



PLAY'S THE THING: Derek Scott, left, and David S. Craig amuse with intelligible gibberish and physical performances in the Chalmers Award-winning *Dib and Dob and the Journey Home*

Sibling rivals simply entertain

Dib and Dob and The Journey Home

By David S. Craig and Robert Morgan
Directed by Jim Warren. Set and Costumes by Teresa Przybyski. Lighting by Glenn Davidson. A Roseneath Theatre production to March 19 at Young Peoples Theatre, 165 Front St. E

★★★★

BY VIT WAGNER
Theatre Critic

Dib and Dob & The Journey Home, Judging by the steady stream of giggles that attended a school matinee earlier this week, is perfectly pitched at young theatergoers, age 4 and up.

The Roseneath Theatre production, written by David S. Craig and Robert Morgan, garnered a Chalmers Award last year in the theatre for young audiences category. It has returned to the

studio at Young Peoples Theatre, where it opens to the public today and continues with performances through the school break, March 10-19.

The show's chief virtues are its playfulness and simplicity.

Two brothers, Dib (Craig) and Dob (Derek Scott), are lost in the forest, searching for a way home.

Dib, the elder, clearly puts great store in organization. The articles in his backpack are tidily stowed and a pair of binoculars hang neatly around his neck. Dob, meanwhile, is a flurry of unkempt disarray, his stuff dragging the ground and trailing behind him as he wobbles under the weight.

Part of the problem is that Dob simply has more to lug, a fact that establishes the unequal relationship between the two. Dib orders his younger brother around, while Dob sneaks water from the pair's canteen.

The principal sources of humour are the text, a made-up vernacular of intelligible gibberish, and the physical way in which it is executed. "There's be no fleurs," for instance, is the boys way of saying, "There are no flowers."

Few kids will have trouble following any of this. And, for those who are mystified by the fractured lingo, there are plenty of sight gags to carry the narrative. It doesn't take much to get the joke when Dib and Dob, nestled under the roof of their makeshift tent, try to share a blanket that is barely big enough for one.

By working together to defeat the real and imagined demons they encounter on the way, the siblings strengthen the bond between them and develop an appreciation for each other's differences. In this way, Dib and Dob learn that home is about being together.