

Theater review: Parents, kids and the gaps in between

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Loaded firearms and kids at play often make a tragically lethal combination.

Thankfully, Portland native Dan Trujillo does more than dramatize this dreadfully apparent truth in his play "Jingle Spree," which is receiving a thoughtful and often riveting presentation from CoHo Productions.

Blending humor and psychological insight, Trujillo's play about children, adults and a gun artfully explores the great gaps in understanding and communication that separate kids and parents.

...While Trujillo's play revolves around the shooting incident, it doesn't explain or explain away that deed. Sure, Trujillo suggests reasons why and how it occurred. But he doesn't tie the event up in a neat package, nor does he offer the balm of a comfortable closure.

There are loose ends here, and that's the play's power: It has the complexity of life, while taking us on what feels like a carefully charted voyage that allows us to see the similarities, differences, and spaces between the young and the not-so-young.