

A CurtainUp Report

2006 New York International Fringe Festival

Tuesdays & Sundays

This extraordinary play for two, apparently drawn from history, concerns two teens on the edge of adulthood who were tragically drawn together in rural Canada in 1887. It most deservedly has won awards in both Canada (A Top Ten Production, 2001) and here in New York (FringeNYC excellence award for overall production, 2003). This tender and engrossing, although ultimately tragic, tale of love is so beautifully written and performed as to leave its audience utterly transfixed. When I realized that the gifted performers, Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn, also are the playwrights, I was even more astonished. Their story actually plays like a perfect dramatic reading of a short story. Their minimalist but highly inventive writing involves highly imaginative and even thrilling interweaving of narration and dialogue via echo and harmony, and effective narrative depiction of secondary characters as well as achingly touching portrayals of the troubled teens at the center. This nearly modern-day couple, while more formal and restrained compared to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, features more passion and vocal variety from its subtle cast of two than is usually rendered from most dramas involving much larger casts and production costs. This production of *Tuesdays & Sundays* is a true theatrical event and warrants repeated bookings. Bravo! At Classic Stage Company. 50 minutes. [Brad Bradley]