

# THE INTANGIBLE MIND

Theater companies attempt tricky task of portraying characters with mental conditions

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Coming up at San Diego Repertory Theatre: “The Who’s Tommy,” the 1992 musical about a boy with profound sensory issues and a fixation on pinball. Although it would be a stretch to diagnose Tommy as autistic, the way he deals with the world has often brought up comparisons to that condition.

One lyric from the show seems to get at how instructive it can be to see life from such a rare perspective, thanks to an act of theater:

“Sickness will surely take the mind / where minds can’t usually go. Come on the amazing journey / and learn all you should know.”

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