

# Days to remember

**TUESDAY AND SUNDAYS – Stage 11**

By MIKE ROSS

Where are we? Are we in heaven? Where are we? Are we in hell?

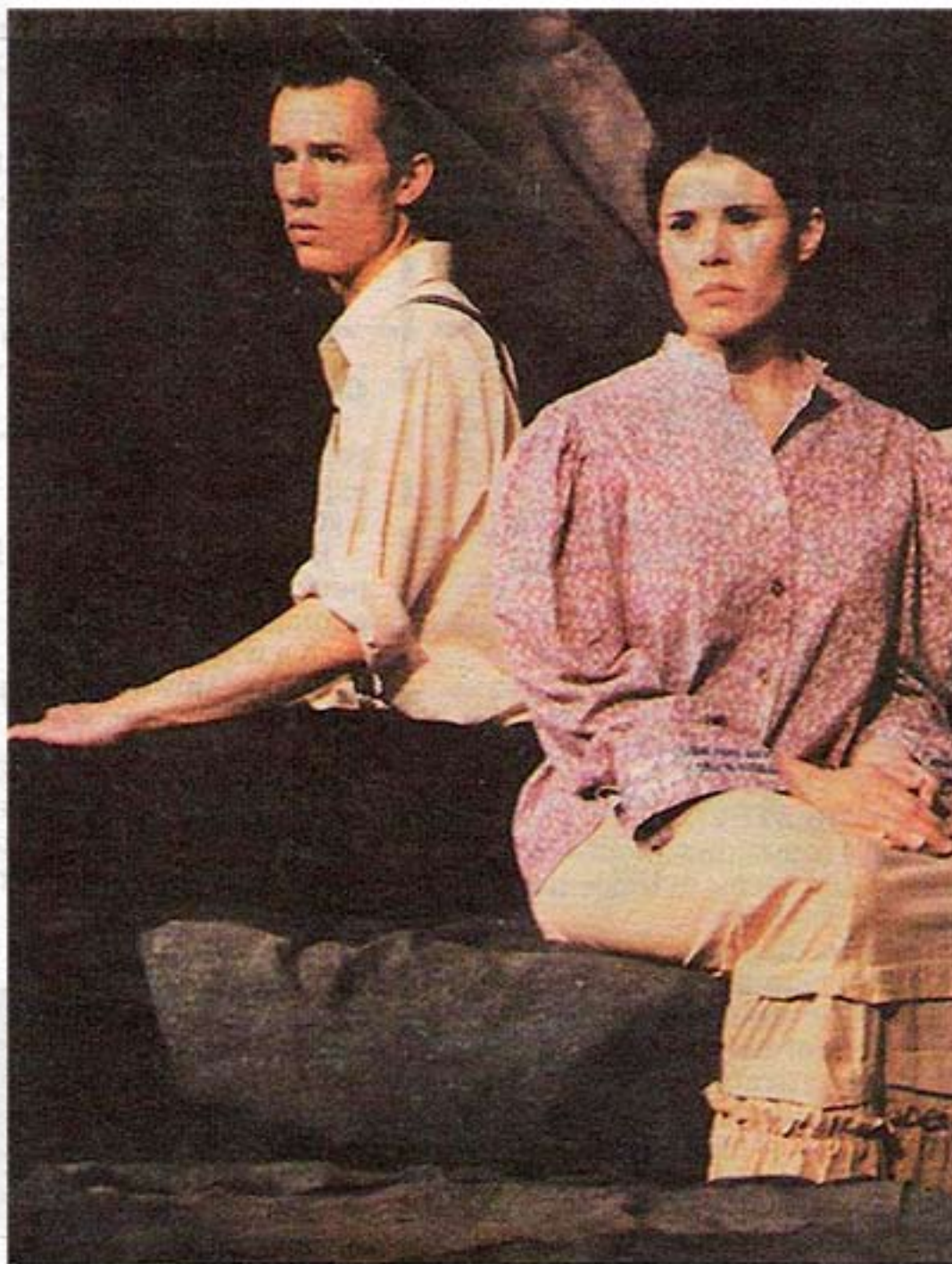
No, we're in Market, P.E.I., a quaint little village set in 1887 – the site of a tragic romance that plays like the most manipulative three-hankie weeper Hollywood ever came up with. The twist lies in the inventive execution of the story.

First seen at the NeXtfest theatre festival in June, *Tuesdays and Sundays* is a roller coaster of touching romance and nerve-racking suspense. It's based on a true story, although the details must be pure conjecture.

Playwrights Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn play William and Mary, who become lovers after meeting at the New Year's Eve dance. The audience meets them as slumped-over "statues" before the play begins, as mournful music wafts through the theatre. After a spooky opening on a set that looks like the river's edge (nice work by designer Catherine Mudryk), William and Mary trade lines in a rapid, poetic banter that seems to blend the future with the past. It's as if the young lovers are acting out their lives and remembering them at the same time. The result is fascinating theatre.

Both actors are convincing as the awkward teens discovering their first love: Hahn as the demure young lass captivated by William, who's a mass of nerves and insecurities. The initial courtship bristles with passion. In short order, the audience should care enough about these charming characters to root for a happy ending, but there are disquieting hints of troubles to come, leading up to the chilling shock of the climax.

In a scene that's been repeated innumerable times with careless young lovers, William rejects Mary after he gets her pregnant. Having a so-called "unclaimed child" in 1887 was one of the most shameful things that could happen in their rural society. The sense of anguish and heartbreak experienced by both William and Mary is palpable – a credit to the performing talents of these actors and the sad tale they've chosen to tell.



**Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn give remarkable performances in *Tuesdays and Sundays*.**