

NY Metro.com

Sept 5, 2003

Sara Candace

Tuesdays & Sundays

The two red-cheeked stars of this dreamy drama meet on New Years Eve in 1887, in a time when teenage boys are dubbed "gentleman callers" and young couples fall sweetly in love at chaperoned church dances. Both Mary and Will are prone to paralyzing shyness and use words like "Shucks" with abandon—but don't head for the doors just yet! Actors Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn, who co-wrote the script as well, deliver refreshing, poignant performances that transcend the hokey setting. When Arnold's Will, all Adam's apple, is struck dumb at Mary's late-night invitation to come inside, his desperate inner monologue ("Yes, I would! I very much would!") strikes crushingly home. Likewise, Mary's bashful grimace throughout most of the play so transforms her face that she is almost unrecognizable come curtain call. Anyone who isn't moved by their awkward, wide-eyed interactions—as well as the tragic final scene that ends their affair—was never a teenager. —Sara Cardace