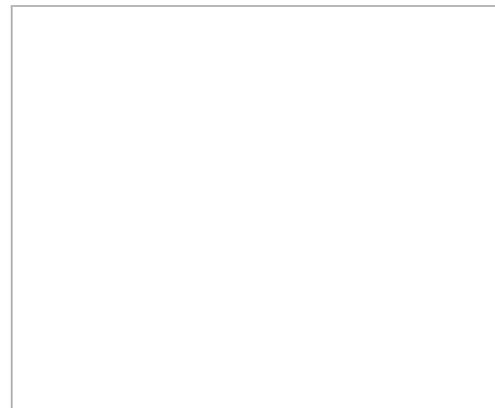
Besides Macbeth, Connelly is working on a chamber opera to Mac Wellman's libretto A Morphology of Errors, and writing sound-installation works for his M.F.A. at Bard.

Listen to two sample tracks by Connelly. (It make take a few seconds for the audio player to load.)

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Chicago
Fela
In the Heights
Jersey Boys
Lion King
Mamma Mia!
Memphis
Phantom of the Opera
Rock of Ages
West Side Story
Wicked



Cheap tickets



Where to get discounts to Broadway shows.

Critics' picks



David Cote
Fela!: Bill T. Jones conjures up a vivid swirl of Afrobeat music, dance and political drama to tell the story of Fela Kuti.

Rock of Ages: Trim your mullet and pound your head at this guilty retro-'80s treat.



Adam Feldman
La Cage aux Folles: Douglas Hodge and Kelsey Grammer makes beautiful music together.

## Top Off Broadway shows



**Our Town**



**Love, Loss and What I Wore**



A work-in-progress version of *Macbeth* will play at Chashama North in August, 2008. For more information, visit [twoheadedcalf.org](http://twoheadedcalf.org).

Time Out New York / Issue 654 : Apr 9-15, 2008

**Avenue Q**



**Blue Man Group**

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**Avenue Q:** The long-running, R-rated puppet musical continues its waggish run at New World Stages.

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8. Avenue Q
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10. Freud's Last Session

