

Weekend

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THEATER GUIDE

★ **“JAILS, HOSPITALS AND HIP-HOP.”** The remarkable young performance artist Danny Hoch finds crusted layers of cultural contradictions in portraits whose subjects range from a word-wary alcoholic prison guard to a Cuban engineering student in love with the language of rap. This vivid, complex one-man show, directed by Jo Bonney, swings through hospital lobbies, prison cafeterias, jail cells and television talk-show sets. Along the way, it asks shrewd questions about the mutating nature of racial identities, the ways gangsta rap and hip-hop shape social fantasies, and the frustrations of being trapped in the very fallible instrument known as the human body. It confirms Mr. Hoch’s status as a sui generis performer: part sociologist, part moralist and part super-chameleon (1:30). P.S. 122, 150 First Avenue, at Ninth Street, East Village, (212) 477-5288. Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 P.M.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 and 11 P.M. Tickets: \$10 to \$25 (Brantley).