

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2006

After a half dozen or so new pieces, I relented and caught up with one of this year's repeat offerings. The festival invited back 10 distinguished alums from past years, and I took advantage of the opportunity to catch "Tuesdays & Sundays," an insightful, moving, and rather marvelous tale of adolescent ardor and self-sabotage in a rural Canadian town circa 1887.

The actors-playwrights, Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn, and director Wojtek Kozlinski take their time letting the details of their sad tale emerge. As they meet at a New Year's dance, "laugh till forever," and embark on a fateful romance, the two capture the feints, hesitations, and headlong sprints of young love with heartbreaking sensitivity and precision. It's just elliptical enough to fit in among the Fringe's more outré offerings — Mr. Arnold and Ms. Hahn only touch twice during the play's 50 minutes — but it packs an emotional wallop reminiscent of more straightforward works like Brian Friel's "Lovers" and even "Our Town." "Tuesdays & Sundays" holds its own not only against its fellow Fringe dwellers but also against these lofty antecedents. You'll want to clap till forever.