

Festival has share of gems

fringe FESTIVAL 2001

By **PETER BIRNIE**

TUESDAYS AND SUNDAYS

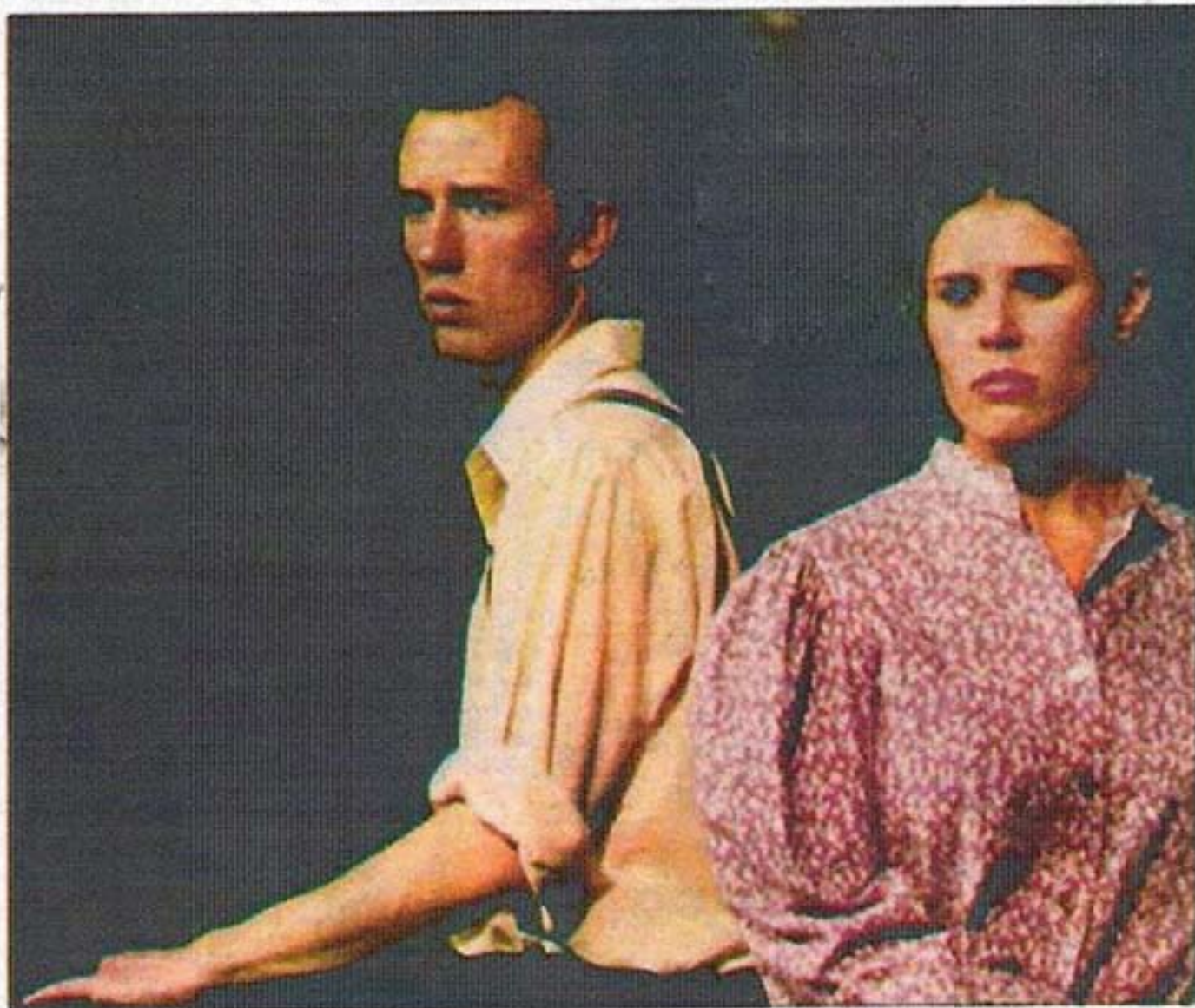
★★★★★

(Venue 4, tonight at 9:30 p.m.,
Saturday at 1:30 p.m.
and Sunday at 10:30 p.m.)

Beneath a dozen small lanterns hanging like stars, breathtaking magic unfolds as a young man and woman go a-courtin'. Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn star in a little gem they wrote about what goes wrong when society has its straitjacket tied too tight, and you won't find a finer example of the top-drawer quality that comes out of nowhere (in this case, Edmonton) on the Fringe circuit.

Arnold plays William, a young man attracted to Hahn's even-younger Mary. It's a tribute to the timelessness of the writing that although this is a period piece, you can't really pin down its exact time or place. Nor does it matter that the staging is minimal, because both performers work in perfect sync to flesh out their characters, finish each other's sentences and evoke the ache of love's labour's lost. Brilliant.

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WOJTEK KOZLINSKI

Daniel Arnold and Medina Hahn in Tuesdays and Sundays.