



## Love story

The runaway success of DualMinds' heartbreaking play *Tuesdays and Sundays* surprised no one more than the playwrights

**LYNN MITGES B9**

# A haunting, timeless story

**TRUE EVENTS:** Theatre duo writes a play that takes on the world

### On stage

#### Tuesdays & Sundays

**Where:** Waterfront Theatre, 1412 Cartwright St., Granville Island

**When:** Aug. 7-19 at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$20 at ticketstonight.ca

BY LYNN MITGES  
STAFF REPORTER

When studying theatre at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Daniel Arnold wanted only to act locally. But he came across a story from 1887 that has taken him in a different direction.

The story of two young lovers touched Arnold so deeply that he wanted to do something with it. So he and fellow student Medina Hahn wrote *Tuesdays & Sundays*, a haunting portrayal of the real-life characters who are still not spoken about in P.E.I., where the events occurred.

"It just broke my heart," Arnold says about his first reading. Both he and Hahn perform in the play that has travelled to Edinburgh, Prague, New York and New Mexico — as well as to several fringe festivals across Canada.

The one-act, 50-minute play has been praised by critics as "perfect," the "best piece of theatre" and "flawlessly performed" by Arnold and Hahn's company, DualMinds.

It's a period piece, which isn't supposed to work, says Hahn, but it does so remarkably well.

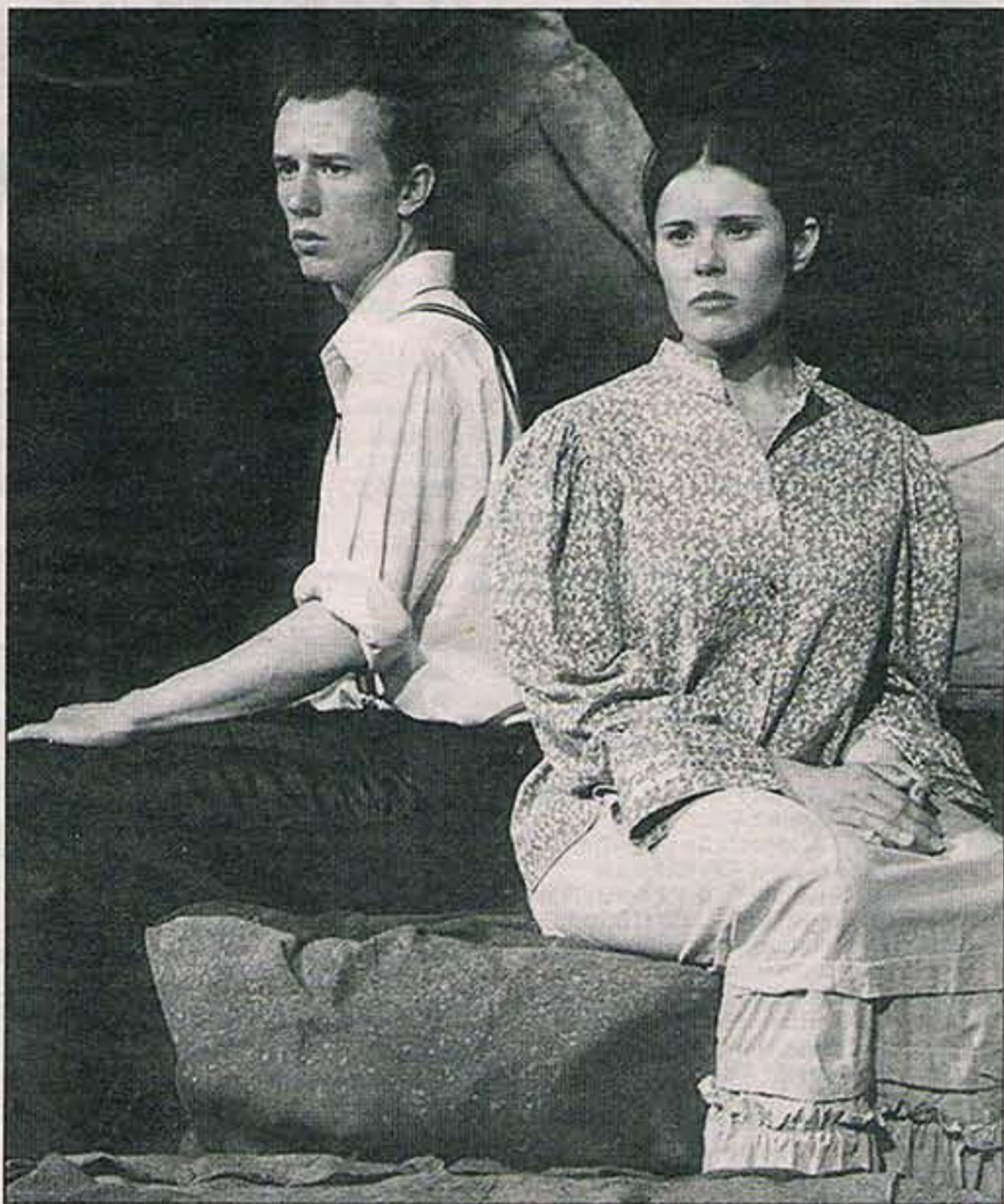
"The influence of families and religions — how is it that 100 years later we're still dealing with the same issues?" says Hahn. "It's not as simple as people think."

The two characters meet on a Tuesday at a New Year's Eve dance. The young man walks the young woman home — and they realize their affection for each other. They agree to meet again the following Sunday, hence the title of the play.

Without giving away too much of the story and its surprises, it comes down to the timelessness of young love, says Arnold.

"We expected to write it, perform it and be done with it," says Arnold with a laugh. "We expected to showcase ourselves as actors with this."

Instead, they found themselves touring outside Canada, learning the ropes



Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn wrote and perform in *Tuesdays & Sundays*.

of PR, promotion and distribution on the fly, getting the play optioned for a movie, and having it published as a book, the launch of which was this week.

Many people who have been touched by the play have climbed aboard this theatrical express. Wojtek Kozlinski, who teaches at U of A, came aboard to direct and act as dramaturge for the work. While in Edinburgh, the team had a publicist step in to help them, and a member of the consulate staff steer them in the right direction. Someone in New York saw the play and got to work on publishing the story in book form. And theatre critics have, in their reviews, urged companies to pick up the production because it's so good.

"We have angels around us," says Hahn. "It seems like somebody is always helping us along the way — it's a story that touches people's hearts."

What works are the emotional dynamics that take place and are easy to identify with, whether the audience is Canadian, Scottish, Czech or American.

"It's something that's not trying to be a social commentary," says Arnold,

adding that the play is haunting, but never preachy.

"It shows what pain and fear can make people do," says Arnold. "There are no fireworks — it's just two people telling their story."

Arnold and Hahn wrote the play in 1999 and it has toured or been staged off and on since then. They perform the roles in a fragile story that is as draining as it is poignant.

"It's like a roller-coaster — you have to be present all the time and you run the gamut of emotions," says Hahn.

For Arnold, whose dream was to ply his craft in Edmonton, the play has shown him the world and fostered DualMinds' mandate to create theatre and film to share on a global scale.

Arnold and Hahn now call Vancouver home, and DualMinds' new play, *Any Night*, will be staged in Victoria in February and in Vancouver in March. Negotiations for the film version are underway, with the first draft of the screenplay complete.

And yes, sometimes they do pinch themselves.

"We wrote ourselves a doozy," says Hahn.

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