



# Adelaide Theatre Guide

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## DON'T EXPLAIN

The Umbilical Brothers

The Dunstan Playhouse

Until 15 Jun 2008

Review by Stephanie Johnson

The Umbilical Brothers stage show "Don't Explain" is a joyous, riotous, and dexterous romp. The microphone-toting mime artists are sometimes more child-like than adult, often more physical than intellectual, and frequently side-splittingly funny.

Australian comedy duo David Collins (the wiry-haired one) and Shane Dundas (the bald one) are hilarious, stretching the bounds of believability with frenetic and skilful skits.

Collins and Dundas are a team – like Laurel and Hardy, Abbot and Costello, Martin and Lewis. And yet they are in a class of their own because their imaginations have run riot. The humour is so quirky, so sound driven and yet so utterly charming. It is like watching a return to childhood and your neighbourhood friends playing cops and robbers, except that these two have created and mastered their own unique methods that go way beyond the ordinary.

Imagine somewhat deranged comedians enacting an Aussie barbecue complete with an annoying fly. Sounds familiar enough and it is funny. The Umbilical Brothers then take it a step further and the common barbecue scene descends into a manic onslaught of fly-spray revenge that somehow ends with the killing and barbecuing of Kermit the frog. What other gun-toting varmints could kill Kermit the frog, Miss Piggy, Daffy Duck and cohorts and have an audience in stitches? This is a totally satisfying, hilarious night of fun.

The comedic duo has returned from New York where the show ran off-Broadway for more than a year, proving that their peculiar brand of humour knows no bounds. Certainly their imaginations do not.