

Theatre

Tuesdays and Sundays

Pleasance Dome, Edinburgh

Lyn Gardner

Monday August 19, 2002

The Guardian

Teenagers Mary and Will meet on New Year's Eve 1887 at a party held in their small Canadian farming community. It is love at first sight. There is a first kiss at midnight, the giddy rush of adolescent excitement at meeting a kindred spirit, and, a few days later, teenage fumbblings in the dark that have tragic consequences.

This story of lost innocence is a glowing example of how to make something magic out of almost nothing. The play is a little, jewel-like thing, capturing all the fizz and anguish of first love. It is a clever, controlled piece of writing that brings a smile to your face and then wipes it off as misunderstanding and small-town values crowd in and disaster looms.

Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn, who also wrote the play, are wonderful as the young lovers. *Their open, freckled faces and radiant smiles haunt you long after you have left the theatre.*