

Vancouver theatre duo prepares to take on the world

DualMinds' debut play takes the long road from Edmonton to Hollywood

By Steven Schelling

For Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn, the dual minds that make up the burgeoning theatrical creative team DualMinds, writing their own scripts was born out of necessity.

"We were both advisors during our graduate year at University of Alberta, helping to decide what plays should be put on," recalls Hahn, a striking brunette whose body seems to hang off her perfect cheekbones.

"We read lots of plays," her partner, the wiry and energetic Daniel Arnold, continues.

"And we realized that it's hard to find good scripts for people in their twenties," Hahn interjects, finishing Arnold's sentence for him.

In the span of a few short hours, Arnold and Hahn's energy alternates between that of a brother and sister, an old married couple, somewhat friendly divorcés, and best friends (only the latter applies). They first met when cast in a student production of *The Seagull* at their alma mater, and were brought together by what Arnold describes as "a series of random events." ("He moved across the alley from me — it was deliberate," counters Hahn.)

Either way, a working relationship emerged, and the pair became so comfortable with each other that they'd appear in their pyjamas at each other's apartments whenever inspiration struck. (No small feat during a typical

the play *Tuesdays & Sundays*, based on the true, tragic death of two Maritime teens at the turn of the last century. Premiering to acclaim at Calgary's NextFest in 2000, Hahn and Arnold have toured the world with the play over the past seven years, performing at Fringe festivals across Canada, in the U.S., and at the mother of all Fringes in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Now based in Vancouver, the DualMinds duo recently celebrated *Tuesdays & Sundays'* publication by the U.S.-based Dramatic Publishing, as well as the play having been optioned by Vancouver-based movie producer Clare Hodge (to be co-produced by the U.K.'s Slate Films, producers of the Academy Award-winning *The Last King of Scotland*). "We really lucked out with this play," says Arnold.

"People wanted to help us, for some reason," continues Hahn. "There we were, this little Canadian production at Edinburgh [in 2002], slotted against [Jerry Springer: The Opera] and Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins, and we still found an audience. There was this big PR guy who takes on one 'little' play a season, and he chose us."

At the 2003 New York Fringe, their play managed to garner a mention in the *New York Times*, and last summer the pair were invited back to take part in New York Fringe's 10th anniversary Best of Alumni show.

While *Tuesdays & Sundays* has been a seven-year boon to DualMinds, the pair haven't been resting on their laurels. Arnold recently appeared in Blackbird Theatre's acclaimed production of *The Triumph of Love*, and both Arnold and Hahn have been cast in separate Touchstone Pictures films. Their newest collaboration, *Any Night*, will premiere early next year

at Firehall Arts Centre. A short film, *The Janitors*, co-written by Arnold and starring Hahn, premieres Aug. 12 on CBC Television.

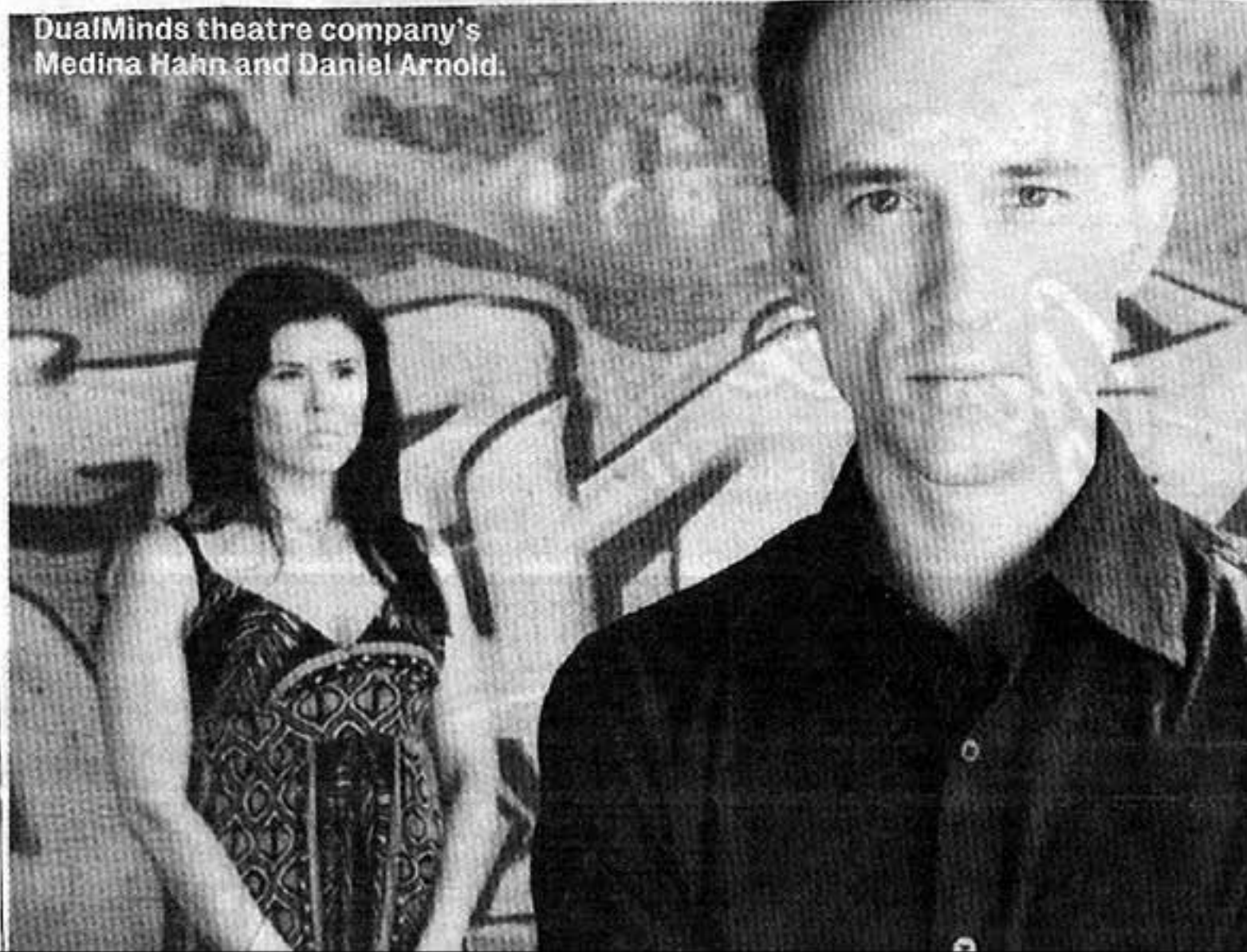
And as if all that weren't enough to make even the most driven overachiever cower in submission, the duo are now developing *The Annie Logo & Bill Board Show*, a musical about two university students who seek out corporate sponsorship to pay their tuition fees.

It's this last project that perhaps best illus-

trates the typically lofty goal of DualMinds. "We want to reach young kids and university dudes who have grown up without ever having seen a play on stage," says Arnold.

With a goal that starry-eyed, two heads will definitely be better than one.

Tuesdays & Sundays runs Aug. 7-19 at Waterfront Theatre (1412 Cartwright), as part of Granville Island's Summer at the Waterfront festival. Tickets \$14-\$20 from 778 330-4290.



DualMinds theatre company's Medina Hahn and Daniel Arnold.