



Rachel Weck in "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" (Jennie McInnis)

‘Edward Tulane’ on 24th Street

by Margaret Gray

The essentials: Kate DiCamillo is one of only six writers to have won two Newbery Medals, the most prestigious honor in children’s literature. Her 2006 novel, “The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane,” in which a self-centered porcelain rabbit learns how to love, may be her best, according to a New York Times review. A porcelain rabbit may not be the most promising leading man. (A snarky review would write itself: “His acting is stiff.”) But Dwayne Hartford, playwright-in-residence at Childsplay, a theater for young audiences in Tempe, Ariz., brings Edward to vivid life in his popular stage adaptation.

Why this? The 24th Street Theatre specializes in productions for all ages, and that doesn’t mean puppet shows that have parents gritting their teeth or opera that sets toddlers squirming in their seats. Director Debbie Devine sets out to create shows that genuinely engage everyone. If the company’s track record isn’t incentive enough, then be tempted by this hopeful story about a narcissist learning to feel empathy.

The details: 24th Street Theatre, 1117 W. 24th St., Los Angeles. 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays, through May 19. \$24. (213) 745-6516 or 24thstreet.org