

If you do only

# 1 thing...

December 6–12, 2007



## Phranc

The flattopped singer shows off her cardboard sculptures in an exhibit curated by Ann Magnuson. The pair also rocks out in an opening-night performance at CUE Art Foundation on Fri 7. [See page 62.](#)



### August: Osage County

Two great opportunities: to confirm the brilliance of playwright Tracy Letts, and to see Chicago's Steppenwolf troupe in action. [See page 158.](#)

### "Jeremy Blake Memorial Exhibition"

The digital artist, who committed suicide in July, is remembered in this show at the Kinz, Tillou + Feigen gallery. [See page 74.](#)

**What's Next?** Elliott Carter's only opera receives its first local staging in a run ending Tue 11, on Carter's 99th birthday. [See page 147.](#)

### Kiki & Herb: The Second Coming—A Christmas Concert

The unhinged duo puts a twist on holiday cheer at Carnegie Hall Wed 12. [See page 144.](#)

### Bar d'O Reunion Show

Their old haunt is gone, so Joey Arias, Sherry Vine and Sade Pendarvis relive the fabulous '90s at Indochine on Sun 9. [See page 122.](#)

**Atonement** Proving that his masterful *Pride & Prejudice* was no fluke, Joe Wright returns with another extraordinary literary adaptation. [See page 95.](#)

## 3 questions for...

### Phranc

Punk folksinger, cardboard cobbler



#### 1 How long have you been making cardboard and kraft-paper sculptures of everyday objects?

I've been making two-dimensional cardboard art since I was a kid. Back in the punk-rock days, I would pay my rent by having last-minute art sales in my apartment. The first sculpture I made, though, was a piece of yellow cake with chocolate icing and a big blue ribbon—all cardboard—in '91. The next year, I made a pink party dress. I love cardboard. It's so cheap and it has no culture of its own—it's whatever we put onto it. And it'll hold up for centuries.

#### 2 You were part of the transgressive queercore movement of the early '90s, but aren't cardboard party dresses—and your Tupperware parties—kind of...well, Norman Rockwell?

There's this perception that because I'm an out lesbian or have a flattop, that I'm "out there." And I embrace that. But I've always used humor to provoke people. And I'm genuinely nostalgic about childhood and suburbia and all that. I'm much more Harriet Nelson than anyone would ever suspect.

#### 3 Well, Ms. Conventional, any plans for Hanukkah?

We'll light the menorah and make latkes. Y'know, the usual. Ooh, should I put a cardboard dreidel in the show? I think I may have to!

—Dan Avery

Phranc's cardboard art is on view at CUE Art Foundation starting Thu 6. She and curator Ann Magnuson perform at the opening-night party on Fri 7. See daily listings.